

DECISION LINE

2009 Annual Meeting Award Winners



Ragatz

Dennis E. Grawoig Distinguished Service Award

Gary L. Ragatz, Michigan State University

Instructional Innovation Competition Award

Robert P. Sroufe, Duquesne University

Elwood S. Buffa Doctoral Dissertation Competition

Amrou Awaysheh, Instituto de Empresa - IE Business School; Dissertation Advisor: Robert D. Klassen, University of Western Ontario

See more award winners—and a wrap-up of the 2009 Annual Meeting in New Orleans—on pages 25-38.

PRESIDENT'S LETTER



Charting a Course for the Future

by Ram Narasimhan, President, DSI

In this President's column, I would like to bring to your attention numerous decisions that were taken by the DSI Board when it met in La Jolla, California. The most important decision that the Board took was to appoint a new editor for the flagship journal of the Institute, *Decision Sciences Journal (DSJ)*. As most of you know, the current editor's term ends in June of this year. Vicki Smith-Daniels has been the editor of *DSJ* for the past seven years. She has provided able stewardship for the journal during her tenure as editor. The most striking contribution that Vicki has made to the journal is improving the impact factor of *DSJ* vis-à-vis the other journals in our field. The ISI citation impact factor has increased from .764 in 2004 to 2.318 in 2008. According to the 2008 ISI and Thompson Reuters Journal

See **PRESIDENT'S LETTER**, page 39

Inside This Issue

FEATURES

From the Editor. <i>Decision Line</i> Editor Krishna S. Dhir provides an overview of 41(1) feature articles.	3
In the Classroom. "Changing the Game: Learner-Centered Course Design," by Melissa St. James, Natasa Christodoulidou, and Kaye Bragg, California State University, Dominguez Hills.	4
Deans' Perspective. "Business School Fosters Experiential Learning to Prepare Students for Career Success," by Helen K. Simon and Beverly Zisla Welber, Florida International University.	7
Doctoral Student Affairs. "'Hi, I'm Me': Judicious Networking for the Doctoral Student," by Varun Grover, Clemson University.	10
From the Bookshelf. "Why Don't Students Like School?" by Susan Meyer Goldstein, University of Minnesota.	13

SPECIAL REPORTS

2010 Program Chair's Message	18
2010 Doctoral Dissertation Competition	19
2010 Instructional Innovation Competition	20
2009 Annual Meeting Wrap-up	25
2009 Doctoral Dissertation Winners	27
2009 New Faculty Consortium article: "First Things First for New Faculty..." by Laura Birou, Louisiana Tech University, and Heather Lutz, University of St. Thomas.	32
2009 Financial Statements	41

DEPARTMENTS

Names in the News	3
Announcements	17
Marketplace Classifieds	40

Citation Report for management journals, *DSJ* has a rank of 21 and an impact factor of 2.318 compared to the *Journal of Operations Management* (rank, 17; impact factor, 2.42) and *Management Science* (rank, 20; impact factor, 2.354), and *Information Systems Research* (rank, 22; impact factor, 2.261). This is a significant accomplishment; Vicki and the current editorial team deserve our sincere thanks for this achievement.

The Board accepted a recommendation from the subcommittee of the Publications Committee to appoint Professor Asoo Vakharia of the University of Florida as the next editor of *DSJ*. Asoo has an extensive publication record and prior editorial experience including serving on the current editorial team of *DSJ* as associate editor. Asoo has a vision for the journal that would not only sustain *DSJ*'s quality but enhance it significantly in the coming years. The Board's decision to appoint Asoo Vakharia as the next editor of *DSJ* was unanimous. As president, I wish him much success as he assumes this new leadership role in the Institute.

The Board also took a decision not to publish *Supply Chain Management Research (SCMR)* at this time. You might recall that the DSI Board had voted to publish *SCMR* last year. It had the potential to expand our portfolio of offerings to DSI membership. However, given current circumstances and potential detriment to cumulative revenues (due to the start up costs associated with *SCMR*) to the Institute from publishing all three journals, the Board felt that it is imprudent to start a new journal at this time. Although this decision will be a disappointment to some DSI members, the Board's action reflects what it felt was in the best interest of the Institute at this time.

The ad hoc Committee on Website has made numerous suggestions and recommendations to improve the web content of DSI and improve the connectivity among DSI members. I would like to devote my column to these initiatives in my next letter. The Board accepted the recommendations from the ad hoc committee and implementation should begin immediately. The three principal recommendations from the ad hoc Committee on Website are to create a "Member Zone," appoint a webmaster, and for DSI to consider a new hosting service. The Member Zone will enable wikis, blogs, and



Linda Sprague, Ram Narasimhan, Cliff Ragsdale, Rodger Collons, and Chuck Bonini at the 2009 DSI Annual Meeting.

discussion forums. It will act as a repository for research data files, cases and problems, annotated bibliographies, mailing lists, photo galleries and others. Paul Rubin and the ad hoc committee members have made excellent suggestions for immediate implementation, which should position the Institute to serve its members better and more fully in future. If implementation is achieved according to plan, Paul Rubin will be demonstrating the new features of DSI website at this year's conference in San Diego.

This year's conference in San Diego will feature several changes from our conferences in the recent past. It will feature "interactive sessions," where members can get feedback on papers that they are currently working on. It will feature plenary sessions with prominent academics and industry speakers, and special and invited sessions from prominent researchers. This year's conference will also feature invited sessions under the rubric of three Specific Interest Groups (SIGs): Project Management (PM), Health Care Decision Making and Policy (HCDMP) and Innovation and Entrepreneurship (IE). These are intended to bring together researchers from overlapping fields to explore topics in cross-disciplinary research. These three SIGs are being led by Gary Klein (PM); Rachna Shah, Susan Meier Goldstein, and David Mendez (HCDMP); and Roger Calantone (IE). Please visit the conference website for the contact information for these individuals and express your interest in being part of these SIGs.

On a personal note, I must observe that the conference is one of the major service

offerings of the Institute. The success of the conference is ultimately determined by the quality of the sessions, attendance at the sessions, and active participation. I cannot emphasize the importance of attendance at sessions. Morgan Swink, this year's program chair, and Rachna Shah, associate program chair, have made many changes to make the program content interesting and to ensure that the sessions are of high quality. The registration form for this year's conference will ask you to provide your email address and cell phone number. The conference team plans to send the attendees SMS text or email every day during the conference to inform attendees about special events and featured all conference sessions for that day. This communication method will also be used to alert attendees of any changes to the schedule or program.

I had the privilege of chairing the Board meeting for the last time in La Jolla last week. I thank the members of the Board for their dedication to the welfare of the Institute and acting on many initiatives that were brought to the Board. Cumulatively, these actions by the Board will strengthen the Institute and better position it to face the competition as we strive for future growth. DSI's future will depend on continued participation by the members and purposeful engagement in its initiatives. As always, please get in touch with me or any member of the Board if you have suggestions or ideas for how we can improve the Institute's offerings. We have accomplished much in the past year, but we can do more! ■