

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

2005 was another bad year for natural disasters. Hurricane Katrina and Rita in the U.S. and the earthquake in Pakistan are just a few prominent examples. We can only hope for the speedy rebuilding of the affected areas and for normalcy to return soon.

We begin this issue of *Decision Line* with a letter from DSI President Tom Callarman, China Europe International Business School/Arizona State University. He thanks the program committee, chaired by Professor Manoj Malhotra of the University of South Carolina, and the many volunteers who assisted in organizing the 2005 Annual Meeting in San Francisco. He also congratulates Professor Aleda Roth of Arizona State University and Professor Christopher Voss of the London Business School on their induction as Fellows of the Institute, and Professor Joseph Biggs (retired from California Polytechnic State University) for receiving the Distinguished Service Award. As part of DSI's internationalization effort, the Board is encouraging proposals for setting up an Indian Subcontinent Region. In addition, the DSI Web site will be improved to better meet the needs of its members.

Professor Kenneth E. Kendall, Rutgers University, an admitted technology buff, writes about his experience with RSS (Really Simple Syndication) Readers, a type of push technology. He defines "push technologies" as "software products that send information to customers, much in the same way we receive content on television or the radio." RSS readers can be used to search for new products, software, and reviews on the Web. He describes how this technology allows him to filter the content so that he only reads what he considers important, and he can search for more information later if there is interest. He presents a five-step process to start using an RSS Reader.

When filling the vacant dean position, is it better to hire a dean from within or outside the college? This is an interesting question many of us have faced over our academic careers. Sarah Bryant Bower, dean of the College of Business Administration at Clarion University of Pennsylvania, was hired from the outside. On the other hand, Eileen A. Hogan, dean of the College of Business at Kutztown University of Pennsylvania, was promoted from within. These two deans share their experiences in six key areas: Interviewing, After Being Hired, Credibility, Relationship with Peers and Upper Administration, Making Tough Decisions, and Vision of Potential.

Professor Peter Ittig, University of Massachusetts, reviews the book *"Lives at Risk: Single-Payer National Health Insurance Around the World,"* by John Goodman, Gerald Musgrave, and Devon Heric. The U.S. is facing rapidly increasing healthcare costs and wrestling with ways to make health care more affordable. Arguments have been made for adopting national health insurance used by many countries around the world such as Canada and U.K. However, the authors are critical of national health insurance, saying that it leads to inadequate service capacity and long waiting times, and argue that the current American system encourages over-consumption by patients. Goodman and his co-authors provide insights into why government-run systems may not be the best solution to the U.S. health care problems—and suggest ways to create a better American health insurance plan.

May the New Year bring many opportunities your way and may all your efforts turn into great achievements! ■

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.

keong.leong@ccmail.nevada.edu