

This issue of *Decision Line* contains a number of interesting articles on issues ranging from what the Internet is and isn't, to a description of a peer support network for minority business doctoral students, to the application of DaVinci's principles to decision making. I hope you will find them interesting and useful.

In his final President's Letter, **Terry Rakes** welcomes new DSI President Lee Krajewski. His description of the activities of the various DSI committees over the past year shows the important contribution that committees and their volunteer members make to the effective running of this organization.

**David Chou** of St. Cloud State University discusses the changing role of the Internet in the International Issues column. In particular, he focuses on global information systems and how they differ from the Internet.

In the Research Issues column, **Steve Melnyk** of Michigan State University discusses the role of performance metrics in research and industry applications. Often taken for granted or chosen with little thought in research, different metrics are described, along with their uses and implications. Steve also extends a call for better chosen and more sophisticated metrics.

In his Real Life Adventures of a Decision Scientist, **Andrew Vazsonyi** uses the example of the checkout clerk at the grocery store to illustrate the difference between mathematics for practical understanding and use, and the sort of theoretical mathematics often taught in the classroom. He describes his own experiences and evolution from a theoretical mathematician to one who is committed to focusing on the practical implications of mathematical decision making in the classroom.

I would like to welcome **Julie Kendall** of Rutgers University, who took over as feature editor for the Doctoral Student Issues column with the last issue of *Decision Line*. Her guest author is **Bernie Milano**, executive director of the KPMG Foundation, who describes The PhD Project, a network of peer support, mentoring and information sharing designed to encourage the development of potential African American, Hispanic American and Native American professors of business.

**Andrew Ruppel** provides some interesting book reviews in the Bookshelf feature. Two reviews deal with decision making and choices, including a book which extracts and describes the application of Leonardo DaVinci's principles to creativity, learning and leadership. The remaining two books focus on global trends and forecasts as we approach the new millenium.

In the Membership Roundtable feature, **Scott Shafer** of Wake Forest University provides preliminary results from the membership survey. Its web-based format encouraged a much larger response rate than the previous paper surveys distributed during the annual meeting, providing more valid results.

I hope you will find these articles as interesting to read as I did!



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