

DECISION LINE

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2001 Officers' Nominees Selected

President-Elect

P. George Benson, University of Georgia
Thomas W. Jones, University of Arkansas-Fayetteville

Secretary

Mark M. Davis, Bentley College
Nada R. Sanders, Wright State University

At-Large Vice Presidents

Hope M. Baker, Kennesaw State University
Norma J. Harrison, Macquarie University
C. R. Michael Parent, Utah State University
Barbara A. Price, Georgia Southern University
Brooke A. Saladin, Wake Forest University
Stelios (Steve) H. Zanakis, Florida International University

Southeast Regionally-Elected Vice President

Robert L. Andrews, Virginia Commonwealth University
O. Maxie Burns, Georgia Southern University

Southwest Regionally-Elected Vice President

Mary L. Fischer, University of Texas at Tyler
Stephen E. Lunce, Texas A&M International University
John Windsor, University of North Texas

Western Regionally-Elected Vice President

Thomas E. Callarman, Arizona State University
Shannon V. Taylor, Montana State University

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PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Anticipating the DSI Harvest

Michael J. Showalter,
Florida State University

We are nearing the most visible time of the year for the Decision Sciences Institute. As the 2000 Annual Meeting looms ahead, the efforts of the many Institute volunteers and participants are about to be harvested. All of us are eagerly anticipating the many benefits to be offered us by our

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Institute colleagues this year. At the very heart of the Institute are the professional development opportunities provided by the interactions with others in our own discipline, as well as with those in other disciplines. In particular, it is the interdisciplinary nature of Institute activities that makes us truly unique and sets us apart from many other professional organizations. I am proud that our organization is truly the embodiment of the quote we so often use in the classroom, "In the end it is the *people* who make an organization great."

In the Institute we are blessed with a membership that truly shares in the goals of the organization and graciously gives both time and effort to achieve those goals. As a former program chair, I certainly appreciate the great job that Professor Gary Ragatz, this year's program chair, and his team have done in planning and organizing the upcoming annual meeting. Please read in this issue of *Decision Line* Professor Ragatz's message regarding the upcoming meeting. His team has developed a diverse offering of program opportunities in which we can share our insights into research, teaching, and professional development with our colleagues. Of particular interest is the continuing use of session offerings with formats other than the traditional "paper presentation-discussant" structure. Hopefully, these new formats will continue to remain popular as an effective option for increasing collegiality.

Among our membership I'd also like to recognize another group of volunteers who have done an outstanding job preparing for the 2000 Annual Meeting. These volunteers are the chairs and members of the various governance committees of the

Institute. These members have committed their time and resources during the past summer to addressing various charges given to their respective committees by the Institute's Board of Directors. The participation of these volunteers is critical to the renewal and growth of the Institute. During their respective committee meetings at the 2000 Annual Meeting, these volunteers will finalize a set of recommendations for each charge and submit them to the Board of Directors. In all, there are 35+ committee meetings scheduled during the 2000 Annual Meeting. These include constitutionally mandated committees, standing committees, ad hoc committees, and various other regional/special interest group meetings. The Board of Directors is dependent on the initiatives of these committee members to identify opportunities for moving the Institute forward to better serve the needs of the membership. At the January 2001 Board of Director's Meeting in Sarasota, Florida, the Board members will review, discuss, and evaluate the recommendations of the various governance committees. Those recommendations that best serve the interests of the Institute membership will be accepted for implementation.

In light of the above comments about the significance of membership and my previous President's Letter titled, "Volunteers—The Lifeblood of the Institute," I want to remind you of the opportunities available for participating in the governance of the Institute. We have listed in this issue of *Decision Line* the upcoming slate of new officers for election to positions beginning next spring. When you receive an

election ballot this winter, please take the time to vote for those candidates who you believe will best serve your interests and those of the Institute. Also, in addition to voting, please remember the volunteer form attached to the ballot. This is an opportunity for you to vote to share your expertise and experience with the Institute. Your completion of the volunteer form is your *vote* to participate in the governance of the Institute. By completing this form and returning it as part of your ballot, your name will be added to the list of candidates considered by Professor F. Robert Jacobs, incoming president, to serve on one of the future governance committees.

In closing, I want to thank each of you for your efforts in making the Institute so vibrant and dynamic. It has been truly awesome to work with you and share in the success of the Decision Sciences Institute.

If you should have any thoughts or ideas regarding the Institute, I would certainly appreciate hearing from you at mshowal@cob.fsu.edu.

I look forward to seeing all of you soon in Orlando! ■

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The 1999-00 Nominating Committee, chaired by Terry R. Rakes (Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University), has completed the slate of nominees for the 2001 election of officers. The Nominating Committees for the regional subdivisions have also compiled the names of nominees who are running this year for the office of vice presidents elected by the regional subdivisions.

Ballots will be mailed in December 2000. Additional nominations may be made by November 30, 2000. Each additional nomi-

nation must be made by petition signed by at least 5 percent of the members and submitted to the Institute's Secretary, c/o the Decision Sciences Institute, 35 Broad Street, Atlanta, GA 30303.

Additional nominations for vice presidents elected by the regional subdivisions may be made upon petition signed by at least 5 percent of the regional subdivisions' members. ■