

# DECISION LINE

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## 2005 Annual Meeting Award Winners

Joseph R. Biggs



**Dennis E. Grawoig**  
*Distinguished Service Award*  
 Joseph R. Biggs, California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo

**Instructional Innovation Award**  
 Grandon Gill, University of South Florida

**Elwood S. Buffa Doctoral Dissertation Competition**  
 Tipparat Laohavichien, Kasetsart University in Thailand  
 Degree-granting Institution: Clemson University  
 Advisor: Lawrence Fredendall

**Best Application Paper Award**  
 Dean C. Chatfield, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University; Terry P. Harrison and Jack C. Hayya, Pennsylvania State University

**Best Interdisciplinary Paper Award**  
 Subhashish Samaddar, Satish Nargundkar, and Marcia Daley, Georgia State University

**Best Theoretical/Empirical Research Paper Award**  
 Goutam N. Challagalla, Georgia Institute of Technology; Nagesh N. Murthy, University of Oregon; Leslie H. Vincent, Georgia Institute of Technology

**Best Case Studies Competition Award**  
 Natalie Simpson, University of Buffalo (SUNY)

For more details, please see related articles in the 2005 Annual Meeting section, pages 29-39.



### PRESIDENT'S LETTER

## Thank You and Congratulations

Thomas E. Callarman, *Arizona State University*

It is the tradition that the President's letter in the January Issue be a thank you to those who contributed to the recently finished annual meeting. I will not break that tradition.

First, let me thank the 1,100-plus registered participants at the conference. The meeting could not possibly be a success without your participation—all the planning and hard

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work that went into the meeting would mean nothing if no one showed up! There were many great sessions, workshops, symposia, etc., and without the presenters' hard work and dedication to the conference, none of this would have happened. When we do satisfaction surveys of the conferences, almost 100 percent of the attendees claim that they are satisfied or very satisfied with the conference. I am certain the results from this conference will be no different.

There are too many people involved in the planning and execution of the conference to name all of them, but a few should be named. First, Manoj Malhotra, the program chair, put in countless hours of hard work and assembled a great and productive team to create the quality program in which we participated. Also, the track chairs, paper reviewers, and DSI home office put in many, many hours and should be thanked for their hard work.

The sponsors of awards, consortia, miniconferences, and receptions should also be thanked, and both Manoj and I have sent personal letters to that effect. (In addition, those of you who went to the luncheon noticed that we acknowledged their valuable contributions there as well.)

Congratulations are also in order to all of the award winners, and to the new Fellows and the recipient of the Dennis E. Grawoig Distinguished Service Award. In case you missed it, the two newly inducted Fellows of the De-

cision Sciences Institute are Aleda Roth of Arizona State University and Christopher Voss of the London Business School. The recipient of the Distinguished Service Award is Joseph Biggs, retired, California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo. I am proud to say that I have known all three of these distinguished individuals for many years and cannot think of three people who are more deserving of these awards.

### Other Important Matters

In my first President's letter, I mentioned two things that were of great importance to me: improving the Web site, and the further internationalization of the Institute. While progress on these fronts may not be noticeable yet, several things are happening. Now that the new conference information system has been tested and final (which are never really final) improvements are being made, we can turn our attention to the design and development of a new and improved Web site. Through conversations with multiple members, and through member surveys, we have what we think is a good idea of what the members would like to see improved about the Web site, and we have sent out an RFP for the initial design. The Board of Directors has authorized both the design phase and the programming phase, so we expect things will begin to happen very soon. The intent is to cause the DSI Web

site to be a friendly source of information about the Institute and its regions, journals, conferences, placement service, etc., and to be a one-stop communication link for members to find useful information for their professional development.

The Board of Directors is also encouraging a group of faculty both from the U.S. and from India to develop and submit a proposal for an Indian Subcontinent Region of DSI. To further the Institute's internationalization, plans are being made to develop a more strategic view of whether DSI should be global, and how to make that happen. The journal editors have all increased the non-U.S. membership on their editorial boards, and submissions from countries other than the U.S. are increasing. The board through its committee structure is looking seriously at a number of ways that internationalization can be increased.

### Future Letter

The next President's letter, by tradition, includes a detailed accounting of what has been accomplished by this year's Board of Directors, officers, and by the members at large. It is hard to believe that the next letter will be my last and that it has almost been a year since I became your president. I hope, down the road, we will all be able to claim that this year was at least a mild success for the Decision Sciences Institute. ■

the status and challenges of the current methodology employed in the OM and MIS literature and opportunities for future research were presented. A manuscript by Shah and Goldstein proved to be conducive toward the task as it provided the first review of the SEM applications in Operations Mgmt. (Use of SEM in Operations Mgmt Research: Looking Back and Forward, Shah & Goldstein, *Journal of Operations Mgmt*, in press 2005). Several deficiencies in the empirical literature were identified, and those ranged from substantive issues to reporting issues (such as no re-

porting of input matrix, degrees of freedom, model specification and identification, model power, etc). Other topics conversed included the use of formative versus reflective indicators, the use of Partial Least Squares (PLS) as if it can resolve a variety of ailments in data analyses, and the lack of applications using techniques such as multilevel modeling and latent growth modeling, which are so much more prevalent in other disciplines.

These sessions provided a venue for many to interact with some of the most notable researchers in the area of

SEM. The coordinator would like to thank the presenters and the attendees for spending their Saturday at the miniconference, as well as Manoj Malhotra of the University of South Carolina, Marc Schniederjans of the University of Nebraska, Lincoln, George Marcoulides of Cal State Fullerton, and Carol Latta of the head office who supported the miniconference in many ways, and Florida Atlantic University for providing financial support to make the presentations possible. ■