

I received my 25-year pin a few years ago which caused me to look back on my “affair” with Decision Sciences Institute. I will relate four events in my academic life in which DSI played a major part. I entered the doctoral program at the University at Buffalo and learned that attending conferences was important. My first conference was MWDSI and it was terrific. Since I was a “second-career academic, I was fairly clueless as to the ways of life as an academic. The MWDSI folks were friendly and helpful. My industry career had me moving across several disciplines and I soon discovered that my interest in DSI was enhanced by the interdisciplinary nature of the organization. I had found a home!

I attended a workshop given by Dorothy Dologite, Bob Mockler, and Ken and Julie Kendall on creating a strategic plan for research. I was able to create my own plan and used it to obtain my second academic job at Penn State. Since my interests are wide-ranging, the workshop allowed me to make sense of my disparate interests. I received permission from this fabulous foursome to deliver the workshop to others. Thanks to Dorothy, Bob, Ken, and Julie and their contributions to me and some of my junior colleagues!

The third event was hosting the MWDSI conference in Erie in 2008. We involved four different colleges in our area and hosted over 120 participants. We were able to involve smaller schools and create a group of faculty who have become actively involved in DSI.

There were faculty recruits and resulting good friends such as Peggy Lee, Barb Flynn, Aleda Roth and many others. There were many good times with conferences and collaborations, committees, and projects. However, I would say that the fourth most impactful event was getting my son involved in DSI and getting his start on an academic career. I wish the best for all of you. May you all have your 25 years as happy and fruitful as I have!

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