

DECISION LINE

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2005 Officers' Nominees Selected

President-Elect

Mark M. Davis, Bentley College
Ram Narasimhan, Michigan State University

Secretary

Karen A. Brown, University of Washington at Bothell
Barbara A. Price, Georgia Southern University

At-Large Vice Presidents

Maling Ebrahimpour, Roger Williams University
Gary M. Kern, Indiana University South Bend
Ina S. Markham, James Madison University
Vicki Smith-Daniels, Arizona State University
Peter T. Ward, The Ohio State University
Ronald M. Zigli, The Citadel

Southeast Regionally Elected Vice President

Stephanie S. Robbins, University of North Carolina at Charlotte
Brooke A. Saladin, Wake Forest University

Southwest Regionally-Elected Vice President

Mary L. Fischer, The University of Texas at Tyler
Robert J. Pavur, University of North Texas

Western Regionally-Elected Vice President

Krishna S. Dhir, Berry College

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PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Prepare for a Change in Scenery—Boston!

Gary L. Ragatz, Michigan State University

This is that time of year when I find myself fully immersed (maybe "buried" is a more appropriate term) in the business of the fall academic term. Classes are in full swing, with mid-term exams not too far off. There seems to be a constant struggle for my time and attention among my teach-

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International Issues. "The Road to Legal Employment in the U.S.: Through the Eyes of a U.S.-Educated PhD with Non-U.S. Citizenship," by Honggeng Zhou, University of New Hampshire; and M. Johnny Rungtusanatham, Arizona State University. **4**

Research Issues. "Research Opportunities in Offshoring," by Ajay Das, Baruch College. **7**

In the Classroom. "Useful Excel Array Formulas and Range Functions," by Rick Hesse, Feature Editor. **10**

Ecommerce. "Extreme Programming in Practice: A Human-Valued Approach to the DSI Conference Management System," by Kenneth E. Kendall, Feature Editor. **14**

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The Deans' Perspective. "A Personal Perspective 'On Deaning,'" by Dean Doyle Z. Williams, Sam M. Walton College of Business, University of Arkansas. **20**

Doctoral Student Issues. "A Rough Model for Success in Doctoral Study," by Varun Grover, Department of Management, Clemson University. **23**

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ing responsibilities, the research projects that I didn't quite get wrapped up over the summer, and the new projects just getting underway.

This is also the time of year that I start to look forward to the DSI annual meeting. The timing always offers a welcome break in the routine of fall term. With a change in scenery, both physical and mental, the annual meeting gives me an opportunity to step back and shift my focus for a few days. I'll look for old friends, and also look forward to meeting a few new ones. I'll look for sessions on research issues that I'm currently working on, and also look for a few sessions that are "off the beaten track," that might provide ideas for the next projects. I'll also be on the lookout for ideas and materials that I can bring back with me to the classroom.

There will be plenty to choose from at the meeting in Boston. You'll find some 400 sessions in a very full program, starting early on Saturday morning, and running through late Tuesday afternoon. With so many options available, I've been going through the on-line preliminary program, trying to plan my schedule to get the most out of the meeting. I've had to make a few hard choices among two or three interesting sessions in the same time slot—but that's a good problem to have! I'd encourage you to do some pre-planning of your personal schedule, too. You can find the on-line schedule at <http://dsi.byu.edu/dsis/view.pl>.

As you're working your way through the preliminary schedule, take a few minutes to browse the schedule of DSI administrative meetings (find it under "Look up the schedule for a Track . . ."). Here you'll find listed the various social/networking events, several special sessions, activities of the regional DSI organizations, as well as committee meetings. I want to draw your attention to a few items in particular.

As you're picking the teaching- and research-related sessions you want to attend, don't overlook the three invited "keynote" sessions, offering a deeper look at three topics that should be of interest to many meeting attendees:

- Cormac O'Reilly on "Hard Quality Decisions," on Sunday morning;
- Ron Swift on "How World-Class Companies Use Customer Knowledge and Analytic Business Intelligence for Increasing Profitability," on Monday morning; and
- James Womack on "Lean Thinking and Operations Management," on Monday afternoon.

And since life shouldn't be all work and no play, don't miss the Improv Asylum's comedy program on Monday evening, following the President's Reception.

I want to thank Program Chair Ken Kendall (Rutgers University), Associate Program Chair Sameer Verma (San Francisco State University), Proceedings

Coordinator Julie Kendall (Rutgers University), and Program Scheduling Coordinator Scott Sampson (Brigham Young University), as well as all the track chairs and coordinators for the many hours they've put into developing this year's program. It's been a very full year for all the members of the Program Committee, but their hard work will pay off in a few weeks for all of us who will attend the meeting.

I'm looking forward to one of the best annual meetings ever. I hope to see you there! ■

Related Links

2004 DSI Preliminary conference schedule: <http://dsi.byu.edu/dsis/view.pl> ■

NOMINATIONS, from page 1

The 2003-04 Nominating Committee, chaired by Thomas W. Jones (University of Arkansas) has completed the slate of nominees for the 2005 election of officers. The Nominating Committees for the regional subdivisions also have compiled the names of nominees who are running this year for the office of vice presidents elected by the regional subdivisions.

Ballots will be mailed in December 2004. Additional nominations may be made by November 30, 2004. Each additional nomination must be made by petition signed by at least five percent of the members and submitted to the Institute's Secretary, c/o the Institute's Home Office, 35 Broad Street, 8th floor, Atlanta, GA 30303.

Additional nominations for vice presidents elected by the regional subdivisions may be made upon petition signed by at least five percent of the regional subdivisions' members.