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# MWDSI Newsletter

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*Newsletter of the Midwest Region Decision Sciences Institute  
Volume 20, Number 2 • Fall 2007*

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The MWDSI Newsletter is published once each semester. Suggestions, opinions, announcements, and other contributions are welcome.



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**MIDWEST DECISION SCIENCES  
INSTITUTE (MWDSI)**



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# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Charles G. Petersen, Ph.D.  
Professor  
Operations Management & Information Systems Department  
College of Business  
Northern Illinois University  
DeKalb, IL

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Midwest DSI Colleagues,



I hope that this newsletter finds you well and actively engaged in a full complement of satisfying and productive activities.

I would like to begin this message by thanking Dick Penlesky of Carroll College and his board for a successful program year in 2006-2007. I would also like to thank the track chairs, session chairs, presenters, and participants who helped make the 2007 Midwest DSI Conference in Chicago a success.

As you may know, this year's national DSI meeting will be held November 17 - 20, 2007 in Phoenix, Arizona. If you're at the conference, please consider attending the meeting of the Midwest Regional Officers (Saturday, November 17, 4:30 – 6:00 pm, Desert Conference Suite VII). We welcome your insights, involvement and active engagement.

One gathering at the national meeting that some of you have grown to expect is back, the Midwest DSI reception at the national DSI meeting. The reception will be held Monday, November 19 from 5:00 to 6:00pm in the Desert Conference Suite One. I would like to thank all the following universities for their sponsorship of this year's event: Bowling Green State University, Carroll College, Indiana University's Kelley School of Business, Miami University, Northern Illinois University, Notre Dame University's Mendoza College of Business, The Ohio State University, Penn State Erie's Black School of Business, Valparaiso University's College of Business Administration, and Western Kentucky University. If you are at this year's national DSI meeting, please stop by and meet other Midwest DSI members.

Elsewhere in this newsletter you will find important information about upcoming Midwest DSI regional meetings. Of particular interest and importance is the 2008 Annual Meeting, which is scheduled for April 17-19 in Erie Pennsylvania. Diane Parente (Penn State – Erie, [dhp3@psu.edu](mailto:dhp3@psu.edu)) is the 2008 Program Chair. She and her committee are developing an excellent program of professional and social activities. Review the program announcement, mark the important dates on your calendar, and contact Diane to offer your ideas, services and financial support.

If you have questions, concerns or suggestions about issues raised in this newsletter or about any aspect of Midwest DSI please contact me ([cpetersen@niu.edu](mailto:cpetersen@niu.edu)) or any member of the Board. I look forward to hearing from you, wish you a productive year, and hope to see you in Phoenix, Erie or, ideally, both.

Charles Petersen  
2007 – 2008 President Midwest DSI

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# 2007 MIDWEST DSI ANNUAL MEETING: REPORT FROM THE PROGRAM CHAIR

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The 2007 Annual Meeting of the Midwest Decision Sciences Institute was held April 12-14 at the Hilton Garden Inn in Chicago, Illinois. Highlights of the meeting include a doctoral student dinner, a tour of the Goose Island Brewing Company (a regional craft brewer), the presentation of over sixty papers, abstracts and seminars, as well as teaching workshops, technology presentations, and corporate-sponsored sessions. As is characteristic of all Midwest DSI meetings, participants found a warm and receiving environment to connect with colleagues, discuss emerging ideas in research and corporate practice, compare teaching notes, and to welcome new members.

The awards luncheon began with a welcome from me as the 2007 Program Chair. During the luncheon Dick Penlesky, Midwest DSI immediate past president, conferred fellow status upon Charlie Watts in recognition of his long term and exceptional support of the discipline. Several papers were also recognized for meritorious contributions and are included in the following sections.

The 2007 Midwest DSI would not have been possible without generous contributions of time and resources from a variety of sources. At the top of the “Thank-you” list are all the participants, reviewers, session chairs, and track chairs that made the 2007 Annual Meeting of the Midwest DSI happen. Then there are the sponsors that provided substantial financial and in-kind support. The list includes Bowling Green State University, Indiana University, Northern Illinois University, Penn State – Erie, The Ohio State University, and Western Kentucky University. Another important group of contributors were responsible for organizing special events during the meetings, including Tobias Schoenherr, who organized the doctoral student consortium and student paper awards, and Arvid Johnson who organized the Goose Island Brewing Company Tour. Last, but certainly not least, there were those special behind-the-scene supporters that really helped bring everything together. A special program chair “Thank you” goes out to these folks: Dick Penlesky, Janet Hartley, Gene Fliedner, Chang Liu, Ceyhun Ozgur, and Kelly Stewart.

Thanks again for your support of the 2007 Midwest DSI Annual Meeting, and remember that 2008 Midwest DSI Annual Meeting is just around the corner!

Charles Petersen  
2007 Midwest DSI Program Chair



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## 2006-2007 MIDWEST DSI FELLOW: DR. CHARLES A. WATTS

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Each year the Midwest Decision Sciences Institute (MWDSI) has the opportunity to recognize as many as two of its members for contributions to the Institute. The designation of MWDSI Fellow is awarded to active or historical supporters in recognition of distinguished service to the Midwest regional subdivision of the Decision Sciences Institute.

For the 2006-2007 academic year, the designation of MWDSI Fellow was awarded to **Dr. Charles A. Watts**, Professor of Operations Management in the Department of Management, Marketing and Logistics at the Boler School of Business, John Carroll University, Cleveland OH. Dr. Watts has compiled an extensive list of contributions to the Decision Sciences Institute at both the Regional and National levels. He has served MWDSI as Secretary (1997-1999), President-Elect (1999-2000), President (2000-2001), Program Chair (2003-2004), Regionally-Elected Vice President (2004-2006) and Archivist (2004-2009). He has served the Institute as Track Chair (1991 and 1994) and as a member of the Innovative Education Committee (2000-2002), the Regional Activities Committee (1999-2001 and 2004-2006), the Nominating Committee (2002-2004) and the Publications Committee (2006-2008). In addition to his service to DSI, Dr. Watts has served the academic profession and the discipline of Operations Management through his teaching, research, consulting and mentoring activities and through his contributions to *APICS - The Association for Operations Management* and the International Supply Chain Education Alliance (ISCEA).

Please join me in thanking Dr. Watts for his extensive contributions to both the regional and national societies and in congratulating him for this well-deserved recognition as MWDSI Fellow.

Dick Penlesky, Chair, 2006-2007 MWDSI Fellows Committee

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## MIDWEST DSI FELLOWS NOMINATIONS

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The designation of “Midwest Fellow” may be awarded to members of the Midwest Decision Sciences Institute in recognition of distinguished service to the Midwest regional subdivision of the Decision Sciences Institute. Current Midwest DSI fellows include Stan Hardy, William C. Perkins, Chan Hahn, Anne Koehler, and Charlie Watts.

Nominators must submit a statement of qualifications which highlights the nominee’s service contributions to Midwest DSI. For 2008 consideration, please send nominations to Charles Petersen ([cpetersen@niu.edu](mailto:cpetersen@niu.edu)) by **February 16, 2008**.

Charles Petersen  
Northern Illinois University  
2007-2008 Midwest DSI President

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# 2006 STAN HARDY AWARD

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## *Reexamining the Nurse Scheduling Problem: Staffing Ratios and Nursing Shortages*

P Daniel Wright, Villanova University

Kurt M Bretthauer, Indiana University

Murray J Côté, University of Colorado at Denver



“Reexamining the Nurse Scheduling Problem: Staffing Ratios and Nursing Shortages,” authored by P. Daniel Wright, Kurt M. Bretthauer and Murray J. Côté and published in Volume 37 Number 1 (February 2006, pp. 39-70) of *Decision Sciences*, was selected as the winner of the 2006 Midwest DSI Stan Hardy Award. The award winners were announced at the 2007 meeting of Midwest DSI in Chicago IL (April 2007). The paper was selected on the basis of its current relevance and contribution to the field of Operations Management, its practicality and contribution to industry practice, and its rigor, creativity and readability. The panel of judges included Karen L. Brown (Missouri State University), Ed Duplaga (Winona State University), Dick Penlesky (Carroll College), Tobias Schoenherr (Eastern Michigan University) and V. M. Tummala (Eastern Michigan University). In addition to the winning paper, the editors of the following journals nominated the listed manuscripts for consideration:

- *Decision Sciences* (Vicki Smith-Daniels, editor)
  - “Linking Work Design to Mass Customization: A Sociotechnical Systems Perspective” by Gensheng (Jason) Liu, Rachna Shah and Roger G. Schroeder (Vol. 37, No. 4, November 2006, pp. 519-545).
- *Journal of Operations Management* (Kenneth K. Boyer and Morgan L. Swing, editors)
  - “Strategy, Uncertainty and the Focused Factory in International Process Manufacturing” by Mikko Ketokivi and Mikko Jokinen (Vol. 24, No. 3, April 2006, pp. 250-270).
  - “Evolution in the Strategic Manufacturing Planning Process of Organizations” by Karen E. Papke-Shields, Manoj K. Malhotra and Varun Grover (Vol. 24, No. 5, September 2006, pp. 421-439).
- *Manufacturing & Service Operations Management* (Gérard P. Cachon, editor)
  - “Global Diffusion of ISO 9000 Certification through Supply Chains” by Charles J. Corbett (Vol. 8, No. 4, Fall 2006, pp. 330-350).
  - “The Impact of Increased Employee Retention on Performance in a Customer Contact Center” by Ward Whitt (Vol. 8, No. 3, Summer 2006, pp. 235-252).
- *Production and Operations Management* (Kalyan Singhal, editor)
  - “An Empirical Study of Operational Performance Parity Following Enterprise System Deployment” by Mark J. Cottleer (Vol. 15, No.1, Spring 2006, pp. 74-87).
  - “Analysis of Effects of Operational Execution on Repeat Purchasing for Heterogeneous Customer Segments” by Kenneth K. Boyer and Markham T. Frohlich (Vol. 15, No. 2, Summer 2006, pp. 229-242).

I would like to extend my congratulations to the award winners and my appreciation to the journal editors, the committee members and all the authors of the high-quality manuscripts considered for the 2006 award.

Dick Penlesky  
Carroll College  
2006 Stan Hardy Committee Chair

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# 2007 MIDWEST DSI BEST PAPER WINNERS

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## **Best Refereed Paper Winner**

*The Off-Shore Outsourcing of Information Technology Function: Identification of Determinants*

Vipin Agrawal, University of Texas at Austin

Vijay Agrawal, University of Nebraska at Kearney

## **Alpha Iota Delta Innovative Education Award Winner**

*Distance Learning Success – A Perspective from Socio-technical Systems Theory*

Jianfeng Wang, Mansfield University of Pennsylvania

Abe Ghods, Mansfield University of Pennsylvania

David Sloan, Mansfield University of Pennsylvania

## **First Place Student Paper**

*Strategic Fit between Level of IT Integration with Suppliers and Need for Supplier Integration and its Impact on Firm Performance*

Sufian Qrunfleh, University of Toledo

Parag Dhumal, University of Toledo

## **Second Place Student Paper**

*The Factors of GDP*

Evan Wright, Baker University



## **Third Place Student Paper**

*The Fit of International Strategies, International IT Configurations and Other Key 'Influential' Factors on Firm Performance*

Arun Madapusi, University of North Texas

## **Honorable Mention Student Paper**

*A Pilot Study to Examine the Relationship Between Implementation of Manufacturing Applications Systems and Firm Performance*

Arun Madapusi, University of North Texas



# 2007-2008 MIDWEST DSI OFFICERS

Position	Officer, School	Email Address
Past President	Richard Penlesky, Carroll College	rpenlesk@cc.edu
President	Charles Petersen, Northern Illinois University	cpetersen@niu.edu
President-Elect	Ceyhun Ozgur, Valparaiso University	ceyhun.ozgur@valpo.edu
Secretary	Kristina Setzekorn, University of Evansville	setzekorn@sigecom.net
Treasurer	Chang Liu, Northern Illinois University	cliu@niu.edu
VP for Planning & Development	Arvid Johnson, Dominican University	ajohnson@dom.edu
VP for Publications	Xiaodong Deng, Oakland University	deng@oakland.edu
VP for Member Services	Peter B. Southard, Penn State University – Erie	pbs11@psu.edu
VP for Student Liaison	Tobias Schoenherr, Eastern Michigan University	tschoenh@emich.edu
VP for Industry Liaison	Hokey Min, Bowling Green State University	hmin@bgnet.bgsu.edu
Archivist	Charles Watts, John Carroll University	drwatts@jcu.edu
Midwest Regionally-Elected VP	William Tallon, Western Kentucky University	william.tallon@wku.edu
Program Chair	Diane Parente, Penn State University – Erie	dhp3@psu.edu

Please congratulate these individuals and feel free to contact them in order to express your concerns and suggestions for how MWDSI can better serve your needs.

## GET MORE INVOLVED IN MIDWEST DSI

Would you like to get more involved in MWDSI and be part of the leadership team? Nominations are being accepted for seven positions on the Executive Board of Midwest DSI.

The following positions will be up for election this spring (2008) for 2008-2009 terms of office (unless noted otherwise):

- President-Elect
- Treasurer (two-year term)
- VP for Planning and Development (two-year term)
- VP for Publications (two-year term)
- VP for Member Services
- VP for Student Liaison
- VP for Industry Liaison



Descriptions of the duties and responsibilities of each position can be found in the By-laws at [www.mwdsi.org](http://www.mwdsi.org). If you are interested in being nominated for a position, contact one of the following individuals by Friday, November 15<sup>th</sup>: Charles Petersen, current President, [cpetersen@niu.edu](mailto:cpetersen@niu.edu) or Kristina Setzekorn, University of Evansville, current Secretary, [ksetzekorn@evansville.edu](mailto:ksetzekorn@evansville.edu).

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# MIDWEST DSI OFFICERS MEETING MINUTES

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Saturday, April 14, 2007  
Chicago, IL

Present: Carl Briggs, Ed Duplaga, Eric Jackson, Chang Liu, Hokey Min, Kathleen Noce, Ceyhun Ozgur, Diane Parente, Dick Penlesky, Charles Petersen, Tobias Schoenherr, Peter Southard, Bill Tallon, Mark Treleven

The meeting was called to order by Dick Penlesky at 8:10 a.m.

1. Diane Parente moved to approve the minutes of November 19, 2006. The motion was seconded by Chang Liu. The minutes were approved.
2. Annual Meeting Reports:

- a. 2007, Chicago, IL: Dick Penlesky thanked Charles Petersen for an excellent job on this year's meeting. Charles reported that he estimates there were just over 70 registrations for the meeting. He mentioned that the biggest problem at the meeting was with laptops and projectors. Also, we lost money on the corporate exhibitors (focus groups) because the cost of the rooms turned out to be greater than the amount that the exhibitors were charged.

Charles made a motion to increase the conference registration fee starting next year to \$150. After some discussion, the motion passed.

- b. 2008, Erie, PA: Diane Parente, Program Chair, provided the BOD members with a packet of information about the meeting. The room rates for the hotel (Courtyard Marriott) are \$105 and \$119 (with whirlpool). Friday sessions will be at the Courtyard Marriott. On Saturday, sessions and events will be held at Penn State Erie's new facility on campus. Transportation will be provided from the Marriott. Business faculty members from several schools in the surrounding area are being targeted as part of a marketing campaign for the meeting. Charles Petersen will send Diane the list and e-mail addresses of this year's meeting attendees. Bill Tallon will check at the next National BOD meeting whether the Midwest region can use their automated paper submission system. The website for the 2008 meeting is [www.mwdsi2008.org](http://www.mwdsi2008.org). Diane will contact Gene Fliedner to have him set up a link to the 2008 meeting website from the Midwest DSI website.
3. National DSI BOD Representative: Bill Tallon reported that the National BOD is concerned about the future since memberships aren't increasing. The BOD is meeting next week to focus on the strategic planning process. This is a good opportunity for the



region to exert some influence on the national. If any BOD members have any ideas, send Bill an e-mail.

4. Officer Reports:

- a. President-Elect: Charles Petersen had nothing to report.
- b. Secretary: Ed Duplaga had nothing to report.
- c. Treasurer: Chang Liu presented the balance sheet for the period ending February 28, 2007 and the FY 2006-07 budget worksheet. Charles Petersen also provided an estimated budget for the Chicago meeting.
- d. Planning and Development:
  - i. 2009 meeting: Cincinnati was identified as a good site for the 2009 meeting. Carl Briggs will ask Jan Hartley to contact Bertie Greer to see if she is interested in being the program chair. Also, Ceyhun Ozgur will contact Jim Evans to see if he is willing to be the program chair. It was emphasized that the 2009 meeting needs to be pinned down ASAP. Carl Briggs will work with the new VP of Planning and Development to make sure this happens.
  - ii. 2010 meeting: Bill Tallon said that Western Kentucky will be the host institution for the 2010 meeting. Nashville and Louisville are two possible locations.
  - iii. Future meetings: Carl Briggs stated that at the last BOD meeting it was discussed to investigate holding joint meetings with other organizations. He has contacted Midwest AIS, and they are interested. Diane Parente mentioned that there is an organization that is currently holding joint meetings amongst several groups—the Federation of Business Disciplines (FBDS.org). Possibly we can learn from what they are doing.
- e. Membership Services: No report from Kris Setzekorn.
- f. Industry Liaison: Hokey Min recommended that we focus on generating more participation by industry representatives at the region meetings.
- g. Student Liaison: Tobias Schoenherr reported that attendance at the doctoral consortium was down this year. Only five doctoral students attended the consortium.
- h. Publications: No report from Xiaodong Deng.
- i. Archivist: No report from Charles Watts.

- j. Fellows Committee: Dick Penlesky reported that Charles Watts is the most recent inductee as a MWDSI Fellow.
- 5. Stan Hardy Award: Dick Penlesky announced that the winning paper was *Reexamining the Nurse Scheduling Problem: Staffing Ratios and Nursing Shortages* by P. Daniel Wright, Kurt M. Bretthauer, and Murray J. Cote.
- 6. New Business:
  - a. National Meeting at a Midwest Location: Dick Penlesky read a letter that was signed by the Midwest BOD members and will be submitted to the National BOD by Bill Tallon at the next meeting.
  - b. Midwest Reception at National Meetings: Charles Petersen moved that we have a Midwest reception at the National DSI meeting next year. Chang Liu seconded the motion. The motion was approved with one abstention. The goal will be to at least breakeven but ideally to have a surplus. It was also emphasized that there needs to be clear recognition of the sponsors at the reception.

Chang Liu moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:50 a.m. The motion was seconded by Charles Petersen and approved.

Submitted April 22, 2007

Ed Duplaga, Secretary

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## 36TH ANNUAL MEETING OF MIDWEST DSI

ERIE, PA. APRIL 17-19, 2008 ([HTTP://WWW.MWDSI2008.ORG](http://www.MWDSI2008.org))

**SUBMISSION DEADLINE: FEBRUARY 22, 2008**

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The Black School of Business at Penn State Erie, The Behrend College, is pleased to host the 2008 Midwest Decision Sciences Institute Conference. We have invited Edinboro University of Pennsylvania, Gannon University, and Mercyhurst College (all in northwest PA) to co-host the event.

We are deep in the throes of the preparations for the conference to be held from April 17-19, 2008. The website is up for registration and paper submission and can be reached through the [www.MWDSI.org](http://www.MWDSI.org) or [www.MWDSI2008.org](http://www.MWDSI2008.org), although online payment for the conference will be completed shortly. We have begun a publicity campaign that includes email notification, flyers for various conferences (including DSI in Phoenix), and magnets with the logo for the conference that will be given out at the MWDSI reception at DSI.

Several new tracks and competitions are being piloted in Erie. These include a case competition for undergrads, grads, or mixed teams. Information on the case and the competition will be out shortly. Reviews on the case preparation should begin in late January or early February. A masters' student research competition will be held in addition to the doctoral student paper competition.

There will be an administrative track that will include sessions all day on Friday. These sessions will include: evaluation of research, evaluation of teaching, accreditation in various forms, and administrative and evaluation issues of team and online education.

We are working on a business and engineering track that will present pedagogy and research in this interdisciplinary arena.

We will hold the Saturday sessions at the Black School. Transportation will be provided. In this way, we will be able to take advantage of the RFID lab, online auction software, SAP participation, and the trading floor.

We are also organizing a wine tasting event with local wineries that will be held at the Friday reception. The plant tour for Thursday is not finalized but may also be a winery or potentially the Welch's plant.

Finally, we should have the normal array of activities for members and families (including Splash Lagoon – free transportation about ¼ miles from the hotel), lots of papers, good food, and good friends. We look forward to seeing you in Phoenix AND Erie.

(by Diane Parente, 2007-2008 Midwest DSI Program Chair)