

■ Barbara B. Flynn, Babcock Graduate School of Management, Wake Forest University

We have a number of interesting features to start the semester off. We open with the President's Letter from Bob Jacobs of Indiana University, providing his comments about the recent conference in San Francisco. It was a great meeting, in a great location, and I'm looking forward to returning there sometime in the future. He also discusses many changes in the paper submission process for next year.

Nest we feature one of the finalists from the 2000 DSI Instructional Innovation Competition. Scott Sampson of Brigham Young University presents "Enlivening the OM Classroom with Video Tours." He discusses the use of various ways to enliven introductory operations management courses and describes his experiments with making his own video tours for use in classroom. He found this approach to be so successful that he expanded it to include optional student-produced video projects. Scott provides lots of practical suggestions to the use of student-produced video projects.

In Research Issues, Rob Handfield of North Carolina State University, the incoming editor of the *Journal of Operations Management*, discusses "Writing the Ideal Paper for JOM: A New Editor's Perspective." In addition to the typical advice, Rob stresses three themes that will be important in evaluating papers submitted to JOM: (1) cross-functional and cross-enterprise decision making; (2) methodological rigor, combined with scientific theory building; and (3) managerial relevance.

In our Classroom feature, Robert Pavur of the University of North Texas and Kellie Keeling of Virginia Tech present "Simplifying Procedure for Implementing Nonparametric Tests in Excel." They show how Excel can be used for teaching nonparametric statistics, even though Excel's data analysis tools do not include nonparametric tests. In particular, they show how the use of ranks as the data, combined with Conover and Iman's rank transformation procedure, can be used to obtain nonparametric statistics.

In Doctoral Student Issues, recent graduate Carol Prahinski of the University of Western Ontario presents down to earth advice in her article "The Process of Get-

ting a Position in Academia." This is followed by Ken Kendall's practical advice on Internet shopping in Ecommerce, entitled "B2C Ecommerce: Observations About Technology in its Early Stages." He presents situations that many of us can relate to, pointing out both the benefits and pitfalls of electronic shopping.

Andy Vaszyoni discusses "Math Deficit Disorder" in his Specialist with a Universal Mind column. He presents a humorous dialogue from Eugene Ionesco's "La Lecon" that many of us should be able to relate to and discusses how we can get around math deficit disorder.

We finish with "From the Bookshelf," where Peter Ittig of the University of Massachusetts-Boston provides a comprehensive review of *Principles of Forecasting: A Handbook for Researchers and Practitioners*, by J. Scott Armstrong. This reference book contains 139 principles of statistics, along with 30 articles discussing the principles and providing evidence related to them. It sounds like an interesting book for those doing research in statistics.

We have a lot of interesting articles in this issue of *Decision Line*, and I know you will enjoy reading them! ■



Barbara B. Flynn

is a professor of operations management at the Babcock Graduate School of Management, Wake Forest University. She holds an A.B. in psychology from Ripon College, an M.B.A. from Marquette University and a

D.B.A. in operations management from Indiana University. Professor Flynn has held leadership positions in the Decision Sciences Institute, the Academy of Management and The Institute of Management Science. Her publications have appeared in *Decision Sciences*, *Management Science*, *Journal of Operations Management*, *International Journal of Production Research*, and other journals. Her current research interests include quality, JIT and operations strategy. Professor Flynn's research has been funded by the National Science Foundation, the Center for Innovation Management Studies, the Japan-U.S. Friendship Commission and the U.S. Department of Education.

Barbara B. Flynn

Babcock Graduate School of Management
Wake Forest University
P.O. Box 7659, Reynolda Station
3102 Worrell Professional Center
Winston-Salem, NC 27109-7659
Voice: 336-758-3672
Fax: 336-758-4514
Barb.Flynn@mba.wfu.edu

DSI Online Membership Directory Is Available to All Institute Members

To access the DSI online membership directory, point your browser to:

<http://decisionsciences.org/directory/auth.asp>

and log in using your email address and membership number as password. If you do not remember your membership number, you can have the system send your password to you from the authentication page. If you have not registered an email address, contact us at dsi@gsu.edu with your membership number and email address, and we will update your profile for you. Once you are logged in, you can also update your own profile.