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Summer is finally here. Many of us will take this opportunity to do research, travel to international conferences, or spend quality time with friends and family. I hope you will enjoy this “summer issue” of *Decision Line*, filled with news and interesting feature articles from your colleagues.

In her first letter as president of the Decision Sciences Institute, Professor Barbara Flynn, Wake Forest University, congratulates the newly elected members of the Board of Directors. She outlines several ambitious goals set by the DSI Board for 2003-2004.

In the *International Issues* column, Professor Don Kerr, Griffith University (Australia), discusses the strengths and weaknesses of the Asia Pacific Decision Sciences Institute (APDSI) and the role of APDSI in the international community of scholars. He observes that the previous two conferences, held in Singapore and Bangkok (Thailand), were well sponsored by both the government and private sectors. The timing of the conference should take into account the different teaching schedules in the northern and southern hemispheres in Asia.

In the *E-Commerce* column, Professor Sameer Verma, San Francisco State University, challenges academics to conduct basic research in open source software. The “open source” approach allows developers and programmers to share the source code that promotes redistribution and propagation, while ensuring source code integrity. Two prominent examples of implementation of open source software are Google and Yahoo.

Professor Rick Hesse, Pepperdine University, in his classroom feature article, shows how the nonlinear and discontinuous quantity discount problem can be solved using the Educational Premium Solver package. This software is developed by Frontline Systems. Due to the complexity of the problem, using the Evolutionary Solver in the Educational Premium Solver package can be extremely helpful.

In *The Specialist with the Universal Mind* column, Professor Andy Vazsonyi presents “Which Door has the Cadillac? Part Two.” He revisits the “Cadillac” problem from the TV game show in which the contestant is to choose from three closed doors and win the prize behind it. One door has a Cadillac behind it, while the other two doors have goats. This is known as the Monte Hall problem. He explains that decision trees, verbal explanations, and simulations can strengthen the understanding of the Cadillac problem. Part one of this article was published in the December/January 1999 issue of *Decision Line*.

We close with the *From the Bookshelf* feature. Professor French Waage, University of Massachusetts, reviews three books on “six sigma”: (1) *What is Six Sigma?*, Pete Pande and Larry Holpp, McGraw-Hill, 2002; (2) *The New Six Sigma*, Matt Barney and Tom McCarty, Prentice Hall Professional Technical Reference Series, 2003; and (3) *Making Six Sigma Last*, George Eckes, Wiley, 2001. The first book explains what Six Sigma is, the second discusses how Six Sigma has evolved over time, and the third presents the key factors that will lead to lasting results from Six Sigma implementation.

Dr. Krishna Dhir, dean of Berry College and currently president of Western DSI, has agreed to serve as the first feature editor for the upcoming Deans’ Perspective column. I am excited to have Krishna on board. Another change we hope to make soon is the introduction of a “Letters to the Editor” feature to provide a “forum for opinions, discussions, and philosophical statements.” We believe these additions will provide increased value to our members.

Let us hope that SARS (Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome) will be contained successfully and a cure found quickly. Have a great summer! ■



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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 Uni-

versity 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.