

In my last editorial column, I commented on the redeeming impact on the society of a single person making the right decision. Our times demand introspection by teachers and practitioners of decision sciences. In a recent *Bloomberg Businessweek* interview, Dean Nitin Nohria of Harvard Business School acknowledged that along with society's trust in business, its confidence in business education, too, was shaken. Nassim Taleb, the author of *The Black Swan*, is more scathing: "Humans can be extremely rational in ordinary circumstances. The minute you give them an MBA, though, they start using these forecasts and these financial tools in ways that contradict their own behavior." The students of decision sciences need to be taught more than how to use the various mathematical and financial tools and techniques. It is essential to instill in them a philosophy and an intuitive sense that informs humane decision making. We could begin with incorporating elements of humanities into our research agenda.

In the President's Letter, Keong Leong of the University of Nevada Las Vegas describes what the Institute is doing to become a global organization. For instance, he describes the formation of the latest addition to the DSI family, the European Decision Sciences Institute. He also describes how the Institute accommodates members from around the world.

The collection of essays offered in this issue begins with a feature article by Keith Ord of Georgetown University. In this article, he discusses the challenges of teaching statistics. He points out that "the first statistics course is typically taken before any of the functional area courses, except possibly accounting." He explains why statistics is "the Rodney Dangerfield of business school," and suggests how we might rejuvenate its role in the business administration research and curriculum.

In her essay, "Arriving by Consensus in Global Business," presented here in the International Issues feature column, Christyne Vachon of Northeastern University describes the evolution underway in intercultural interaction. "Significant

and slight differences in culture affect the ability of business people to arrive at consensus with their foreign counterparts." She offers specific dimensions of interactions to suggest ways of improving the efficiency of arriving at "intercultural consensus."

Ken Kendall of Rutgers University, the feature editor of the E-Commerce column, loved his iPhone. Then came the iPad! He explores whether the iPad will really change the way we live and work. Read the article to discover his conclusions.

In the Deans' Perspective feature column, Arvind Phatak and Amandeep Sandhu, both of Temple University, describe the distinct nature of Asian capitalism. They observe that "in Western capitalism when a company moves to a purely impersonal management, it is defined as mature." The Western commentators attributed the Asian crisis of 1997 to the "close connections between business families and the state." Yet, today "when most economic growth is forecast to come from emerging Asia, family-based capitalism of Asia is being reconsidered in a new light."

In the Bookshelf column, Amit Mitra of Auburn University brings us his take on *Managing for Quality and Performance Excellence*, authored by James Evans and William Lindsay.

We hope you will enjoy the news and views presented in this issue. We look forward to hearing from you. Happy reading! ■



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