

DECISION LINE

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PRESIDENT'S LETTER: *Our focus on teaching innovation*

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In my last President's Letter, I outlined some of the new initiatives which the Institute will pursue this year. I am pleased at the responses I have received from several members, especially in regard to the ad hoc committee which is studying improved dissemination of information on teaching innovations. I have received emails from several members expressing their support and volunteering to assist in this effort. At this point, we are in the data-gathering phase of this initiative. Harvey Brightman, Georgia State University and chair of the ad hoc committee, has made considerable progress in assessing our past usage of existing Institute outlets such as *Decision Sciences* for publicizing teaching innovation, in determining what other outlets outside the Institute are available, and in projecting both the need for and likely success of another journal devoted to teaching innovation. One fact is clear. Whether this initiative results in the formation of a new journal or in changes in the way we utilize existing outlets, it has brought this issue into focus and provided the impetus for change.

In the area of dissemination of teaching innovation, our primary outlet has long been the annual meeting. In recent years, we have added numerous programs such as those aimed at the undergraduate, MBA, and doctoral programs. We have expanded our professional development workshops which offer updates on the use of new technologies that often are applicable to the classroom. This year we will attempt to spread the professional development workshops throughout the meeting to make them more accessible. And, we have continued to make the Instructional Innovation Award a showcase program for the annual meeting. This year, we will add two new features to the meeting that are directly related to teaching innovation.

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<http://dsi.gsu.edu>

The first of these is a session devoted to organizing support for the creation of websites for various interest areas. The web provides an ideal vehicle for the real-time sharing of information. A website devoted to a particular interest area, such as information systems or operations management, could offer a perfect mechanism for sharing information on teaching advances in the field, new accreditation standards, new texts and materials, upcoming conferences and special publications, etc. Depending on the level of interest among members who participate in a particular interest area, additional sites could be developed which are devoted to more specific or narrower areas within the field, and then linked to the overall site. The Institute could provide central coordination in the form of links to the various sites from the DSI webpage.

Obviously, there are many issues involved in making this idea work, and we need input from as many interested members as possible. If you have an interest in forming a website for your area, perhaps a good strategy would be to contact colleagues in your area prior to the meeting and discuss some of the issues and ideas so that we can more effectively use the time at the conference to discuss them. As the conference schedule is finalized, I encourage you to watch for the announcement of this session and plan to participate.

Another exciting feature planned for this year's meeting is the "Irwin/McGraw-Hill Technology Classroom." Irwin/McGraw-Hill has offered to conduct a series of technology-training sessions at our meeting which would support all decision sciences disciplines. These sessions will be conducted in a room with approximately 25 computers and a main presentation screen. Professional trainers from McGraw-Hill and CompUSA will lead these sessions, which will focus on such topics as PowerPoint basics, web-based delivery of courses, incorporating multimedia into classroom presentations, creating a course webpage, quantitative methods student software, operations management student software, and statistics student software. Once again, I encourage you to look for future announcements concerning this new and exciting program.

These new program features are intended to augment what will be another

outstanding annual conference. Mike Parent, 1998 Program Chair, and his program committee are working diligently to put together an interesting and informative schedule of events for the conference. If you have not made your arrangements to attend, I urge you to do so. Las Vegas is an exciting city—with bargains on lodging, food, and air travel—and will provide an excellent venue for our meeting.

On the subject of meetings, I would like to congratulate all of the individuals who have worked so hard this year to put on the various regional meetings of the Institute. I attended the Southeast and Southwest meetings this year, and found them both to be excellent. Reports from members of the Board of Directors who attended the Northeast, Midwest, and Western meetings indicated that these were also outstanding meetings. During June, the Asia-Pacific Region met in Taipei, Taiwan, to hold its second meeting since its formation. We look forward to a report from Norma Harrison, Macquarie University and the Asia-Pacific regionally-elected vice president, as to the success of that conference. Also in June, Bob Markland, the Institute's global development coordinator, attended a conference in Mexico which we hope will further the process of developing a region in Mexico and Latin America.

Our next international conference will be held on July 4-7, 1999, in Athens, Greece. The theme of the conference is "Integrating Technology and Human Decisions: Global Bridges into the 21st Century." This will be the 5th international conference of the Institute, and promises to be the biggest and best thus far. Steve Zanakis, conference co-chair and program chair, was in Greece this summer continuing to make arrangements for the conference. In addition to an outstanding technical program, the conference will sponsor a number of pre- and post-conference tours and activities. These activities, coupled with a time of the year when families would normally travel, and excellent hotel and conference rates should make this an excellent opportunity for many of you to see Greece while experiencing the dynamics of an international meeting. The call for papers was recently distributed, and the submission deadline for papers is October 11, 1998. I hope you will make plans to attend.

As always, if you have questions about the conferences or about any other aspect of the Institute, or have ideas to share, please do not hesitate to contact me. I hope you have a terrific summer. Best wishes. ■

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MARKETPLACE

INDIANA UNIVERSITY SOUTH BEND has a visiting accounting position open for Fall 1998. Rank will be considered subject to the applicant's qualifications. The position requires the successful candidate to teach Accounting Information Systems. Ability to teach other accounting courses will be considered a plus. Teaching will be at the undergraduate, MBA, and MS in accounting levels. D.B.A. or Ph.D. in accounting required. The teaching load is four courses (12 semester hours). Research, publication, and service are expected. Send letter of application, resume, copies of graduate and undergraduate transcripts, evidence of teaching ability, research and publication, and 3 letters of reference A.S.A.P. The screening of candidates will begin immediately, with the position remaining open until filled. IUSB is an AA/EEO employer that actively seeks minority and female applicants.

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