

A Vision for the Future of the *Decision Sciences Journal of Innovative Education*

by Chetan S. Sankar, Auburn University

Barbara Flynn of Indiana University has done a tremendous job in positioning *Decision Sciences Journal of Innovative Education (DSJIE)* at the forefront of pedagogy and learning research in colleges of business at the national level. She should be highly commended for seeing the need for such a journal and maintaining its consistently high standard since its launch in 2003. As Ed Lusk, a faculty member at the Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania and SUNY: Plattsburgh, has stated: “*DSJIE* is the only journal that offers carefully selected peer-review information that can be used in developing or fine tuning the presentation of the technical information, which is the usual fare in Decision Sciences curricula, so as to better engage students in the learning process. It is the DS-muse.” I am therefore honored and delighted to be appointed as the new editor of the *Decision Sciences Journal of Innovative Education* and wanted to share with you my vision for the journal’s future.

- Bring in new resources to help support these endeavors.

Vision 1: Continue to build our reputation as a top-tier journal in business areas

My goals related to this vision are:

- Have the journal listed in the Web of Science maintained by Thomson. This takes more than two years, and the first steps in the process have already been initiated.
- By 2011, become one of the top 20 journals in the Education & Educational Research Category in this portal.
- Achieve an impact factor > 1.0 by 2011.
- Achieve an immediacy index > 0.24 by 2011.
- Improve our reputation within academic departments so that *DSJIE* is recognized as a top-tier journal.
- Increase the number of issues in the immediate future so that the existing backlog of accepted articles can be published within a reasonable time frame.
- Appoint associate editors so that the journal can handle the anticipated increase in the volume of papers and encourage new papers to be submitted. I am fortunate that six highly respected academics have accepted appointments as associate editors. They are:

Grandon Gill, University of South Florida

Christine T. Kydd, University of Delaware

Patrick McMullen, Wake Forest University

Ceyhan O. Ozgur, Valparaiso University

Vision for the Future

AACSB International gives equal importance to three kinds of research: pedagogy and learning research, discipline-based scholarship, and contributions to practice. Given the importance of the pedagogy and learning research, it is critical that we continue to strive to position the journal as a top-tier journal in this area. My vision for the future is to:

- Continue to build our reputation as a top-tier journal in business areas.
- Increase publicity/marketing to encourage more research in learning and pedagogy.



Chetan S. Sankar

is the Thomas Walter Center Professor in the College of Business and has taught and researched in the area of Management Information Systems for more than 25 years. He has worked at AT&T Bell Laboratories and at other

companies as both a manager and a consultant. He conducts research on pedagogy and learning research issues and to bring real-world issues into the classrooms. He has obtained funding support to pursue this research from the National Science Foundation budgeted at \$2.2 million. The funding has helped him develop many multi-media case studies (www.litee.org). These case studies are used in the colleges of engineering and business at several universities and have been documented to improve the perceived higher-order cognitive skills of students.

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- Invite additional DSI members to become members of the editorial review board in the future.
- Modify the journal's call for papers by mid-2008 to enable authors to specify two associate editors and provide a list of four potential reviewers, of whom we will include one in the review process. If possible, obtain three reviews per paper.
- Encourage the best DSI Instructional Innovation Competition Award paper(s) to be reviewed, modified, and published in the journal.
- Encourage the DSI conference best case studies to be published on the *DSJIE* website to encourage potential adopters of case studies to visit the *DSJIE* website and pursue articles published in *DSJIE*.
- Encourage associate editors to develop calls for papers for theme-specific special issues and authors to submit articles to these issues.

Vision 2: Increase publicity/marketing to encourage more research into learning and pedagogy

The goals that will contribute to achieving this vision are:

- Invite deans of colleges of business to discuss learning and pedagogy research issues and how this research area is treated in their colleges.
- Encourage the deans who participated in the DSI panel to publish their presentations in *Decision Line* and/or in *DSJIE* so that DSI members can gain an appreciation of deans' perspectives on learning and pedagogy research.
- Develop a brochure to publicize the journal.
- Expand the journal's perspective by adding international members to the editorial review board and encouraging submissions by international authors. Publish articles that focus on learning and pedagogy innovations with an international dimension.

- Revise the *DSJIE* website. This will include developing a weblog, instituting a discussion forum, and building in the ability to include case studies and teaching briefs on the website. Funding has already been authorized by DSI and this should be complete by the middle of 2008.
- Publish outstanding teaching briefs in a book. Barb Flynn has agreed to serve as the editor-in-chief of a volume that will include the best teaching briefs from past issues of *DSJIE*. This will bring in revenue for the journal and also help by increasing the citation of articles published in the journal.

Vision 3: Bring in new resources

The goals that will help in achieving this vision are:

- Work with software companies and publishers to include advertisements in the journal/ website and to sponsor paper competitions conducted by *DSJIE* in different sessions during the annual conference.
- Encourage members to seek research grants for studying issues related to learning and pedagogy. Funding opportunities will be highlighted on the journal website.
- Encourage associate editors/editor to attend regional DSI conferences, conduct workshops to encourage authors to write articles on pedagogy and learning research, and to support the mission of the journal.

Any journey of this type into the future needs companions and I invite all of you to work with me to achieve the goals set forth above and to accomplish this vision of making *DSJIE* one of the top journals in its field. Please continue to contribute articles and teaching briefs to the journal and consider registering as a reviewer for the journal. You can access manuscript central from the website:

<http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/dsjie/>

The journal's new website www.dsjie.org will become operational in the very near future.

I look forward to receiving your contributions and support as we work together to continue to build *DSJIE*'s reputation as a leader in learning and pedagogy research in colleges of business around the world. ■

Tips for Doctoral Students—Getting the Most from the Annual Meeting

The Decision Sciences Institute Annual Meeting provides an opportunity for doctoral students to network, develop professional skills, interview for faculty positions—and have a good time!

For students who want to know how to get the most out of the Annual Meeting, see "Tips for Doctoral Students" on the DSI Web site at

http://www.decisionsciences.org/doc_tips.htm



ERRATUM: In the October 2007 *Decision Line*, we incorrectly identified participants at the 1977 DSI Annual Meeting. Carol Latta is shown here with program co-chairs (from left) Herb Moskowitz and Norm Chervany.