

Message From the President
(January 2019)

Dear Colleagues:

Happy (belated) New Year! For those of us who celebrate Chinese New Year, it begins on February 5, 2019 to ring in the Year of the Pig. Find out more about those whose birthdates fall in the Year of the Pig sign (see <https://chinesenewyear.net/zodiac/pig/>)!

As with my past communiques, I will be brief in providing you with an update on all that has transpired since I last wrote to you in October 2018. In part, this is because we are going back to the practice of reporting a recap of meetings of the Board of Directors of the Decision Sciences Institute in Decision Line.

As a reminder for those of you who have not had a chance to review DSI's strategic plan, please find it at <https://decisionsciences.org/discover-dsi/governance/strategic-plan/>.

Now, on to what has transpired since October . . .

1. 2018 Annual Conference of the Decision Sciences Institute in Chicago, IL

By all indications, the conference was a success on many fronts. Thank you to Professor Subodha Kumar (Temple University) and his team for their hard work!

The 2018 Chicago conference registered a total of 1240 attendees, organized more than 310 sessions, arranged for a pre-conference field visit, and placed a greater emphasis on professional development sessions where attendees can actively engage in learning new research or pedagogical methods. For a photo summary of the conference, please go to <https://decisionsciences.org/photos-49th-annual-meeting/>.

2. "A Community of Scholars, Educators, and Problem-Solvers" Tagline

At the 2018 Chicago conference, DSI also unveiled new logo designs and asked for input from those in attendance. Thank you to all who voted. The votes have been tallied in favor of the following logo design:



The Home Office is making preparations to implement the new logo on all relevant documents and web pages, starting March 1.

3. "Regional Best Paper Presentation at DSI Annual Conference" Competition

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Another new initiative at the 2018 Chicago conference was the “Regional Best Paper Presentation at DSI Annual Conference” Competition. Six entries competed to be “the best” of the best paper presentations from regional conferences.

Congratulations to all the authors of these entries. DSI looks forward to repeating this in New Orleans.

4. Lifetime Distinguished Educator Award

DSI inaugurated a new award, the Lifetime Distinguished Educator Award, and recognized two well-deserving members of DSI at the 2018 Chicago conference Awards Banquet. This award is as prestigious as the Fellows recognition and the Dennis E. Grawoig Distinguished Service Award.

Please join me in congratulating the two inaugural recipients: Professor Victor Prybutok from the University of North Texas and Emeritus Professor Sang Lee from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. DSI is honored to have you as the inaugural recipients of this award; you have set the standard for others to follow.

5. Charters for US-Based Regions of DSI

DSI also shared a new charter template and held a discussion with leaders of US-based regions about this charter at the 2018 Chicago conference. The new charter is a much shorter document to replace the old regional Constitutions and Bylaws documents, made obsolete by the adoption of new Bylaws and revision to the Articles of Incorporation last year.

US-based regions are now revising the template to align with their organizational needs. DSI hopes to have all US-based regional charters approved by the Board of DSI by the end of the fiscal year.

6. International Regions Relabeled

The Board also voted to relabel the international regions, referring to them moving forward as international “chapters” (for now). Let me emphasize that the “chapter” label may be temporary. What is important is to separate US-based DSI regions from the international DSI organizations because of IRS regulations pertaining to financial transactions.

Now that this relabeling has been approved, a new charter for international “chapters” has been drafted, will be discussed at the February Board meeting, and, once approved, will be shared with APDSI, EDSI, and ISDIS for them to review and suggest changes. At that point, it may be that the international “chapters” will be renamed with a more appropriate label.

7. Looking to the 2019 Annual Conference of DSI in New Orleans, LA

Planning for the 2019 New Orleans conference is moving forward full steam! The conference website should be launched in the near future, so be sure to check back (DSI home page) regularly.

Sincerely,
Johnny Rungtusanatham

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2018-2019 DSI President
rungtusanatham.1@osu.edu
(614) 292-0680