

DECISION LINE

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March 2001

Congratulations to Newly Elected 2001-02 DSI Officers

PRESIDENT-ELECT

Thomas W. Jones, *University of Arkansas-Fayetteville*

SECRETARY

Mark M. Davis, *Bentley College*

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C.R. Michael Parent, *Utah State University*

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Robert L. Andrews, *Virginia Commonwealth University*

SOUTHWEST REGIONALLY-ELECTED VICE PRESIDENT

Stephen E. Lunce, *Texas A&M International University*

WESTERN REGIONALLY-ELECTED VICE PRESIDENT

Shannon V. Taylor, *Montana State University*

The tabulation of the ballots was conducted and audited by DATAMATX, Atlanta, Georgia. See page 38 for more information on the new officers. ■



PRESIDENT'S LETTER

My Time is Coming to an End

Michael J. Showalter,
Florida State University

The date March 31, 2001 continues to loom ever larger in my consciousness. It signals the end of my term as president of the Institute and the beginning of Bob Jacobs' term. This, my last letter as president, provides a welcome opportunity for me to share with you the many accomplishments achieved by the

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Institute's Board, officers, and committees during the past year. I believe the decisions and actions taken by the Institute leadership will serve to enhance the quality and quantity of services provided to Institute members now and in the future.

During the past year I have truly enjoyed the opportunity to work with many splendid, dedicated members of the Institute. In particular, my grateful thanks and appreciation go to the Board officers: Tom Callarman, Benito Flores, Barb Flynn, Mike Hanna, Janelle Heineke, Jim Hershauer, Nancy Lea Hyer, Bob Jacobs, Julie Kendall, Christine Kydd, Lee Krajewski, Tien-Sheng (T.S.) Lee, Paul Mangiameli, Richard Penlesky, Steffy Robbins, and Terry Williams. These individuals reflect the **very best** in terms of what is meant by professional dedication and commitment to an academic organization such as the Decision Sciences Institute. It has been an enormous privilege for me to observe the Board's deliberations and decisions focusing on, and never wavering from, doing what they believe "best serves the membership." Their knowledge, experience, and support certainly made my job as president extremely easy and deeply gratifying. Appreciation and thanks also go to Carol Latta, Executive Director, Hal Jacobs, Publications Coordinator, and the entire home office staff for performing the myriad tasks and activities that keep the Institute running so smoothly. They provide the guidance and direction necessary to make us all look successful and to keep the Institute moving forward.

Executive Committee: Each year the president's term begins with a review of the Institute's goals. Discussions begin with the Executive Committee identifying possible revisions/additions to the set of goals. In addition, this committee reprioritizes the goals to more effectively focus the activities of the Institute during the next year. These recommendations go forward to the Board of Directors for their consideration and approval. This past year the Institute selected the following set of five prioritized goals to guide its activities:

- Develop an information system for the Decision Sciences Institute that captures information about members, generates information needed by members, supports Institute decision making at all lev-

els, and uses current Web-based decentralized technology.

- Enhance member services and increase membership.
- Increase globalization of the Institute.
- Promote development and dissemination of research having educational significance and managerial relevance.
- Expand interdisciplinary activities.

Some of these goals are short-term in nature such as the first goal, while others were more long-term in nature. In addition, each of these goals is supported by a number of sub-goals that serve as the basis for developing specific charges to Institute committees. Translating the goals into sub-goals and then retranslating them into charges to specific committees is a critical responsibility of the Board of Directors.

It is the program chair, program coordinators, committee chairs, and committee members who make recommendations and/or implement these specific charges. These many volunteer members are an integral part of the Institute's achieving its goals this year. I want to thank all of these participants for their valuable contributions to the Institute. On the following page, I would like to recognize those committee chairs and coordinators who contributed so much to the success of the Institute's activities during the past year. Also I'd like to include the names of 2000-2001 outgoing Board members—they have earned all of our thanks and appreciation for the outstanding service they have provided to the Institute.

While numerous contributions have been made by the committees, the following list of accomplishments represents but a small sample of the Institute's many accomplishments pertaining to this year's goals.

Alpha Iota Delta Liaison Committee: The Alpha Iota Delta Liaison Committee, chaired by Belva Cooley, continued to sponsor and explore closer coordination with the regions to implement the regional Alpha Iota Delta Innovative Education Best Paper Awards and to develop opportunities for expanding Alpha Iota Delta chapters at universities.

Case Studies Committee: The Case Studies Committee, chaired by David Christy,

developed written procedures and guidelines for inclusion in the Institute Policies and Procedures Manual to properly distinguish the role of Case Studies Competition, Case Writer's Workshop, and the Annual Meeting Case Studies Track.

Development Committee for Excellence in the Decision Science: The Development Committee for Excellence in the Decision Sciences, chaired by Terry Rakes, suggested that the Institute take a more proactive role in increasing the number of mini-conferences at the annual meeting beginning next year with a program in Information Systems. Also, the committee recommended a variety of other activities that would differentiate Decision Sciences Institute from other professional organizations in the future. These important recommendations will be carefully reviewed by the Executive Committee at its March 2001 Strategic Planning meeting.

Doctoral Student Affairs Committee: The Doctoral Student Affairs Committee, chaired by Manoj Malhotra, recommended that a doctoral student Web page be developed with information of current interest to doctoral students. This doctoral student Web page is to be added to the Institute's home page in the near future. In addition, the committee reviewed and revised the list of topics to be included in future doctoral student programs at the annual meetings.

Information Technology Committee: The Information Technology Committee, chaired by Rob Bregman, developed a much needed "Information Technology Roadmap" for the Board of Directors to consider. Since the home office has completed the implementation of the member services information system, the committee recommended that the Institute shift to the next phase by developing Web-based access to the member services information system. These suggestions include a recommendation to contact a commercial Web site design firm to create a Web site graphics design template for the Institute's home page.

Investment Advisory Committee: The Investment Advisory Committee, chaired by Tom Jones, reviewed the investments of the Institute, both national and regional, and made several recommendations for

shifting funds to protect the Institute's investments during this period of market uncertainty. The Board has acted on those recommendations.

Member Services Committee: The Member Services Committee, chaired by Scott Shafer, made several recommendations to the Board for its consideration. In discussing those recommendations the Board has

decided to undertake a more proactive approach to attracting non-members to the Institute. In that regard the Board created the new position of Institute marketing director. The Board elected Terry Williams, Western Washington University, to serve a three-year term as marketing director with responsibility to develop a marketing plan for the Institute.

Programs and Meetings Committee: The Programs and Meetings Committee, chaired by Vijay Kannan, reviewed the annual meeting program structure and made several substantive recommendations to the Board. Based on these recommendations, the Board has decided to eliminate the Sunday breakfast from the annual meeting. In its place are two new events: a Saturday evening social event,

Thanks to 2000-2001 Committee Chairs and Coordinators . . .

- **Belva J. Cooley**
University of Montana-Missoula,
Chair, Alpha Iota Delta Liaison
Committee
- **David P. Christy**
The Pennsylvania State University,
Chair, Case Studies Committee, and
Best Case Studies Award
Competition Coordinator
- **Terry R. Rakes**
*Virginia Polytechnic Institute and
State University,* Chair,
Development Committee for
Excellence in the Decision Sciences
- **Manoj Malhotra**
University of South Carolina,
Chair, Doctoral Student Affairs
Committee
- **Jatinder (Jeet) N. D. Gupta**
Ball State University,
Chair, Fellows Committee
- **Robert L. Bregman**
University of Houston,
Chair, Information Technology
Committee
- **Janet L. Hartley**
Bowling Green State University, Chair,
Innovative Education Committee, and
Instructional Innovation Award
Competition Coordinator
- **Thomas W. Jones**
University of Arkansas-Fayetteville,
Chair, Investment Advisory
Committee
- **Scott M. Shafer**
Wake Forest University,
Chair, Member Services Committee,
and Member Services Coordinator
- **Lee J. Krajewski**
University of Notre Dame,
Chair, Nominating Committee
- **Vijay R. Kannan**
Utah State University,
Chair, Programs and Meetings
Committee
- **Karen A. Brown**
University of Washington, Bothell,
Chair, Publications Committee
- **F. Robert Jacobs**
Indiana University,
Chair, Ad hoc Committee on
Electronic Submissions, and Chair,
Regional Activities Committee
- **Robert E. Markland**
University of South Carolina,
Chair, Strategic Planning for
International Affairs Committee,
and Global Development
Coordinator
- **Richard L. Jenson**
Utah State University,
Chair, Ad hoc Committee on
Regional Accounting Practices
- **Mark M. Davis**
Bentley College,
Chair, Ad hoc Committee on
Copyrights
- **Terrell G. Williams**
Western Washington University,
Chair, Ad hoc Committee on
Regionally-Elected Vice Presidents
- **Gary Klein**
*University of Colorado at Colorado
Springs,* Placement Services
Coordinator

. . . and Thanks to 2001 Outgoing Board Members

- | | | | |
|--|---|---|---|
| • Past President
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Thomas E. Callarman
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Julie E. Kendall
<i>Rutgers University</i> | • Vice President
Terrell G. Williams
<i>Western Washington
University</i> |

and a Sunday buffet luncheon. It is anticipated that these new activities will enhance the opportunities for collegial/social interactions among the attendees.

In addition, the Board voted to accept a two-tier approach to the paper review process for the 2002 Annual Meeting. The program chair will continue the review process for refereed papers that are published in the *Proceedings* and considered for paper awards. In addition, the program chair will also accept non-refereed papers/abstracts by a second submission deadline (later than the refereed paper deadline) for presentation and publication only as abstracts in the program.

In response to another recommendation, the Board has decided to eliminate the use of discussants effective with the 2001 annual meeting.

An activity of considerable interest to the Board has been the need to develop a Conference Information System (CIS) to assist program chairs in planning and organizing each annual meeting. Through the generous contribution of Richard Jenson, Utah State University, the Institute has acquired the WDSI meeting planning software and it is being modified for national meeting usage by Vicki Smith-Daniels, 2001 Program Chair. The modified CIS will be passed along to Tim Smunt for use in planning the 2002 annual meeting. We expect to have the CIS evolve into a stable electronic platform for the effective and efficient planning of all future annual meetings.

Publications Committee: The Publications Committee, chaired by Karen A. Brown, reviewed the journal publications, *Decision Sciences* and *Decision Line*, and pronounced them to be in excellent health. Over the past year Barb Flynn, as editor of *Decision Line*, has continued to revise and add new features of particular interest to the membership. Ram Narasimhan, as editor of *Decision Sciences*, has taken the journal operations on-line this past year with the support and assistance of the Eli Broad College of Business at Michigan State University. The quality of articles published continues to improve. Based on the committee's recommendation, the Board of Directors approved Ram to serve a second three-year term as editor of *Decision Sciences*. My thanks to Ram for a such an outstanding job as journal editor.

Also, the committee continues its search for editorial candidates for the new teaching journal, *Decision Sciences Journal of Innovative Education*. The committee will review the set of editorial candidates and submit their recommendations to the Board of Directors after March 31, 2001, for consideration at the April 2001 Board meeting.

Regional Activities Committee: The Regional Activities Committee, chaired by Bob Jacobs, recommended that the Institute continue to provide a strategic planning workshop for regional officers. The regional officers found this year's meeting to be an extremely helpful and productive forum for regional strategic planning. A similar workshop program has been suggested and approved by the Board for San Francisco. Our thanks to Steffy Robbins for volunteering to plan and organize the workshop.

Strategic Planning for International Affairs Committee: The Strategic Planning for International Affairs Committee, chaired by Bob Markland, has been busy this past year supporting the planning for the International Meeting in Chihuahua, Mexico in July 2001. The Chihuahua, Mexico meeting, under the able leadership of Antonio Rios, will be an outstanding program that you will not want to miss. Also, Benito Flores is actively supporting the efforts of several individuals to create a Mexico region of the Decision Sciences Institute. We are extremely hopeful that such a new region can be established.

In addition, the committee has been actively working with interested individuals to develop proposal(s) for our next international meeting in 2003. If any individuals would like to develop a proposal for an international meeting, please contact Bob Markland who will be glad to assist you in developing such a proposal.

Electronic Paper Submissions: The Ad hoc Committee on Electronic Paper Submissions, chaired by Bob Jacobs, has proposed a plan, accepted by the Board, to introduce electronic submission of papers for the 2002 Annual Meeting. Papers may be submitted in either Microsoft Word or PDF formats and final *Proceedings* papers will be submitted via a Web site. Limited hardcopy submissions will be allowed for those who

do not have access to the requisite electronic formats.

As stated above, numerous other policy and operational decisions were voted on and implemented by the Board of Directors this past year. Given these many initiatives undertaken by the Board of Directors, I believe this has been a very productive year for the Institute. We are continuing to aggressively improve the quantity and quality of services provided to the membership. It is especially gratifying to see all of these improvements occurring due to the extensive participation of our member volunteers. Without such member dedication and support to the Institute it would be impossible to achieve these results. I salute all of you volunteers for your efforts on behalf of the Institute. For me, it has been an honor and pleasure during the past year to participate in the many Institute activities alongside each one of you. I look forward to working with you in the future as we continue to strengthen the Decision Sciences Institute in serving the professional development needs of the membership.

On April 1, 2001, I will be passing leadership to Bob Jacobs. The Institute will be well served under his able and enthusiastic leadership. Bob is extremely dedicated to the philosophy of the Institute and has many excellent ideas for improving the delivery of service to the membership. As Bob recognizes, future improvement of the Institute continues to depend on the dedication of its volunteers. He has assembled an outstanding team of chairs and coordinators for 2001-2002 who will serve the Institute well. I wish all of them the very best.

It has been my pleasure to serve you as president this past year. I will continue to serve on the Board this coming year as the resident "past president." I look forward to seeing all of you again in San Francisco. ■

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