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<b>Subject:</b>	CAMUS December FLASH
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## **CAMUS Flash, December, 2006**

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### **1. 2007 Annual Conference update**

I think we warned you that the "last" CAMUS conference would be followed by the "next" CAMUS conference and here is the official announcement. We have selected the Holiday Inn, Brentwood, Tennessee, just outside Nashville. In 2006 we came home and in 2007 we're "Going Country!" Please join us for the "Second Annual Last CAMUS Conference."

We have decided to hold the conference July 16 - 18 for any of you that would like to combine your conference travel with a family vacation. Nashville has a lot to offer that you just can't find in San Francisco or Chicago.

More details will be coming in the next few months as the Conference Committee works out the details, but I can assure you that there will be something of interest for all attendees.

### ***2. CAMUS RUG 2007 Update***

CAMUS Regional User Groups -- Go Global -- Go Virtual

Too busy to get out of the office for a full day?

Too far to travel to your Regional site?

Save time & money & still gain information

Plan to attend the Spring Virtual User Group Meeting

Find out what your software vendor (Infor) is planning  
Make contact with 3rd party suppliers  
Ask other users how they solved problems  
& all via electronic delivery

More details forthcoming

### **3. Trip to Tucson for Infor Distribution Conference**

**By Terry H. Floyd**

Infor owns MANMAN and over a hundred other software packages, many of them with their own independent users group, like CAMUS. We've been aware of the SSA Global Users Group of North America (SSAU), for some time and have been in contact with them. Their newsletters are informative and have publicized the fact that they are planning to continue to have separate independent meetings, apart from Infor, hosted, lead, and presented by users.

Another group, calling itself "The Users Group" (TUG for short), held a conference for Distribution software users called U2U (User to User) in Tucson, AZ on October 9 through 13<sup>th</sup>, 2006. Like SSAU, CAMUS Board decided to reach out to some of the other groups and see what Infor is doing for them. I was available, so I called the TUG leaders and spoke to three of them about attending. During several phone calls with them, I learned that Infor would be sending 40 or 50 employees to the U2U event.

It was a long trip from Austin to Tucson for a short visit and well worth it for CAMUS, I hope. I arrived in Tucson at 8:30am on Tuesday and took a long scenic cab ride through the saguaro cacti out to the JS Marriott Starr Pass Resort and Spa. I checked my luggage with a bellman and found the registration area in a far-off but nice part of the huge hotel and conference complex.

I immediately found the person in charge of registration, Karen Brown and introduced myself. She remembered me from the email exchanges and my questions concerning registration and how to join TUG. I asked if she could help me find Jim Schwantes, incoming TUG Board Chairman, for a discussion and she said it would be easy; she'd tell him I was here. So I went over to the nearest table, sat down, and started writing notes about what was happening. Shortly, Jim Schwantes walked up, introduced himself, and sat down with me at the table in front of registration. He's the IT Manager at a distributor in Miami, FL using an "obscure" package that hasn't been enhanced in awhile.

We talked for about 30 to 45 minutes. It was a great discussion, the summary of which is: Jim and the TUG Board have ideas that are similar to those of CAMUS. TUG is just getting started, moving from an all-volunteer "club" to a "professional association"; they've only been organizing for a couple of years. He knows they need help and the TUG Board is open and "independent" minded like we are.

Jim knew a lot of the history: INFOR, like CA and SSA, has a big (now expecting 8,000 attendees) annual conference called INFORUM they produce already. INFORUM was in Vegas this year; will be at the Venetian in September/October next year. "The Users Group" consists of 12 SIGs with at least 8 real users groups (some for "dying" Distribution Software) that want to stay antonymous. Sounds familiar. Infor has been pushing them for the "one roof" concept among all of the Distribution groups. They know volunteers can't do it all: advisors from Smith Bucklin Management had been on a phone call he'd had the very week before. After I told him a little about CAMUS's history, he was very receptive to talking to Jeff Milde about what a small management firm could do for his group. Jim has a separate web site ready to go up soon to enhance the one that was in use at the time of the event. Their site is well done and contains lots of information about the event.

I looked around and found that the trade show exhibits did not open until the real conference started on Wednesday. Many of the people who attended SIG meetings on Monday and Tuesday were not staying for the Conference (like a few did at CAMUS's free Training Day earlier this year). I saw no reason to stay. I'd heard and seen a lot. I'd made contact and we can follow up with Jim and the other TUG Board Members in a month or two and then again after the first of next year.

I think Infor may attempt to discourage MFG groups from joining TUG. If so, perhaps they'll sponsor a similar alternative for their MFG groups. The TUG contact has been Thad Zylka, VP of Infor Distribution Groups who spoke at the U2U conference. We will stay in touch with the SSAU and TUG folks and maybe CAMUS should think about joining them in a couple of years (mid-2008 or later) unless a new set of enthusiastic volunteers comes along. Meanwhile, let's get ready for another good CAMUS Conference during the summer of 2007.

#### ***4. ASK Alumni Gathering in San Francisco***

The CAMUS conference theme, Coming Home, had special meaning for our ASK Alumni gathering in San Francisco. We had 30-40 people over the course of the evening. It is amazing how former ASK folks still click, & still travel in from various parts of the country (or others) for a good beer bust.

Terry Floyd did the teacher thing & went around the room for introductions. We heard from each alum who, what, when, where, but nobody remembered exactly why. There was quite a collection of ASK name badges in that room, & quite a representation of ERP related software firms. Not all have stayed in the business. Some have moved on to other venues such as theatre & jewelry making.

Marty Browne, CAMUS called on you for a speech, & you did us proud. Opening with 'Hi, my name is Marty & I'm an ASKaholic & I'm addicted to MANMAN', he ventured into object oriented code land from which there was no safe return for former Fortraners. He gave Sandy Kurtzig's regrets & admonishment to enjoy (almost like accepting the Oscar in absentia). He applauded the

people who built such a great foundation for manufacturing companies. MANMAN is still going...

The group photo is courtesy of Peter West, but getting the group together to sit for it was the work of Kerry Bogguss, sales from Florida (nobody can hear me unless I'm standing on a chair). Please send me any others.

From the CAMUS exhibit hall, we moved to the bar (where else?) where other alumni joined us, some straight from the airport. You gotta love it – Work Hard, Play Hard.

[www.camus.org](http://www.camus.org) has photos of all the conferences select 'Conference Info' / select 'CAMUS Memories'. Also tidbits of history of ASK, ASKUS, & CAMUS select 'About CAMUS' / select 'Some History'

Anyone looking to get rid of those old mugs, shirts, pens, proceedings, photos, etc, just send 'em off to me-the unofficial ASK Archivist.

It's the people that make an organization. VIRTUAL ASK is still alive, well, & well, uh, oh yeah, beer busting!

Terri Glendon Lanza ( MidWest region '86-'93)  
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**Some Alumni Attendees:**

Liz Seckler  
Tom Lavey  
Chris Wong  
Melinda Wong  
Brett Fuller  
Bob Stosz  
Kerry Bogguss  
David Yee  
John Banks  
David Hurwitz  
Jeff Wolf  
Mary Carr  
Rick Silberman  
Alison Spiller  
David Sohm  
Ian Williams  
Cameron Crowe  
John Valencia  
Brian Boyd  
Kevin Kennedy  
Pat Di Staso  
Stafford Warren

Monte Fisher  
Malcolm Kushner  
Janice Carter  
Chris Jones  
Alice Burch West  
Peter West  
Terry Floyd  
Terri Glendon Lanza

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