

■ G. Keong Leong, Management Department, University of Nevada, Las Vegas

For many of us the fall semester will be starting in the next few weeks. To help prepare and inspire you for your return to the classroom, we have lined up several exciting feature articles in this issue of *Decision Line*. We are also pleased to welcome Professor Jayanth Jayaram, University of South Carolina, as the feature editor of the Production/Operations Management column. We look forward to working with him to publish exciting articles in the production/operations management area.

We begin with an article entitled "An Experiential Approach to Preparing Students for Leadership in Managing Technology" by Professor Debasish N. Mallick, University of Minnesota, one of the finalists for the 2003 DSI Instructional Innovation Competition. He presents a new product design and business development course that adopts an "experiential approach to preparing students for leadership roles in managing future technologies" in a cross-functional environment. An ingredient for success of the course is close cooperation between the business, engineering, and medical schools, and the local business community.

Professor David J. Closs, Michigan State University, in the Research Issue column, notes that the increasing emphasis by organizations on improving the supply chain has resulted in an increased demand for students with expertise in supply chain planning tools and applications. As such, faculty and student expertise in supply chain technology must be developed.

In the E-Commerce column, Professor J. P. Shim, Mississippi State University, and Professor Mark G. Simkin, University of Nevada, examine how universities are responding to the e-commerce and e-business trends. Their study finds three ways universities are supporting e-business growth and expansion: (1) educational programs at the undergraduate and masters levels; (2) partnerships with industries involv-

ing students, instructors, and corporate executives; and (3) active support of research on new ways of conducting e-commerce.

Dan R. Dalton, dean of the Kelley School of Business, Indiana University, discusses the issue of business school rankings. Like it or not, rankings are here to stay! Numerous publications such as *Business Week*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *U.S. News & World Report*, *Forbes*, *Financial Times*, and *The Economist* produce annual rankings of business school programs. While recognizing that there are limitations to the rankings, many business schools have also made changes to make their schools even better as a result of the rankings. However, Harvard Business School and the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania are two high profile schools that have indicated they will not be cooperating with ranking services due to privacy considerations. How will this impact future rankings? Schools would be more comfortable if the data collection process was more consistent, timely, and accurate. Dean Dalton believes that rankings should depend more on "outcome measures rather than those of input and throughput."

We conclude with the Bookshelf feature, as Feature Editor Peter Ittig, University of Massachusetts, provides an interesting review of *The Coming Generational Storm: What You Need to Know about America's Economic Future*, written by Laurence Kotlikoff and Scott Burns. The book discusses the decisions the baby boomers will face as they near retirement, the financial problems of the Social Security system, and ways the government can resolve these problems.

Enjoy the rest of the summer! ■



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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 University 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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