

Letter from the New Editor

Ram Narasimhan, Editor, *Decision Sciences Journal*



AS THE NEW EDITOR OF *DECISION SCIENCES*, I wanted to write this column to initiate my communication with the membership of the Institute. At the outset, I want to express my deep appreciation to Lee

Krajewski for his assistance in the transfer editorial responsibilities to me. Lee and I met on two separate occasions to discuss the transfer of the editorial offices of *Decision Sciences* from University of Notre Dame to Michigan State University. The transfer of files from Notre Dame to Michigan State University was accomplished without any glitch, thanks to the superb efforts of Lee and his assistant Lori Butchko. Under Lee's editorship the journal has solidly established itself as a top-tier, highly respected academic journal. My first priority will be to protect the reputation and quality of the journal while attempting to nudge it to higher prominence. This, of course, requires the continued support of the membership of the Institute as authors and reviewers. I was asked to make a presentation to the service operations special symposium in Las Vegas. As I mentioned to the group in my presentation, I encourage submissions of high quality from researchers in service operations, manufacturing/operations strategy and empiricists. The journal will continue its focus on decision making and managerial relevance. What follows is my statement of editorial philosophy which remains intact in spirit from that of the previous editors.

Editorial Philosophy

Decision Sciences will publish high quality, theoretical and empirical articles, addressing decision making in public and private organizations. Articles utilizing quantitative and empirical methodologies anchored in economic, behavioral and other management disciplines will be appropriate for the journal. Articles of high

quality that address *interdisciplinary* research issues will be particularly welcome. Educational issues papers and tutorials making a unique contribution to the decision sciences and the teaching of decision sciences will also be welcome, as will be conceptual and theoretical articles contributing to the decision-making process or our understanding of that process. By and large, this is a continuation of the editorial philosophy of the past several editors of *Decision Sciences*. I hope to communicate more fully in a future column of the *Decision Line*.

Within the rubric of the current editorial philosophy, I would like to emphasize some aspects in my tenure as editor.

1. Papers suitable for publication in the journal, whether theoretical or applied, must address decision problems or topics of *managerial relevance and significance*. The burden of proof is on the author. The article should make a reasonable case for the importance of the problem being addressed. Articles proposing new methodologies or improvements to existing ones should elucidate why they are important for decision makers to consider, and what important decision problems they address. Of course articles dealing with new research directions, tutorials, educational issues, and the like would be exceptions. Articles on new course designs or improved approaches to education in the decision sciences should, as a general rule, include evidence that the new designs or methods are indeed superior to other approaches.
2. I would like to invite submissions of articles that address *interdisciplinary* re-

search issues and problems. Strategic operations management, supply chain management, new product development, and information technology integration represent but a few examples of research streams in which there is opportunity for interdisciplinary research. Additionally, I encourage submissions of articles that examine strategic issues.

3. Decision sciences will continue to publish articles that employ *diverse methodologies including but not limited to* analytical modeling and optimization, simulation, data analysis and multivariate statistical methods. Ar-

ticles that utilize experiments, meta-analytic techniques, secondary sources of data and survey data that make a demonstrable contribution to theory development or practice in the decision sciences will be suitable for submission to *Decision Sciences*.

4. Quality will be emphasized throughout the system. This means we need quality articles and quality reviews. Submitted articles, while being theoretically correct and adhering to sound practices for presentation of research papers, should be written with particular attention to clarity of presentation. Authors are encouraged to be concise in their presentation.
5. The current system of "blind" reviewing articles will continue. Reviews will provide feedback that is constructive and aimed at improving the articles, even if an article is being rejected. As editor, I am committed to providing excellent service to the authors. The role of the journal and the editorial staff is to help researchers improve their work

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and shape the future direction of that research stream by ensuring the high quality of submitted articles. *Decision Sciences* is committed to providing authors with sound reviews and suggestions for improvement from reviewers as well as associate editors.

6. The reviews must be timely to be effective. The "journal of choice" in the field will be one that publishes quality articles with short review lead times. Most journals face the problem of long lead times for reviews; we will need your help in this regard and in ensuring quality in the reviewing process.
7. A "quality" review not only is timely but also provides ample information to the

editor who must make an informed decision on publication. Brief reviews recommending acceptance or rejection are of little use. A logical, constructive rationale for the recommendation is desired.

I will be communicating with you in the next issue of *Decision Line* further concerning electronic submission of manuscripts etc. A web-based application aimed at electronic handling and processing of manuscripts has been designed and is being developed. The Eli Broad Graduate School of Management is devoting resources to the development effort. In the meantime, keep submitting your best work to *Decision Sciences*. ■

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.

Remember to check out the Placement Database on the DSI homepage at <http://dsi.gsu.edu/>

Future DSI Annual and Regional Annual Meetings

NATIONAL ANNUAL MEETINGS

November 20 - 23, 1999
The Sheraton New Orleans
New Orleans, Louisiana

November 18 - 21, 2000
The Orlando World Center
Marriott
Orlando, Florida

November 17 - 20, 2001
The San Francisco Marriott
San Francisco, California

INTERNATIONAL MEETING

July 4 - 7, 1999
The Intercontinental Hotel
Athens, Greece

REGIONAL ANNUAL MEETINGS

Asia Pacific
1999
Shanghai
2000
Tokyo

Midwest
April 23 - 25, 1999
The Crowne Plaza Hotel
Springfield, Illinois
2000
Chicago, Illinois

Northeast
2000
Atlantic City, New Jersey
2001
St. Thomas or Puerto Rico
(tentative)

2002
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Southeast
February 2000
Wilmington, North Carolina
February 2001
Charlotte, North Carolina

Southwest
March 14 - 18, 2000
The Marriott San Antonio
San Antonio, Texas
March 2001
New Orleans, Louisiana
2002
Dallas, Texas

Western
April 18 - 22, 2000
The Ritz-Carlton, Kapalua
Kapalua (Maui), Hawaii