

■ KRISHNA S. DHIR, Editor, Berry College

As the New Year began, we were preoccupied with global climate and financial disasters. Even as the media warned of large scale dislocations to come, little did we imagine a geological disaster at the scale experienced in Haiti, in spite of the earlier tsunami that hit Aceh and beyond. Amidst wide-spread destruction, the resilience of a people who have little and have suffered much is astounding.

President Ram Narasimhan of Michigan State University starts the New Year taking stock of where we have been and what lies ahead, providing us with a review of the accomplishments of the past year. At the completion of the tenure of Vicki Smith-Daniels of Arizona State University as the editor of *Decision Science Journal*, which she executed most ably, Asoo Vakharia of the University of Florida has been slated to succeed her. President-Elect G. Keong Leong of the University of Nevada Las Vegas will take over as president of our Institute on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of April 2010.

As with each issue of *Decision Line*, we bring you a set of excellent essays by thought leaders and professionals. Melissa St. James, Natasa Christodoulidou, and Kaye Braggs, all of California State University, Dominguez Hills, discuss the success of their online MBA program, in the *Classroom* feature column. They

provide a discussion of the key factors that ensure their success.

In the *Deans' Perspective* feature column, Helen K. Simon and Beverly Zisla Welber of Florida International University describe their Capital Markets Laboratory. This laboratory offers a 2,200 square-foot authentic securities trading environment, outfitted with 49 state-of-the-art trading desks. This essay describes how the laboratory is being used to enhance student learning and faculty experiences in teaching and research.

Over time, Varun Grover of Clemson University has offered excellent essays through the *Doctoral Student Affairs* feature column to benefit and acculturate doctoral students preparing for academic endeavors. In this issue he describes judicious networking and discusses how doctoral students can use it to their advantage. Others would benefit from it, too.

In *From The Bookshelf* column, Susan Meyer Goldstein of the University of Minnesota reviews Daniel Willingham's book *Why Don't Students Like School?* She includes many lessons from the book that rely on the latest findings in cognitive sciences to enable student memory and learning during class.

We hope you will enjoy this issue of *Decision Line*. ■



### Krishna S. Dhir

is the Henry Gund Professor of Management at Berry College in Mount Berry, Georgia. He earned his PhD from the University of Colorado at Boulder, MBA from the University of Hawaii, MS in Chemical Engineering from

Michigan State University, and a BTech from the Indian Institute of Technology – Bombay. He has published in numerous journals, including *Applied Mathematical Modeling*, *Corporate Communications: An International Journal*, *Decision Sciences*, *IEEE Transactions on Engineering Management*, *International Journal of the Sociology of Language*, and *Journal of Information and Optimization Sciences*. He has received various DSI awards, including Dennis E. Grawoig Distinguished Service Award in 2008, WDSI Distinguished Service Award in 2009, Best Theoretical/Empirical Research Paper Award at the 1993 Annual Meeting in Washington, DC, and Best Application Paper Award at the 1999 International Meeting in Athens, Greece. The Penn State Harrisburg awarded him its 2001 James A. Jordan Jr. Award, and 2000 Provost's Award, both for teaching excellence.

kdhir@berry.edu

## NAMES IN THE NEWS

CAROL LATTA, Executive Director, Decision Sciences Institute



Hal Jacobs, DSI Publications Coordinator, is the author of a new book titled *Ball Crazy: Confessions of a Dad-Coach*. Throughout the course of his son's twelve-year-old baseball season, Hal reflects on the

gap between his son's youth baseball experience—that of uniforms, regimen,

pressure—and his own childhood experiences. *Ball Crazy* also looks at the psychological and physical effect of competitive youth sports on both players and parents. Each year, about 11 million children participate in youth baseball leagues, and the book is also relevant to parents of boys and girls playing other sports. In addition to his work at DSI, Hal is a freelance writer/editor whose main area of focus involves higher education. For more information, see [www.ballcrazy.net](http://www.ballcrazy.net). ■