

# Changing of the Guard

Lee Krajewski, Past Editor, *Decision Sciences Journal*



BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 1999, Ram Narasimhan became the new editor of *Decision Sciences*. The journal is in very capable hands under his leadership, and I am confident that the journal

will continue to grow in prestige in all academic quarters. Nonetheless, stepping down as editor after six years is somewhat bittersweet. On the upside, I will be able to focus my energies on other activities that have been neglected, such as research and writing. It will be good to once more try publishing in *Decision Sciences*. I will also have more time to devote to the duties of president of the Decision Sciences Institute. On the down side, I will miss working with some excellent people who collectively have to take credit for much of our accomplishments. They literally

worked as a team to uphold the quality of the journal and make my life much easier. The 28 associate editors provided the expertise and guidance I needed to manage a journal with such diverse interests. Marian McCreery, the assistant editor, managed the publication process with high efficiency and never let me forget important deadlines. Hal Jacobs, publications coordinator, did a marvelous job of putting challenging manuscripts into readable form on the printed page. Lori Butchko, administrative assistant, managed the office operations and kept in touch with authors and reviewers. I was also fortunate to have a large cadre of good reviewers who provided the backbone for the journal. The rest of the team could not function without thorough, fair, and timely reviews.

Thanks to the team, the journal is in good shape. Presently, we process about 260 new submissions a year, with a 14 percent acceptance rate. Seventy-seven percent of our reviews are returned in less than 60 days, and the average time to a first decision on a manuscript is 86 days. Our international submissions are increasing, primarily from Europe, Hong Kong, Korea, and Taiwan. These statistics have steadily improved over the past six years.

As I look back on my term as editor, it was clear to me that this team had made some notable contributions. In addition to

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the many process improvements initiated by Marian, Lori, and Hal, here are some of those accomplishments:

- Incorporated the Editorial Assistant Software that facilitated keeping track of the manuscripts and reviewers.
- Devised the key word system that is used to match reviewer backgrounds with manuscript subject and methodology.
- Introduced the first pass review, which assigned an associate editor to a paper for additional comments and a recommendation before the paper had been revised by the authors. This procedure avoided the problem of authors doing an extensive revision only to get a negative recommendation for an AE who had not seen the reviews or the paper beforehand.
- Added two international associate editors to enhance the international exposure of the journal, Kee Young Kim and Roland Van Dierdonck. Initiated four special issues on topics of current interest: Total Quality Management (Kee Young Kim, ed.), Emerging Information

Technology (Ken Kendall, ed.), Supply-Chain Linkages (Vince Mabert and M. A. Venkataramanan, eds.), and Managing the Interface Between Information Systems and Operations (Manoj Malhotra and Arun Grover, eds.) One of these, Emerging Information Technology, will provide the backbone for a book to be published by Sage Publications, Inc.

- Developed the ability to review galley proofs on-line via the DSI website for the faster turnaround of manuscripts.
- Continue to communicate with authors and reviewers and accept reviews via email.
- Submit electronic files to the printer for higher quality reproduction.

There is one more important subset of the team without which we would have no journal. Of course, we can only publish what we receive in the way of manuscripts. The authors deserve much of the credit for the quality of the journal. Thank you for helping us make *Decision Sciences* the journal of choice. ■