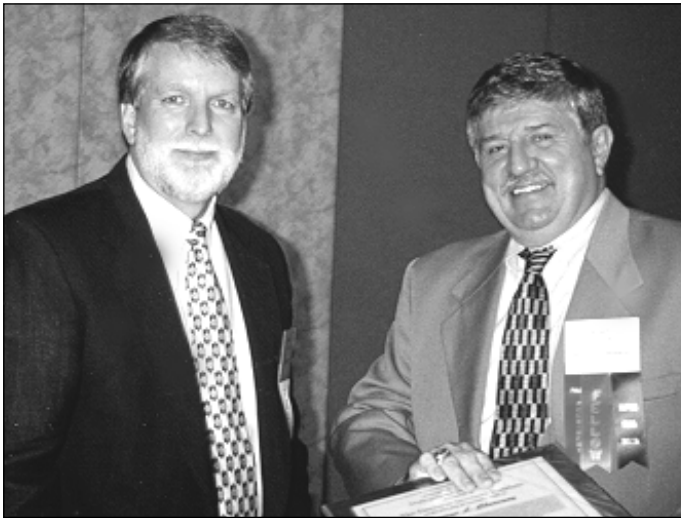


DECISION LINE

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1998 Dennis E. Grawoig Distinguished Service Award

NORMAN L. CHERVANY was presented the 1998 Dennis E. Grawoig Distinguished Service Award by President Terry Rakes in recognition of outstanding service to the Institute. See page 49 for the full text of the citation.



PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Terry R. Rakes, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University

WELL, IT'S OFFICIAL. With over 1,800 registered attendees, the 1998 Annual Meeting in Las Vegas was our largest Institute conference to date! And, based on the numerous favorable comments I heard during and after the meeting, I also believe it was one of our best meetings. I want to thank everyone who participated in the 1998 Annual Meeting for their efforts in making it a success.

The DSI Annual Meeting is unique among professional meetings. No other professional conference offers such a variety of interdisciplinary programs to its attending scholars and educators, covering topics in research, teaching, and administration,

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always with an eye toward professional development of its members. For a conference such as ours to be successful, many individuals contribute their energies and administrative talents. As a past program chair, I know the effort required to coordinate such a program. My sincerest thanks go to:

- Mike Parent, Utah State University, *Program Chair*
- Dick Jenson, Utah State University, *Associate Program Chair*
- Ken Bartkus, Utah State University, *Proceedings Coordinator*

Also part of the program team were:

- Larry Dandurand, University of Nevada – Las Vegas, *Local Arrangements Coordinator*
- Gary Klein, University of Colorado at Colorado Springs, *Job Placement Services Coordinator*
- Al Avery, Towson State University, *Convention Management Consultant*

I believe that they put together an exceptional program.

The meeting also featured many successful special events, including the Professional Development Program, Academic Administrator Program, Curricular Issues Programs (Undergraduate Program, MBA Program, and Ph.D. Program), Doctoral Student Consortium, New Faculty Development Consortium, Services Management Mini-Conference, and McGraw-Hill Technology Classroom. I would like to thank everyone who coordinated and participated in these events.

In addition to the efforts of the conference and event organizers, the efforts of the members in preparing and submitting high-quality contributions is essential to a successful meeting. I would like to thank each of you who took time to put together a submission and help make the offerings at the meeting broad and interesting. Each year, the Institute recognizes the best contribution in each of several categories with the following awards: Best Application Paper Award, Best Interdisciplinary Paper Award, Best Theoretical/Empirical Research Paper Award, Best Environmental Issues Paper Award, Instructional Innovation Award Competition, Best Case Studies Award Competition, and the Elwood S. Buffa Doctoral Dissertation Award Competition. I would like to thank the coordinators and judges of these awards for their diligent efforts, and I would like to thank each of you who participated in the com-

petitions. Elsewhere in this issue we summarize the winners and honorable mentions for these awards. If your name is not among these, I hope that you will participate next year and that we will have the opportunity to publicize your special contribution.

As any past program or special event coordinator knows, it would be much more difficult to accomplish their tasks without the outstanding support provided by the Home Office at Georgia State University. My special thanks go to Carol Latta, Executive Director, and to Eric Foston, Hal Jacobs, and Lisa Williams. These individuals do extraordinary work behind the scenes to make the various events at the meeting possible. They work for many months prior to the meeting compiling registrations, preparing packets, publishing the meeting publications, and a multitude of other activities. At the meeting, they are the center of a virtual whirlwind of activity, always trying to provide outstanding service in spite of any obstacles which might arise. They deserve our deepest gratitude. At the conference, other individuals who assisted with registration and placement were Diane Berube, Midwestern Higher Education Commission, John Theis, Mesa State College, and Sameer Verma, Georgia State University. Our thanks to these individuals and to the many secretaries and support personnel at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas and Utah State University who did so much to help the Home Office staff and to support the program.

I would also like to thank the many contributors and sponsors who helped to support the meeting through their many direct and indirect contributions. These include:

- Addison Wesley Longman
- Alpha Iota Delta
- Bally's Las Vegas Hotel
- Baruch College, The City University of New York, Zicklin School of Business
- The Darden Case Collection, Darden Graduate School of Business Administration, University of Virginia
- Ernst & Young LLP
- Florida State University, College of Business
- Georgia State University, J. Mack Robinson College of Business, and the Department of Decision Sciences
- Irwin/McGraw-Hill
- Lucent Technologies, Inc.
- The Ohio State University, Fisher College of Business

- UNISYS Corporation - Information Services Group
- University of Colorado at Colorado Springs, College of Business and Administration
- University of Denver, Daniels College of Business
- University of Nevada, Las Vegas, College of Business
- University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Kenan-Flagler Business School
- University of Notre Dame, College of Business Administration
- Utah State University and the College of Business
- Wake Forest University, Babcock Graduate School of Management

Their support made possible many of the monetary awards, refreshment breaks, receptions, and other special features which we all enjoy at the meetings. Their willingness to provide support is an indication that these groups find significant value in the Institute's programs, and we are most grateful.

It was my great pleasure at the meeting to present the 1998 Dennis E. Grawoig Distinguished Service Award to Norm Chervany of the University of Minnesota. An excerpt from his citation indicates why Norm was so clearly deserving of this recognition; "Norm's leadership during the Institute's early years was instrumental in shaping the structure and character of the organization. His wisdom and guidance have been an invaluable asset for the Institute. He has continued to be an active and contributing member during his long association with the Institute, never refusing to serve in any capacity when asked to do so. Norm's diligence, friendly demeanor and collegial spirit exemplify the highest order of leadership and service." Three other individuals who also received special recognition by being inducted as Fellows of the Institute are Everett Adam, Jr., University of Missouri-Columbia, Ram Narasimhan, Michigan State University, and David Olson, Texas A&M University. They were selected for their outstanding contributions to the field of decision sciences in the areas of teaching, research, and service to the Institute. I congratulate each of them on this well-deserved recognition.

Now that the 1998 meeting is "in the record books," it is time to begin preparing for the 1999 Annual Meeting to be held in New Orleans. The meeting will be held

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MARKETPLACE

The University of Memphis

Statistics/POM Assistant Professor Position

The University of Memphis has a full-time STATISTICS/POM tenure-track Assistant Professor position open for Fall 1999. Qualifications include an earned doctorate in business administration with a primary focus on business statistics and POM as a secondary area. Screening of applicants will begin December 15, 1998. The University of Memphis is an AA/EEO employer.

CONTACT: Prof. Satish Mehra, Fogelman College of Business & Economics, The University of Memphis, Memphis, TN 38152. Fax (901) 678-2685, e-mail: smehra@memphis.edu.

University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg

Management Assistant Professor Position

The University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg has a full-time, tenure-track Assistant Professor position available beginning August 1999. Candidates should be able to teach undergraduate classes in quantitative methods, operations management, business information systems and/or strategic planning. A Ph.D. or equivalent degree in business or a related field plus evidence of superior teaching ability and scholarly potential required. The University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg is an AA/EEO employer.

Send letter of application, vita, transcripts and three letters of reference to: Dr. Wesley Jamison, Management Search, 102 FOB, University of Pittsburgh and Greensburg, Greensburg, PA 15601.

Application deadline: February 15, 1999.

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at the New Orleans Sheraton, and will be our 30th anniversary meeting. Tom Jones, University of Arkansas - Fayetteville and the 1999 Program Chair, and his program committee are working on numerous special features for the meeting to celebrate our anniversary. I hope you will attend. You will find further information about the 1999 meeting elsewhere in this issue of *Decision Line* and on the DSI website at <http://dsi.gsu.edu>. In the meantime, we hope to see many of you at the regional meetings and at the DSI International Meeting to be held in July in Athens, Greece. I will be attending the Southeast meeting, and President-elect Lee Krajewski, Past-President Jim Evans, and several other members of the Board of Directors will be attending the other regional meetings to talk with you and discuss ways of making the Institute and its regions stronger in the future.

As I have stressed in the past, meetings are only one facet of the Institute and we want to continue to expand and improve upon the ways in which the Institute serves its members. Our new on-line member survey will help us to gather information about what you need most from the organization. As of the time of the Annual Meeting, I am pleased to say that over 400 members had responded to the survey. If you have not responded and are willing to do so, the survey will remain on-line until February 15. Just point your browser to <http://dsi.gsu.edu> and follow the links to the survey. It only takes a few minutes to complete, and your input will be greatly appreciated.

I would like to wish each of you a most joyous and successful new year. Best wishes. ■