

DECISION LINE

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Congratulations to Newly Elected 2000-01 DSI Officers

PRESIDENT-ELECT

F. Robert Jacobs, *Indiana University*

TREASURER

Barbara B. Flynn, *Wake Forest University*

AT-LARGE VICE PRESIDENTS

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James C. Hershauer, *Arizona State University*

Christine Kydd, *University of Delaware*

ASIA-PACIFIC REGIONALLY-ELECTED VICE PRESIDENT

Tien-Sheng (T. S.) Lee, *Chinese University of Hong Kong*

MIDWEST REGIONALLY-ELECTED VICE PRESIDENT

Richard J. Penlesky, *Bowling Green State University*

NORTHEAST REGIONALLY-ELECTED VICE PRESIDENT

Paul Mangiameli, *University Of Rhode Island*

The tabulation of the ballots was conducted and audited by DATAMATX, Atlanta, Georgia. See page 38 for more information on the new officers. ■



PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Where Has the Time Gone?

Lee J. Krajewski, University of Notre Dame

A FEW WEEKS AGO Hal Jacobs, managing editor for *Decision Line*, reminded me that the deadline for this issue was rapidly approaching. At that moment I realized that this was the last time he was going to have to remind me about deadlines for the President's Letter. My time as president has come to an end, and it seems like it was just yesterday that I was eagerly looking forward to my first Board meeting. Many questions drifted through my mind. Will we be able to complete the agenda and still finish before dark? Will they still like me afterwards? Should I be taking out insurance?

All kidding aside, the time has flown by, and the major reason is the wonderful people I have had the privilege to work with. My heartfelt thanks go to the Board members and officers: George Benson, Tom Callarman, Bob Collins, Mark Davis, Benito Flores, Soumen Ghosh, Jeet Gupta, Mike Hanna, Norma Harrison, Nancy

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Hyer, Tom Jones, Julie Kendall, Terry Rakes, Stephanie Robbins, Mike Showalter, and Terry Williams. They have put up with my dry humor for a whole year – there must be a ribbon for that at the Annual Meeting. My deepest appreciation goes to Carol Latta, our executive director who gently guided me from the edges of many canyons, to Hal Jacobs for juggling so many balls at once without dropping them, and to the rest of the home office staff. With that kind of support it is not hard to be successful.

One of the first things the Board accomplished was the thorough review of the Institute's goals from both the short run and long run perspectives. It was clear that the Institute faces competitive pressures from other academic organizations. We felt that the Institute needed to continually explore ways to better serve its members. In addition, the explosion in information technology requires reconstruction of the information systems the Institute uses to serve its members. It did not take long to realize that a sound information system and a value-added web interface with the members were key ingredients for a competitive foundation. The review resulted in the following prioritized set of six goals for the Institute:

- Develop an information system for the Decision Sciences Institute that captures information about members, generates information needed by members, supports Institute decision making at the national and regional levels, and uses current web-based decentralized technology.
- Enhance member services.
- Increase membership and participation of all disciplines.
- Increase globalization of the Institute.
- Promote the development and dissemination of research having educational significance and managerial relevance.
- Expand interdisciplinary activities.

Some of these goals have long-term orientations. For example, the first goal dealing with the information system cannot be achieved in one year. We must begin at the ground floor, designing and implementing a basic information system that will create the needed data bases before we can go to the web interface we all

want. With help from the Board, the home office has made progress this year, which we will use as a springboard for the next phase of the project. This is an exciting effort, and I look forward to further progress in the coming year. Nonetheless, in March we will revisit this goal and the other five, using as a foundation the extensive analysis of the goals in the report from the Development Committee for Excellence in the Decision Sciences, led by Jim Evans.

Armed with a prioritized set of goals, we set out to accomplish as much as we could this year. We worked as a big team – the Board and a host of national committees. I would like to sincerely thank all the committee chairs, coordinators, and committee members for the valuable service they provided the Institute. While space does not permit me to list all of the members, I would like to recognize the chairpersons, who provided the leadership for the committees, and the activity coordinators. They are listed on the next page.

While every committee provided useful insights and inputs on a variety of issues, the following accomplishments are exemplary of what we were able to do this year.

Doctoral Consortium. The Doctoral Student Affairs Committee, chaired by Keong Leong, suggested that the qualifications for student applicants to the Doctoral Student Consortium be revised to allow applications from students who are within two years of completion of their degree requirements. The Board agreed that the doctoral students represent a major source of future members and that we can provide more access to the benefits of the Institute with this change.

Information Technology. The Information Technology Committee, chaired by Bob Jacobs, compiled an extensive list of features the new web-based information system for the home office should have. In addition, a number of other committees forwarded suggestions. Mike Showalter organized these suggestions for the next phase of the information system project.

International Affairs. The Strategic Planning for International Affairs Committee, led by Bob Markland, was very active this year. The 5th International Conference in Athens, Greece, organized by program

chair Steve Zanakis, Florida International, and conference co-chair George Doukidis, Athens University of Economics and Business, was an outstanding success. Beyond the great program and local arrangements, the conference exposed the Institute to hundreds of academics from Europe and the Far East who have not experienced our meetings before. This experience has prompted discussions aimed at creating a DSI region in Europe. In addition, the Board accepted the proposal to hold the next international meeting in Chihuahua, Mexico, in 2001. By all indications, this will be a special event that should not be missed.

Programs. Once again the strength of the Institute was demonstrated in our Annual Meeting in New Orleans. Tom Jones and his Program Committee carried on the tradition of excellent meetings, offering a number of novel sessions and helping us celebrate our 30th anniversary. The Programs and Meetings Committee, chaired by Barbara Price, provided some useful ideas that will be passed along to the future program chairs, Gary Ragatz (2000 Meeting) and Vicki Smith-Daniels (2001 Meeting). Both of these program chairs have exciting ideas for the up-coming conferences, and I am looking forward to them.

Publications. The Publications Committee, chaired by Johnny Rungtusanatham, provided a useful set of guidelines for going into electronic publications. As you will see later, we will be entering that domain. A subcommittee, chaired by David Rogers, University of Cincinnati, did a great job of summarizing the potential pitfalls. It is clear we have a lot to learn.

Our flagship publications are in good shape. Barb Flynn, editor of *Decision Line*, is adding some new columns, including one on e-commerce, and refocusing several others. Ram Narasimhan, Editor of *Decision Sciences*, continues to improve journal operations, in particular the manuscript review times. We are fortunate to have these individuals managing our major publications.

Regional Accounting Practices. The ad Hoc Committee on Regional Accounting Practices, chaired by Richard Jenson, came up with a set of excellent recommendations for improving financial transaction report-

ing between the regions and the home office. These recommendations will be further refined this year.

Regional Strategic Planning. Under the leadership of Mike Showalter, the Regional Activities Committee suggested that we conduct a half-day session at the Annual Meeting in Orlando focusing on strategic

planning for the regions. The Institute will provide a facilitator for the session, which will be attended by designated representatives from each region. This activity will crystallize the role the regions play in the Institute and enable open discussion as to how we can better serve our members.

Teaching Publication. Perhaps the single most important accomplishment this year is the approval of a proposal for a new publication on teaching. The Ad Hoc Committee on a Teaching Publication, under the leadership of Karen Brown, did an outstanding job of researching the costs and benefits of the new publication. They ad-

Thanks to 1999-2000 Committee Chairs and Coordinators...

- **Christopher J. Zappe**
Bucknell University, Chair, Alpha Iota Delta Liaison Committee
- **Brooke A. Saladin**
Wake Forest University, Chair, Case Studies Committee, and Best Case Studies Award Competition Coordinator
- **James R. Evans**
University of Cincinnati, Chair, Development Committee for Excellence in the Decision Sciences
- **G. Keong Leong**
The Ohio State University, Chair, Doctoral Student Affairs Committee
- **Lee J. Krajewski**
University of Notre Dame, Chair, Executive and Strategic Planning Committee
- **Lester A. Digman**
University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Chair, Fellows Committee
- **F. Robert Jacobs**
Indiana University, Chair, Information Technology Committee
- **Cliff T. Ragsdale**
Georgia Southern University, Chair, Innovative Education Committee, and Instructional Innovation Award Competition Coordinator
- **Thomas W. Jones**
University of Arkansas-Fayetteville, Chair, Investment Advisory Committee
- **Scott M. Shafer**
Wake Forest University, Chair, Member Services Committee
- **Terry R. Rakes**
Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Chair, 1999-00 Nominating Committee
- **Barbara A. Price**
Georgia Southern University, Chair, Programs and Meetings Committee
- **Manus (Johnny) Rungtusanatham**
Arizona State University, Chair, Publications Committee
- **Michael J. Showalter**
Florida State University, Chair, Regional Activities Committee
- **Robert E. Markland**
University of South Carolina, Chair, Strategic Planning for International Affairs Committee
- **Lee J. Krajewski**
University of Notre Dame, Chair, Ad hoc Committee on Improving the Annual Meeting
- **Richard L. Jenson**
Utah State University, Chair, Ad hoc Committee on Regional Accounting Practices
- **Karen A. Brown**
Seattle University, Chair, Ad hoc Committee on a Teaching Publication
- **Robert E. Markland**
University of South Carolina, Global Development Coordinator
- **Scott M. Shafer**
Wake Forest University, Member Services Coordinator
- **Gary Klein**
The University of Colorado at Colorado Springs, Placement Services Coordinator

... and Thanks to 1999-2000 Outgoing Board Members

- Past President
Terry R. Rakes
Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University
- Treasurer
Thomas W. Jones
University of Arkansas-Fayetteville
- Vice President
P. George Benson
University of Georgia
- Vice President
Robert S. Collins
IMD
- Vice President
Mark M. Davis
Bentley College
- Vice President
Soumen Ghosh
Georgia Institute of Technology
- Vice President
Jatinder (Jeet) N.D. Gupta
Ball State University
- Vice President
Norma J. Harrison
Macquarie University

ministered a web survey this summer and Nancy Hyer led a focus group session at the Annual Meeting in New Orleans. The committee worked hard, and the proposal is exciting.

There are a number of reasons why the Institute should proceed on this proposal. First, the Institute already has an existing body of members, who willfully and enthusiastically share teaching ideas. The necessary culture is in place. Second, the Institute has a 30-year history of supporting the teaching function. This project will enable us to elevate the visibility of excellent works in teaching. Third, the Institute's focus is on decision making. A new teaching publication focused on decision making will have a different orientation than other outlets for teaching papers. Also, the multi-functional mix of our membership allows for the possibility of encouraging interdisciplinary teaching projects. I believe that the multi-functional mix of our membership is an unused resource in our efforts to promote the decision sciences. Fourth, there is the potential to feature excellent papers submitted to the Instructional Innovation Award Competition and the Case Studies Award Competition. Finally, a new publication allows for the possibility to debate traditional topics such as curriculum design as well as to discuss broader issues such as accountability and outcome assessment.

We are proceeding judiciously because we want this publication to be first class. The new publication will involve electronic publishing; we must proceed carefully so as to recognize the implications on our other flagship publications. In addition, we will need to reprioritize our budget and seek ways to fund this effort. To this end, I have asked the Committee to draft a description of the journal to go along with a call for an editor. The Institute's budget requirements will depend on how much sup-

port the new editor's institution will be able to provide. The Executive Committee will review this draft in the spring with the goal of presenting it to the Board in April.

And so, as I look back on the accomplishments of this year, I think we have made good progress on our goals. However, as Woody Hayes, legendary coach of the awesome Ohio State Buckeyes, once said, "You win with people." I had the "people," so the credit is not mine. Soon I will pass the reins to Mike Showalter, who was my first Ph.D. student (that tells you something). Mike no longer calls me "Professor" or "Sir," so you do not have to worry about who really holds the reins. I am proud to serve one more year on the Board under his leadership. My congratulations go to Bob Jacobs for his election to president elect. He will provide some very useful insights as we take on the challenges for next year.

It has been my extreme pleasure to serve you as President this past year, and I look forward to seeing you in Orlando. ■

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Future DSI Meetings

NATIONAL ANNUAL MEETINGS

November 18 - 21, 2000

The Orlando World Center Marriott,
Orlando, Florida

November 17 - 20, 2001

The San Francisco Marriott,
San Francisco, California

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

July 8-11, 2001

Chihuahua, Mexico

REGIONAL ANNUAL MEETINGS

Asia Pacific

July 24-27, 2000

Waseda University International
Conference Center

2001

Singapore

Midwest

April 26-28, 2001

Oakland University, Dearborn, Michigan

2002

Marquette University, Milwaukee,
Wisconsin

Northeast

2001

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

2002

St. Croix or St. Thomas,
The Virgin Islands

Southeast

February 21-23, 2001

Charlotte, North Carolina

Southwest

February 27-March 3, 2001

The Sheraton New Orleans Hotel,
New Orleans, Louisiana

March 12-16 (tentative), 2002

Hyatt Regency Dallas Hotel,
Dallas, Texas

Western

March/April 2001

Vancouver, BC (tentative)

2002

Las Vegas, Nevada (tentative)