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Effective April 1, 2010, we have a new DSI president, Keong Leong of the University of Nevada Las Vegas. In his first *Decision Line* letter, he outlines the key agenda for his term in office. Describing the year to come as the “Year of Implementation,” he outlines four broad objectives to be pursued by the Institute during 2010-2011. These pertain to enhancement of the quality of our journals, increased global presence, application of emerging technologies, and enhanced quality of service. During his term in office, various initiatives identified and developed during the previous year would be implemented.

Through these past few weeks we have seen no shortage of opportunities for decision scientists. Problems abound that require urgent attention. We have witnessed one disaster after another in a wide range of forms, each requiring imaginative, effective strategies for mitigation. Our economic troubles are challenging enough. Even as the United States struggles to recover, Europe suffers. Oil continues to leak into the Gulf of Mexico. Mother Nature has added to our woes. Ash from Eyjafjallajökull continues to affect air travel. Large organizations seem to have made bad, even unethical, decisions. Yet, amongst all this drama, the enormous impact of a single person making the right decision was illustrated when an observant street vendor alerted a rookie policeman of the danger lurking in Time Square. Even now, not many know his name. He is publicity-shy Vietnam-veteran Lance Orton, an exceptional “ordinary citizen,” who sells t-shirts near the Marriott Marquis on Broadway!

Once again, we bring you a set of stimulating and timely essays. They reflect the times. The feature article is coauthored by Clay Whybark of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Steven Melnyk of Michigan State University, Jamison Day of Louisiana State University, and Ed Davis of the University of Virginia. In their essay, they discuss disaster relief issues that “would frustrate most commercial supply chain managers.” They provide a thorough discussion of “the critical management challenges typically encountered when deploying a disaster relief supply chain” and “underscore

the need for more research on disaster relief supply chain management.”

In the Research Issues feature column, Kenneth Bartkus and Daniel Holland, both of Utah State University, discuss the debate over the gap between academic rigor of research and its relevance to practitioners. They ask whether there was any evidence at all of collaboration between academic researchers and practitioners in scholarly works published in mainstream business journals. According to their investigation, collaborative research between business scholars and practitioners range between 5 percent and 26 percent of published articles.

Ken Kendall of Rutgers University, the feature editor of the E-Commerce column, was recently in England when Eyjafjallajökull came alive and spewed ash. He was stranded in London. Read how straight forward, face-to-face communication trumped his iPhone efficiency. After all, it is not easy to emote on an iPhone. Besides, Eyjafjallajökull saved our friend from being at Time Square on May 1st.

In the Deans' Perspective feature column, Richard Perego of the University of Dallas addresses the challenge of leadership education. He suggests an approach that emphasizes learning by doing. “Leadership involves values, and one cannot be a successful leader without being aware of one's own values, and the values of one's followers.” He integrates his approach “with the functional skills of daily work experiences.”

In the Doctoral Student Affairs feature column of the March 2010 issue, we offered the first part of a two-part essay by co-authors Varun Grover and Jason Bennett Thatcher of Clemson University. All in all, the essay discusses a total of 10 mistakes students make in their doctoral programs. The first five of these mistakes were discussed in the March issue. The remaining five are discussed here, in the second part of the essay. We hope you will enjoy the news and views presented in this issue. We look forward to hearing from you. Happy reading! ■

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