

DECISION LINE

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PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Greetings

Mark Davis, Bentley College
President, Decision Sciences Institute

In many respects, I still find it hard to believe that I am the president of the Decision Sciences Institute. In looking back, my career as an academic has paralleled in many ways my involvement in the Decision Sciences Institute.

It was 25 years ago this spring that I was first introduced to the Decision Sciences Institute. I was a doctoral student at Boston University while working fulltime as a programs manager at the U.S. Army Natick Laboratories in Natick, Massachusetts. Mike Maggard, one of my professors at BU, called and asked me to give a presentation at the Northeast Regional DSI Meeting, which was being held at the Lenox Hotel in Boston.

When I received my DBA in 1986, one of the conditions of my accepting a position at Bentley College was that my trip to the DSI conference that year be funded (not unlike a signing bonus), which, by the way, was being held in Hawaii. Bentley agreed and I have been at the annual meetings ever since.

I suggested to John Saber of Babson College, who was the 1988 program chair for the Northeast DSI Meeting, that he add a service operations track. He did, appointing me as the first service operations track chair for a NEDSI meeting. Later, as president of NEDSI, John asked me to be the program chair for the 1992 NEDSI Meeting in Boston.

It was at the 1992 DSI Meeting in San Francisco that I literally bumped into Dick Chase and Dick Hercher of McGraw-Hill/Irwin in the lobby of the Hyatt Regency Hotel, which subsequently led to my being brought on as a co-author of a textbook in operations management.

In more recent years, it has been through the colleagues that I have met at DSI meetings over the years that I have been invited to teach/present at various business schools around the world, including those in Spain, France, Australia and Japan.

DSI has always been my primary professional organization of choice, at the regional level, at the national level and

Inside This Issue

FEATURES

From the Editor. *Decision Line* Editor Keong Leong provides an overview of 37(3) feature articles. **3**

2005 Instructional Innovation Award Competition Finalist. "An Interactive VBA Tool for teaching Statistical Process Control (SPC) and Process Management Issues," by Jaydeep Balakrishnan and Sherry Oh, Haskayne School of Business, University of Calgary, Canada. **4**

Production/Operations Management. "From Light Frequency Identification (LFID) to Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) in the Supply Chain," by Farhad Moeeni, Arkansas State University. **8**

In the Classroom. "PERT Simulation in Excel," by Rick Hesse, Feature Editor, Pepperdine University. **14**

The Deans' Perspective. "Teaching Business Ethics: The Perspective of One Business Dean," by Tilden J. Curry, Dean, College of Business, Tennessee State University. **16**

The Deans' Perspective. "Teaching Business Ethics: The Departmental Perspective," by David Krause and Sarah Peck, Marquette University. **19**

Doctoral Student Issues. "Forming an Adaptive Network for Doctoral Student Success," by Gary F. Templeton and Kirk P. Arnett. **22**

From the Bookshelf. "Outsourcing and Insourcing in an International Context," by Linda G. Sprague, China Europe International Business School, Shanghai, China. **25**

SPECIAL REPORTS

Decision Sciences Journal Calls for Papers **28**

2006 Annual Meeting **31**

Board of Directors Objectives **42**

DEPARTMENTS

Names in the News **29**

Announcements **30**

Calendar **48**

at the international level. Why? Because it has provided me with a forum to present my research and to have a continuing dialogue with colleagues with similar research interests. It has also provided me with the opportunity to obtain an international perspective with respect to business through invitations to teach/present in different countries. And most important, it has provided me with the opportunity to meet other individuals who have become more than just professional acquaintances, but rather life-long friends and colleagues.

My primary goal this year as president of DSI is to provide others, especially those who are just entering the academic profession, with the same opportunities that DSI has provided me with over the past 25 years. To do this, I have identified two major objectives to be accomplished this year based on feedback we have received from recent focus groups. These are to (1) continue to improve communication between the Institute and its members and (2) enhance the value of being a member of DSI.

To accomplish this, I am focusing on three areas, which are (1) redesign of the DSI Homepage so that it is more user friendly, (2) continued improvement of the DSI Conference Information

System so that it is both more user friendly and has the required capabilities to meet the needs of our various stakeholders, and (3) the creation of

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miniconferences/workshops that will be independent of our Annual Meeting and that focus on emerging multidisciplinary topics such as business process management and knowledge management. I will talk more about these miniconferences and workshops in my next letter.

I would very much like to hear from you if you have additional suggestions for how DSI can add value for you and your career. My email address is mdavis@bentley.edu.

Finally, I want to thank you for electing me President of DSI. It is truly an honor and a privilege to serve the Institute in this capacity. ■

ACCOMPLISHMENTS, from previous page

sions data, especially to the *Decision Science* Journal, submissions from international authors are up significantly. This may be partly a result of the elimination of the submission fee, but is also due to the efforts of the editor and the Publications Committee.

While not everything has been accomplished that I hoped would be, I do believe that significant progress has been made this year. Groundwork has

been laid for the future, and with the able leadership of Mark Davis and the incoming Board of Directors, I am confident that the Institute will continue its path of improvements. Thanks once again for allowing me to serve as your President. It was both an interesting and a productive year. ■

DSJIE Vacancy, from page 38

and awards, professional affiliations and activities, and other relevant items.

2. Description of editorial experience with scholarly journals or other publications.

3. Statement of interest and availability to serve as Editor, including a description of anticipated academic and professional responsibilities for the next three years.

4. Statement of editorial philosophy, including views on editorial policy, directions the publication should take, and composition of and approach to working with Associate Editors (potentially) and the Editorial Review Board.

5. Brief description of administrative, organizational and managerial experience.

6. Description of institutional commitment for the support of the editorial office for the next **four** years.

The commitment of support should include release time for the Editor, adequate local secretarial support, sufficient funding for supplies, postage, fax and telephone charges, and computing and other related expenses.

The policy of the Institute regarding the timing of the appointment of an Editor is as follows. The appointment of the new Editor by the Board of Directors shall be finalized at least three months before the new term of editorship is to begin, so as to allow the newly appointed Editor to work with the outgoing Editor for familiarization with the editorial procedures and process and for the replacement of Editorial Review Board members and possible Associate Editors.

To meet this objective, the due date for nomination/ application for the position will be November 1, 2006. The new Editor would assume this position effective January **2008**. The new editor and his/her staff will have to begin the transition process at least three months prior to assuming editorial responsibilities.

Direct all inquiries and proposals to:

**Linda Sprague, Chair,
DSI Publications Committee,
CEIBS, Shanghai, China,
lgsprague@ceibs.edu**