

DECISION LINE

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2004 Annual Meeting Award Winners



F. Robert Jacobs

Dennis E. Grawoig
Distinguished Service Award
 F. Robert Jacobs, Indiana University

Instructional Innovation Award
 Natalie Simpson, SUNY at Buffalo

Elwood S. Buffa Doctoral Dissertation Competition
 Anand Nair, Auburn University; Advisor:
 Ram Narasimhan, Michigan State University

Best Application Paper Award

Paul Stephens, Bradley University; James R. Evans, University of Cincinnati; and Charles H. Matthews, University of Cincinnati

Best Interdisciplinary Paper Award

Timothy Baker, Washington State University; and Nagesh N. Murthy, University of Oregon

Best Theoretical/Empirical Research Paper Award

Mohan Subramaniam, Boston College; and Mark A Youndt, Skidmore College

Best Case Studies Competition Award

Robert Klassen, University of Western Ontario

For more details, please see related articles in the 2004 Annual Meeting section, pages 33-45.



PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Thank You's and Congratulations

Gary L. Ragatz, Michigan State University

As we start off the new year, I find myself reflecting on our recently completed annual meeting and on the many people who contribute their time and effort to moving this organization ahead.

In my last President's Letter, I wrote about looking forward to the Institute's Boston meeting, which has now come

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and gone—and definitely did not disappoint! Attendance was over 1,450, our largest meeting since 1996, and the sixth largest ever. High attendance is great, but it's only one measure of the success of a conference. Credit goes to Program Chair Ken Kendall and his program committee, who worked tirelessly to put together an interesting and high quality conference.

It's been several years since I was program chair, and I had almost forgotten how many people it takes to make the annual meeting happen. Including track chairs and coordinators of the various special programs and competitions, the program committee comprises over forty people. The program committee is responsible for developing the content and structure of the program, and then there is the Home Office staff, headed by Carol Latta, who tends to all the logistical issues involved in making the meeting happen. On behalf of the Institute, I'd like to thank all who worked so hard to make the meeting in Boston a great success.

The 2005 Doctoral Student Consortium was a particular highlight, hosting nearly 100 students, representing nearly 50 different universities. This kind of turnout is exciting because these students, just starting out on their academic careers, are the future of the Institute. Congratulations to Dorothy Dologite and Bob Mockler on putting together an outstanding consortium and introducing so many new faces to the Institute.

I didn't make it to as many sessions at the conference as I had hoped – I sure attended a lot of meetings though! The sessions I did attend were well worthwhile, and left me wishing I could have fit more into my schedule. Two sessions in particular stood out for me. One was the Fellows' Session, entitled "Operations Management History for Dummies: Some Key Developments in the Evolution of the Field." I think it's valuable to step back from time to time and see how we've gotten where we are in our fields of study. Who better to help us do that in the operations management area than Linda Sprague, Wick

Skinner, Vince Mabert, Dick Chase, and Urban Wemmerlöv? This was a lively and informative session that kept the audience of over 100 people engaged for the full 90 minutes.

Another session I thoroughly enjoyed was "Lean Thinking and Operations Management," with Jim Womack. Jim presented a very nice overview of lean thinking and then focused on a lean perspective on location decisions. This latter issue struck me as particularly timely, as it raises some interesting ideas about approaches to outsourcing. This session was one of three "keynote" sessions Ken Kendall developed to offer meeting attendees a full session with thought leaders from industry and academia.

The Boston meeting also continued our recent tradition of some light-

hearted entertainment following the President's Reception. This year's offering, from *Improv Asylum*, even allowed some of the Institute's leaders a little stage time (no one's planning on quitting their day job, I hope).

Decision Sciences Journal

This is a time of transition for the Institute's flagship journal. Ram Narasimhan of Michigan State University completed his second term as editor of *Decision Sciences* on December 31, and handed the reins to Vicki Smith-Daniels of Arizona State University. Vicki has worked with the Board and the Publications Committee to develop an editorial policy that highlights the journal's particular focus on decision making and cross-disciplinary re-

search. She has also introduced some changes to the *Decision Sciences* review process that, hopefully, will streamline the process of getting high quality feedback to authors. To learn more about these changes, check out the journal Web site at <https://wpcarey.asu.edu/DSJOnline/index.cfm>

Editorship of a journal is a demanding and often thankless job, but it's an absolutely critical job if the journal is to maintain high standards, build its reputation, and serve its readership. I'd like to thank Ram for his six years of hard work in service to the journal, and extend my best wishes to Vicki as she embarks on her term as editor.

The Institute's Business

The Institute's Board of Directors has had a full plate this year. In my next President's Letter, I'll try to recap some of the Board's accomplishments for the year, but for now, I'd like to thank all of those folks who served on the committees that provide advice and guidance to the Board. I did a little counting and learned that over 150 individuals, representing nearly 100 different institutions, served on the Institute's committees this year. Thanks to all of you who gave of your time to help with the Institute's business.

Looking Ahead

We've just put one successful annual meeting to bed, and a new program committee is already hard at work, under the direction of Program Chair Manoj Malhotra, on developing an *even better* program! I hope you'll all plan to join us for the 2005 annual meeting, *Decision Making at the Functional Interface*, in San Francisco. ■

Related Links

Decision Sciences Journal: <https://wpcarey.asu.edu/DSJOnline/index.cfm>

WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY

SCHOOL OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

Chair of the Business Department

The Wayne State University School of Business Administration is seeking a Chair for the newly formed Business Department in the School of Business Administration. The School is undergoing restructuring to form two academic departments, Accounting and Business. The Business Department will consist of approximately 40 full time faculty members from the disciplines of finance, information systems, logistics, management, marketing and production/operations management. The Chair will help lead the School to its next stage of development that is expected to include a Ph.D. Program.

The preferred candidate will come from one of the discipline areas in the business department and qualify for a tenured appointment. Preferred applicants or nominees should have a doctoral degree and have demonstrated the highest level of academic leadership including publications in leading academic journals and have previous academic administrative experience. Additionally, the selected candidate will have proficiency in teaching undergraduate and graduate business students. The chosen candidate must be able to work collaboratively with departmental colleagues and other constituents in the School as well as with alumni and members of the business community.

The Business Department Chair will be responsible for undergraduate and masters programs in business administration as well as departmental faculty research and development. Reporting to the Chair will be an Assistant Chair and two administrative assistants.

Wayne State University, with an enrollment of more than 33,000 students, is a Carnegie Research Extensive University. The School of Business Administration is one of 13 schools and colleges comprising the University academic community.

The School of Business Administration, accredited by AACSB International, grants the BA, BS, MBA, MS in Accounting and MS in Taxation degrees. The School enrolls 1,000 upper division undergraduate and 1,300 graduate students. The School offers undergraduate majors in Accounting, Business Logistics, Finance, Information Systems and Manufacturing, Management, and Marketing.

Review of applications will begin March 15, and continue until the position is filled. We welcome applications from women, minorities and members of other under-represented groups. All applications with vita, cover letter and three reference will be accepted only on-line at the following site: <https://jobs.wayne.edu> under (Position # 031385). Contact Anna Laconis at 313-577-4502 if you need assistance.

Wayne State University is an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer.