

DECISION LINE

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1999 Officers' Nominees Selected

PRESIDENT-ELECT

Anne B. Koehler, Miami University
Michael J. Showalter, Florida State University

SECRETARY

Maling Ebrahimpour, University of Rhode Island
Benito E. Flores, Texas A&M University

AT-LARGE VICE PRESIDENTS

Thomas E. Callarman, Arizona State University
Karen L. Fowler, University of Northern Colorado
Nancy Lea Hyer, Vanderbilt University
Julie E. Kendall, Rutgers University
Jay S. Kim, Boston University
C. A. Chris Voss, London Business School

SOUTHEAST REGIONALLY-ELECTED VICE PRESIDENT

William B. Carper, University of West Florida
Stephanie S. Robbins, University of North Carolina-Charlotte

SOUTHWEST REGIONALLY-ELECTED VICE PRESIDENT

Michael E. Hanna, University of Houston-Clear Lake
G. W. K. Willis, Baylor University

WESTERN REGIONALLY-ELECTED VICE PRESIDENT

Terrell G. Williams, Western Washington University
Shannon V. Taylor, Montana State University

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PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Terry R. Rakes, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University

I just received my Preliminary Program for the 29th Annual Meeting of the Institute to be held in Las Vegas. Although I have been accessing the preliminary schedule on the web for nearly two months, there is something about seeing the hard copy of the program that drives home the enormity and breadth of our annual meeting. One of the primary goals of the Institute is to enhance our interdisciplinary nature and cultivate programs which serve a broad cross-section of the membership. Certainly, the Annual Meeting and its many diverse parts is a major vehicle for serving the interdisciplinary needs of the

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members. In my last President's Letter, I described two new additions to our meeting. I am pleased to be able to provide more details about these program items.

On Sunday, November 22, from 1:00 – 2:30 p.m., the Board of Directors of the Institute will be sponsoring a session on organizing support for the creation of web sites devoted to dissemination and sharing of information related to teaching. (This session is listed correctly on the web version of the schedule, but in the earlier hard copy of the preliminary program is incorrectly listed as a 10:00 session. That's the great advantage of the electronic version, which is continuously being updated and corrected!). The session will be chaired by Scott Sampson from Brigham Young University. The Board's concept is that individuals who teach in a particular area could come together to form a "special interest group" whose purpose would be to design and maintain a web site for their area. These web sites will be linked to the DSI home page and will constitute a network of valuable information about teaching in the many areas represented by our members. We believe that such a network would not only enhance the dissemination of valuable teaching information, but would also provide the catalyst for members to seek further professional development activities aimed at improving teaching skills.

One group of DSI members, the Services Management Interest Group (SMIG), has established a web site that meets these purposes. Their web site can be found at <http://smig.byu.edu>. It contains teaching and research resources, and allows members to electronically submit information to the web site. The site has over 200 members who receive a monthly e-mailing of new information about services management education.

Those who are planning to attend this session are encouraged to browse the SMIG site for implementation ideas we might discuss during the session. Because the overall purpose of this session is to provide a forum for interested members to gather and discuss strategies for creating teaching-oriented web pages, we may talk about ideas from the SMIG site, or any other ideas for effectively using Internet technologies for these purposes. If you have an interest in forming a web site for your area, perhaps a good strategy would be to

contact colleagues in your area of interest prior to the meeting and discuss some of the issues and ideas so that we can more effectively use the time in the workshop.

Also on Sunday, Irwin/McGraw-Hill will be conducting the "Irwin/McGraw-Hill Technology Classroom." These sessions will provide an excellent professional development opportunity for our members. At the time the preliminary program was printed, the agenda had not been finalized as to which topics would be included in the sessions. The agenda is shown below, with more complete information on page 45:

- PowerPoint Basics
- Advantage Interactive Series
- Incorporating Multimedia in the Classroom with Professor Presentation CD ROMs and Student CD ROMs
- Creating a Course Web-page and Incorporating Electronic Content
- Web Based Course Delivery
- Heart of Operations Management

These sessions will be on a first-come-first-served basis, and will offer 25 computer workstations for use by the attendees. If there is standing room available, or if attendees are willing to share a computer, we will strive to include as many people as possible. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Colleen Suljic, Marketing Manager for Irwin/McGraw-Hill, at colleen_suljic@mcgraw-hill.com. This is a program which we hope will become a standard feature in our future meetings.

By highlighting these two program features, I do not want to divert attention away from the numerous other highly successful offerings that we have developed in the past and have carried forth from previous meetings. The Doctoral Student Consortium, the Academic Administrator Program, the Undergraduate and the Ph.D. Curricular Issues Workshops and the MBA Mini-Conference, the New Faculty Development Consortium, the Services Management Mini-Conference, the Professional Development Program, the Placement Service, and the many other special program features offer something for everyone. Of course, the hundreds of papers submitted by the members, covering a broad range of topics, form the real backbone of the conference.

As a past program chair, I know the enormous task which faces a program chair. If you have not yet browsed the conference schedule on the web, be sure to take a look at <http://dsi.gsu.edu>. Mike Parent and his program committee have worked very hard to make the Las Vegas meeting a memorable one. If you see him at the meeting, take time to thank him for his efforts. His successors, 1999 Program Chair Tom Jones and 2000 Program Chair Gary Ragatz, will be there too, watching for ways to make the next meetings even better. I know they would appreciate receiving your ideas.

As always, I would be happy to receive your comments about any aspect of the Institute. We are continuing to study new possible initiatives such as a new journal and additional member services, and the various committees of the Institute are busy studying a variety of charges and issues designed to move us ahead as we approach the new millennium. I should have more to share with you on these items once the committees have met in November to finalize their reports.

I hope to see you in Las Vegas. Best wishes. ■

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