

In the current issue we have a number of fine essays and items to keep you busy for a while. In his first President's Letter, our new DSI president, Ram Narasimhan of Michigan State University, describes seven objectives to be pursued by the Institute during 2009-2010. No doubt, through these efforts the Institute will continue to build on its four decades of distinguished history and provide our members with enhanced value.

The feature article is by Lisa T. Stickney of University of Baltimore. She reflects on how the process of decision making and its outcome are influenced by emotions. Taking cues from other disciplines that, too, investigate the human judgment process, she observes that moods and emotions are "essential components of rational decision making." She would like to see future research address "the role of affect in both analytic and analytic processing."

In the International Issues feature column, James Beckman of the Fulda University of Applied Sciences in Germany presents an interesting perspective on opportunities offered to our readers by academe in the European Union. As a first step, he urges us to experience overseas education for a semester to gain a deeper understanding of such opportunities. This enlightening essay describes how universities in Germany differ from their counterparts elsewhere.

Research Issues feature editor Miles Nicholls of RMIT University offers us an introduction to Mixed-Mode Modelling. In his words, this modelling approach brings "together the 'soft' and 'hard' sub-models which then, through an heuristic solution process (which is itself 'soft'), arrives at a 'best practice' solution to the problem at hand." He would like readers to come forth with essays describing other lesser-known approaches being applied to problem solving.

In the eCommerce feature column, Ken Kendall of Rutgers University discusses Mac appeal. Macs "do everything that Windows computers do—and more," he writes. He likes the fact that

Macs are less virus-prone and goes on to describe many other capabilities of Macs. He would like you to be alert to a cultural shift that might be underway. As he states, "Observe your students. They may be leaders in innovative technology adoption." Indeed, he has got my attention!

In the Production/Operations Management feature column, Clay Whybark of the University of North Carolina, Jack Wacker of Arizona State University, and Chwen Sheu of Kansas State University provide an overview of an international manufacturing survey that has evolved over more than two decades. Their essay is a brief report on an exciting and extensive ongoing study. They invite you to join them in their exploration.

In the Deans' Perspective feature column, Gregory Parnell of the U.S. Military Academy offers a novel overview of decision analysis. Learn about the "Willie Sutton Theory of Operations Research!" He offers a visual presentation in which four main dimensions of decision analysis, some key concepts, along with some most commonly used techniques, are all displayed in a single chart.

In the last issue I mentioned that Peter Ittig of the University of Massachusetts of Boston was stepping down as the feature editor of "From the Bookshelf" after an outstanding eight-year tenure. During this period he kept us abreast of exciting and wide-ranging books. We will miss his presence on the editorial team. The feature column will be taken over by Vijay R. Kannan of Utah State University. I am most grateful to Prof. Kannan for his willingness to take on this responsibility. Please welcome him to the *Decision Line* editorial team.

We hope you will enjoy the news and views presented in this issue. As usual, we look forward to hearing from you. Please do let us hear from you with suggestions and comments. Happy reading! ■

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