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The Institute's annual meeting in Washington D.C. is just around the corner. This issue of *Decision Line* provides information about the conference and includes several interesting articles. In the President's letter, Professor Barb Flynn of Wake Forest University acknowledged the hard work put in by the program committee members and numerous volunteers in organizing the conference. For the first time, live entertainment will be provided by the Capitol Steps at the President's Reception on Monday night.

Professor Johnny Rungtunsatham, feature editor for the international issues column, has requested the two candidates nominated for DSI President to present their views on what the Institute must do to build and sustain a stronger international presence and acceptance. Professor Thomas E. Callarman, Arizona State University, suggests that we "think globally and act locally" and recommends that the Institute surveys its members "to solicit individual views of what should be done" and "sponsors the discovery of new knowledge through large, global research initiatives." Professor Mike Parent, Utah State University, suggests focusing on four initiatives in meeting the global challenges of the Institute: Membership, Extending Our Multidisciplinary Focus, Organize to Facilitate Relationships, and Strategic Alliances/Co-Branding.

Professor Rick Hesse, Pepperdine University, and Professor Russ Laher, Jet California Institute of Technology, present the development of an Excel simulation exercise based on a Perl program previously written to simulate the proportion of the area of a circle inscribed within a unit square. The objective of the simulation exercise is "to show students how much variation exists with even a simple simulation, and that it takes a long time for the Law of Averages to be effective."

In their article on Ecommerce, Professor J. P. Shim, Mississippi State University, and Julie M. Shim, Salomon Smith Barney, observe that mobile commerce (m-commerce), which involves the use of a handheld mobile device to conduct transactions through a wireless network, has expanded rapidly. The authors discuss the

results of a study they carried out on users' perception of mobile commerce in Hong Kong, Korea, Japan, Finland, and the U.S.

Dean Lee D. Dahringer of the Loyola College of Maryland presents his views on the challenges of being a dean and the changing landscape of academia. He observed that deans have evolved from being "business scholars" to "business practitioners." The interpretation is that deans now have more in common with the corporate than with the academic community.

In the feature article on information technology, Professor Arijit Sengupta, Indiana University, provides an update on several IT innovations that the Institute is adopting and the impact of advances in information technology on the Home Office Database, Online Membership Directory, DSI Placement Services, and DSI Conference Information System. This indicates the commitment of the Institute to keep up with the latest development in information technology.

Professor W. Brett McKenzie, Roger Williams University, reviews three texts on Visual Basic.NET by Deitel & Deitel, Schneider, and Ekedahl. Deitel & Deitel might be more suitable in a program with a strong undergraduate emphasis in mathematics and students with programming experience. In a course taught completely in a computer lab, Schneider's text could be best since the course structure can compensate for the lack of images in the text. Finally, for an introductory course on programming where a sense of scope is more important than depth, Ekedahl's text would be more appropriate.

I look forward to seeing you in Washington, D.C.! ■



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is professor and chair of the Management Department in the College of Business, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. He holds a Bachelor of Engineering from the University of Malaya, an MBA and a Ph.D. from the Uni-

versity of South Carolina. Professor Leong has held leadership positions in Decision Sciences Institute such as at-large vice president, Doctoral Student Consortium coordinator, Instructional Innovation Award Competition coordinator, and POM track chair. He has published articles in Decision Sciences, Journal of Operations Management, Interfaces, Journal of Management, and other journals. His current research interests include international operations, operations strategy, technology management, and supply chain management. Professor Leong has co-authored two books, won teaching and research awards, and received the Educator of the Year award from the Asian Chamber of Commerce in Las Vegas.

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