

■ G. Keong Leong, Management Department, University of Nevada, Las Vegas

As I assume the duties of the editor of *Decision Line*, I realize the transition process would not be as seamless without the hard work put forth by Barbara Flynn, Hal Jacobs, and Carol Latta. Looking back on my early years serving as feature editor of the Production and Operations Management column, I can truly say I enjoyed my time working under the leadership of Terry Rakes and then for a period of time under Barbara Flynn. Barbara has done a fantastic job as editor of *Decision Line* (see her parting comments on this page). I wish to offer my heartiest congratulations to Barbara on her appointment as editor of the *Decision Sciences Journal of Innovative Education* and winning the election for the president-elect of DSI.

My vision is that *Decision Line* will continue to provide a forum for opinions, discussions, and philosophical statements regarding the Institute's goals, as well as be a means of keeping abreast of the latest developments within the various disciplines. Since my earlier appointment at *Decision Line* in 1995, I have seen enhancements made through the addition of new columns such as E-Commerce, In the Classroom, The Specialist with a Universal Mind, and Membership Roundup. I am dedicated to improving the quality of *Decision Line* and addressing the needs of the Institute's diverse members in an ever-changing global environment.

I am pleased to welcome three new feature editors and to thank the outgoing editors for their wonderful contributions to *Decision Line*. Manus "Johnny" Rungtunasatham of the Arizona State University will be taking over the International Issues column from Robert Markland of the University of South Carolina. Bob actually began his work on this column in the fall of 1994 when Terry Rakes was editor. Over the ensuing years, Bob has handled 23 columns on international issues, involving some 30 different authors, eight of whom were from non-U.S. schools.

Manoj Malhotra of the University of South Carolina will oversee the Doctoral Student Issues column. Appearing later in this publication will be a farewell column on Doctoral Student Issues by Julie Kendall from Rutgers University. Subhashish Samaddar of Georgia State University has

graciously agreed to serve as feature editor of the Information Technology column, which has been dormant for a couple of years.

We are still looking for a replacement for Andrew Ruppel of the University of Virginia, who is the current feature editor of the From the Bookshelf column. Andrew has graciously consented to work with me until we find a new feature editor. I wish to express my gratitude to the remaining feature editors who have worked tirelessly to provide us with interesting reading material.

Overview of Volume 33(2) Articles

F. Robert Jacobs, DSI president, opens this March 2002 issue with a description of the major accomplishments of the board of directors during the past year.

In the Research Issues column, Ram Narasimhan of Michigan State University explains the changes in editorial philosophy he will be making in his second term as the editor of *Decision Sciences*. Although he is happy with the strong reputation of the journal, he proposes three key areas that the journal should focus on: Operations Management, Management Science/Quantitative, and Statistical Analysis and

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G. Keong Leong is professor and chair of the Management Department in the College of Business, University of Nevada Las Vegas. He holds a Bachelor of Engineering from the University of Malaya, an MBA and a Ph.D. from the University of South Carolina. Professor Leong has held leadership positions in *Decision Sciences Institute* such as at-large vice president, Doctoral Student Consortium coordinator, Instructional Innovation Award Competition coordinator, and POM track chair. He has published articles in *Decision Sciences*, *Journal of Operations Management*, *Interfaces*, *Journal of Management*, and other journals. His current research interests include international operations, operations strategy, technology management, and supply chain management. Professor Leong has co-authored two books, won teaching and research awards, and received the Educator of the Year award from the Asian Chamber of Commerce in Las Vegas.

G. Keong Leong
Management Department
University of Nevada, Las Vegas
4505 Maryland Parkway
Box 456009
Las Vegas NV 89154-6009
voice: 702-895-1762
fax: 702-895-4370
keong.leong@ccmail.nevada.edu



I am very happy to welcome Keong Leong as the new editor of *Decision Line*. He has lots of ideas and will do a great job in the position. I have really enjoyed my time as editor, but am looking forward to being able to devote more time to *Decision Sciences Journal of Innovative Education*. I would like to thank all of the feature editors, for their diligent work to put together such interesting features for *Decision Line*. I would also like to thank Hal Jacobs for keeping us on schedule, editing and actually putting together the issues. Please join me in wishing Keong the best of luck in his new endeavor!

Barbara B. Flynn
barb.flynn@mba.wfu.edu

The early years of the new millennium have brought with them promised advances in technologies, especially information technology, which has long been acknowledged as a vital tool for decision making. However, it has not followed that decision making has accordingly been improved. On the contrary, the Asian recovery has stalled, the U.S. economic boom has grounded to a halt and Europe is not faring much better.

What is amiss? How well do we understand these fast changing technologies? Are we making the best use of all these technological advances? Are they really helping or are they actually hurting decision-making?

This conference will carry on the theme started at the last conference. Academics, and practitioners alike, will review and probe deeper into the subjects to try to get a better grip of the new speed-of-light world in the hope that we shall be able to understand and make the best use of our better tools.

Address all correspondence to:

APDSI 2002 Conference Secretariat
School of Applied Statistics, National
Institute of Development Administration
118 Seri Thai Rd., Klongchan, Bangkok,
Bangkok 10240, Thailand
Tel. (+66) 2377-5381
Fax: (+66) 2374-9000
E-mail: apdsi2002@as.nida.ac.th

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Administration

<http://www.apdsi2002.com>

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Information System. He outlines the type of articles and methodologies for each of the three focus areas and the need for *Decision Sciences* to differentiate itself from the other competitive journals in their respective fields. He concludes by stating his commitment to protect and improve journal quality and to encourage members to submit their best work to *Decision Sciences*.

Julie Kendall, in her farewell address, reflects on the time she has served as the feature editor of the Doctoral Student Issues column. She strongly urges doctoral students to complete their program within four years and to move on so they can enjoy the fruits of their hard work. She has several interesting suggestions for future columns such as "How to Decide to Enter a Ph.D. Program," "The Five Most Valuable Lessons I Learned from My Mentor," and "The Five Most Valuable Lessons I learned from my Ph.D. students."

The E-Commerce column by Kenneth Kendall provides arguments for obtaining a personal domain. In his column, Ken humorously documents his experience with shifting Internet Service Providers (ISPs) and changing email addresses. The advantage of a personal domain name is that you are in full control and, therefore, become a master of your own domain.

In the Specialist with a Universal Mind column, Andrew Vazsonyi of the University of San Francisco suggests that modern financial portfolio management can be a useful vehicle to introduce various theories of decision making. He also offers several do's and don'ts of managing an investment portfolio.

The recent disaster in New York City has raised the issue of unexpected events and caused Andrew Ruppel of the University of Virginia to revisit the concept of randomness. In the From the Bookshelf

column, he reviews four books related to this subject. *The Statistical Sleuth* provides a set of statistical tools and illustrative cases suitable for both graduate students and researchers. *Einstein and Picasso* is an intriguing book that examines the commonality in the lives of two brilliant minds, Einstein and Picasso, and the relationship between art and science. *Foiled by Randomness* is about Wall Street and the role of chance in the stock market. Quite often luck and skill are hard to differentiate in the financial market. *What If? 2* is an interesting collection of essays speculating how our lives will be affected by possible alternative outcomes of pivotal historical events.

I look forward to serving you all in the next few years. If you have suggestions to improve *Decision Line*, please do not hesitate to contact me. ■