A Message from the Chair…

Dear QSR Members, greetings! I extend to you my most sincere appreciation for your support of QSR and participation in putting together and attending the diverse and exciting sessions sponsored by QSR at various meetings.

This year is quite special for QSR -- it is the 10th anniversary of our section. In the past ten years, QSR membership has grown to more than 200. Along the way, our section made many commendable achievements, providing a home section for faculty and students in the departments of industrial and operations engineering, system engineering, statistics, and business/management who are interested in research and education in the field of QSR. A number of QSR highlights are:

QSR sponsors a cluster of technical sessions in the INFORMS annual conference. QSR maintains, on average, thirty-two (32) sessions for the four-day annual conference and approximately four papers per session. This translates to a total of 128 paper presentations, making QSR one of the most active subdivisions within INFORMS. This year at Washington, D.C., Dr. Satish Bukkapatnam, the QSR Chair-Elect and Cluster Chair of 2008, has done an exceptional job at putting together 39 sessions for the QSR Cluster, a record high since our section’s inception.

QSR’s paper sessions cover a broad spectrum of topics related to Quality, Statistics, and Reliability research and many of them address emerging research topics such as health care, sensor network, nano-manufacturing, and homeland security.

Of special importance in the QSR cluster is the Best Student Paper Competition. Most of the papers in the competition were eventually published in top-tier journals in our field. Many awardees and finalists joined reputable academic programs in engineering, statistics, and business schools, including Harvard University, University of Wisconsin at Madison, Georgia Tech, Purdue, Rutgers, Iowa, Arizona State, to name but a few. Many thanks to QSR council member Emmanuel Yashchin, starting from 2007, QSR received supports from IBM Watson Research Center for sponsoring the winner and his/her academic advisor to visit IBM Watson Center and deliver academic seminars.

QSR has been organizing a number of journal sponsored paper sessions as well as journal special issues. The journals include Technometrics, IIE Transactions, Naval Research Logistics, Journal of Quality Technology, IEEE Transactions on Automation Science & Engineering, and Quality & Reliability Engineering International. QSR has promoted the publication of special journal issues from the selected papers presented in the QSR cluster of INFORMS.

QSR has a very supportive advisory board of 12 distinguished individuals, including (current & former) journal editors, National Academy members, Elected ISI members, ASA/ASQ Fellows, INFORMS Fellows, IIE Fellows.

QSR co-sponsored a number of sessions with other societies/sections within INFORMS, such as with Data-mining Section, Simulation/Computing Society, and Health Applications Section. QSR also has a close connection with relevant organizations in our field such as ASA, ASQ, IIE, and IEEE.

QSR faces challenges ahead. The growth of our membership has been slowing down in the past few years. Maintaining a healthy membership and a steady growth is
critical to the future of our community. I feel that we do have a lot of potentials for further growth in our section. Two areas of potential membership come from international members and industrial members, which I believe are currently fewer than what it should have been in our section.

We initiated several efforts lately to reach out to academic communities outside the United States. During this year's annual conference, thanks to the joint effort of QSR Cluster Chair Professor Bukkapattam, Professor Kwang-Jae Kim at POSTECH and Professor Irad Ben-Gal at Tel Aviv University, we will have an international session (Sunday morning) featuring speakers from Korea, India, Brazil, and France. In parallel, Professor Ben-Gal is also organizing a panel session during the ENBIS (European Network of Business & Industrial Statistics) 2008 conference, which will discuss what QSR Section is and does. This panel discussion will take place on September 23, 2008, and it has Professor Russell Barton (representing the QSR board), Professor Jan Shi (founding chair of QSR), myself as the panelists. Together with Professor Ben-Gal, we will utilize this opportunity to introduce QSR to the ENBIS audience, and encourage the ENBIS members to come to INFORMS QSR meetings and form a closer collaborative relationship with us.

In the past year, I appointed a committee to study the necessity of revising our bylaws. It has been five years since QSR bylaws was last revised. The Bylaws Study Committee is chaired by Professor Jan Shi and has Professors Satish Bukkapattam and Paul Zantek as its members. The process is now completed and the committee made detailed recommendations for possible revisions. We will vote on the committee's recommendations during the business meeting at Washington, D.C. Once again, I would like to thank the committee's hard work and dedication in completing this important task.

In the sequel, I would also like to go over additional highlights of this year's annual conference. The participation in the QSR Best Student Paper Competition is remarkable. Congratulations to the four deserving finalists selected by a double-blind peer review process. All the finalists will make presentations on Monday, Oct 13 to compete for the award. During this process, our council member Professor Hong Wan has been working extremely hard to assure a fair and timely review process, especially considering this year's tighter schedule caused by an earlier conference date.

We continue the tradition of having featured panel discussion sessions and journal sponsored sessions. I want to thank those panelists and journal editors for their participation in and support of materializing those sessions. This year's panel discussions cover both research (Tuesday, focus on Nano-manufacturing) and educational (Monday, focus on QSR curriculum) topics. Regarding the journal sponsored sessions, Professor Russell Barton is able to add a new session with QSR-relevant papers recently published in Operations Research and Management Sciences.

This year, a conscious effort has been made to make many of our sessions to be jointly sponsored with divisions/clusters, including Data Mining, Healthcare, Computing, and Avionics. About 30% of the sessions in this year's QSR Cluster have joint sponsorship with other INFORMS subdivisions. Thus speaks in volume to QSR's multi- and inter-disciplinary character.

In response to the INFORMS's push to have a full day conference on Wednesday, starting last year, QSR has begun to have the cluster activities to peak during Monday/Tuesday sessions. This year's program establishes continuity in this direction. Accordingly: (a) QSR Best Student Paper Competition will be held on Monday morning; (b) Featured sessions (panel discussions and journal sponsored sessions) are placed on all four days; (c) QSR business meeting is scheduled on Monday evening, and (d) An introductory QSR international session will be launched on Sunday morning.

QSR continues to do a solid job in organizing one of the largest clusters in INFORMS annual conference. Much credit is due to the enthusiasm of our members, hard work of session organizers and speakers, dedication of QSR officers, and invaluable supports from the advisory board. Please note that our Reception and Business Meeting is to be held on Monday, October 13, 6:15-7:15 pm. At this meeting, we will announce the winner of the Best Student Paper Competition and the results of the 2008 QSR Officer's election. We will also vote on the recommended revisions of QSR bylaws and discuss section activities for
the coming years. I look forward to seeing everyone and listening to your comments and suggestions.

With best regards,

Yu Ding

Seattle Conference Review
2007 INFORMS Annual Meeting, November 4-7, 2007

The 2007 INFORMS Annual Meeting in Seattle featured a QSR Sponsored Cluster with sessions organized into two parallel tracks. In addition to the regular technical sessions on SPC/SQC, DOE, and Reliability, there were several high-profile sessions appearing in the QSR Cluster, including panel discussions, paper sessions comprised of the selected papers submitted this year to IIE Transactions, Technometrics, Naval Research Logistics, and Journal of Quality Technology, and Student Best Paper Session.

In this panel discussion, program managers from several funding agencies presented the current research trend and priorities in federal government. After brief presentations by the panelists, an interactive discussion with audience followed.

The panelists first presented their own visions on promising directions and crucial needs in reliability research and education. A Q&A session and open discussion with the audience then were held following the presentations.

Finalists of 2007 QSR Student Best Paper Award presented their entries on Monday, Nov. 5. Ms. Xia from Texas A&M University eventually won this year’s best paper award. ❖

Members Updates

- **Honors and Awards Received**


Chiwoo Park, Texas A&M University, First Prize of Best Student Paper from IEEE Conference on Automation Science & Engineering (CASE 2008) (Aug 25, 2008). His advisor is Dr. Yu Ding.

Peter Z. G. Qian, assistant professor at Department of Statistics, University of Wisconsin – Madison, receives an IBM Faculty Award in July 2008. The IBM Faculty Awards is a competitive worldwide program intended to: foster collaboration between researchers at leading universities worldwide and those in IBM research, development and services organizations; and promote courseware and curriculum innovation to stimulate growth in disciplines and geographies that are strategic to IBM.

Jianjun(Jan) Shi was selected to receive INFORMS Fellow award in 2008. He was also received awards as ASME Fellow and IIE Fellow in 2007. He joined faculty as the Carolyn J. Stewart Chair Professor of the H. Milton Stewart School of Industrial and Systems Engineering at Georgia Institute of Technology in January 2008. Before then, he was the G. Lawton and Louise G. Johnson Professor of Engineering at the University of Michigan.

C. F. Jeff Wu, Coca-Cola Chair Professor at Georgia Tech’s School of Industrial and Systems Engineering, received four prestigious awards this summer for his seminal contributions to statistical theory and methods and applications to science and engineering. (1) He received the 2008 Shewhart Medal from the American Society for Quality for “seminal contributions to parameter design and quality improvement; for defining and building a modern system of experimental design; for education of a generation of quality professionals and professors; and for dedicated professional and editorial service in promoting quality improvement.” (2) He was also selected as the 2008 ASA Quality and Productivity Research Conference Honoree for “seminal contributions to statistical theory and methods for quality and productivity.” (3) Wu received an honorary doctorate degree in Mathematics from the University of Waterloo in Ontario, Canada, where he delivered a speech to the graduating class during their commencement ceremony on June 13. Wu was the GM/NSERC Chair in Quality and Productivity at Waterloo from 1988 to 1993. (4) Wu also won the 2008 Pan Wen-Yuan Award, which is regarded as Taiwan's most prestigious technology award. He is the first statistician or applied mathematician to have won this award.

Li Zeng, a PhD candidate received Richard S. and Harriet K. Fein Scholarship from the Department of Industrial
and Systems Engineering, University of Wisconsin – Madison. Her advisor is Dr. Shiyu Zhou.

- **Grants received**


**Yu Ding** with Bani Mallick and Helen Liang received grant titled “Bayesian hierarchical models for integrating multi-resolution information,” from Texas Higher Education Coordination Board Advanced Research Program (ARP), $150,000. 06/2008-05/2010.

**Jionghua (Judy) Jin** with Jack Hu received the NSF grant entitled on “GOALI: Modeling Product Variety Induced Manufacturing Complexity for Assembly System Design” $349,767, 9/1/2008 ~8/31/2011.

**Jing Li** received the NSF grant entitled ”Regression-based Quality Improvement in Complex Systems with Consideration of Data Uncertainty," NSF-CMMI, $184,476, Sep. 2008-Aug. 2011.

**Rong Pan** and **Jing Li** received grant titled "Effectiveness of Young Driver Training and Graduated Licensing Laws," Arizona Transportation Research Center, $200,000, Oct. 2008-Sep. 2010


- **Ph.D. earned**

**Jean-Philippe Loose** received Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin – Madison, Dissertation Title: Physical and surrogate modeling for complex manufacturing process design & control. The advisor is Dr. Shiyu Zhou.

**Yuan Ren** received Ph.D. from the Texas A&M University, Dissertation Title “Adaptive evolutionary Monte Carlo methods for heuristic optimization.”. The advisor is Dr. Yu Ding.

**Jia Zhou** received Ph.D. from the University of Arkansas. Dissertation Title: Theoretical errors and economic design for individual measurements. The advisor is Dr. Justin Robert Chimka.

- **Promotions and news**

**Dan Apley** was appointed Editor Elect for the Journal of Quality Technology

**Tapas Das** serves as Associate Provost with responsibility for higher education policy analysis, planning, and performance.

**Qiang Huang** will move to USC Daniel J. Epstein Department of Industrial and Systems Engineering in fall 2009 as an assistant professor.

**Jian Liu** joined the University of Arizona, the department of System and Industrial Engineering, as an assistant professor.

**Fugee Tsung** has been promoted to Full Professor and became the acting Department Head of the Industrial Engineering and Logistics Management department at HKUST starting Sep 2008.

**Roshan Vengazhiyil** was appointed as the junior coca-cola chair professor at Georgia Institute of Technology.

**Tao Yuan** joined Ohio University as an assistant professor in industrial and systems engineering in Fall 2008.

- **Activities**


**Jing Li** will chair (with co-chairs, Dionne Aleman and Riyaz Sikora), "3rd INFORMS Workshop on Data Mining and Health Informatics (INFORMS-DM-HI 2008)", co-sponsored by DM, AI, and HA Sections of INFORMS, October 11, 2008

**Rajesh Ganesan, Tapas Das, Arun Sikder and Ashok Kumar** received two patents: US Patent 7377170 System and method for the identification of chemical mechanical planarization defects and US Patent 7406396 System and method for online end point detection for use in chemical mechanical planarization
Announcements

Press release from editor's office of Naval Research Logistic

1. “Equity Valuation, Production, and Financial Planning: A Stochastic Programming Approach,” by Xiaodong Xu and John R. Birge, Naval Research Logistics, 2006, Volume 53, No.7, pp. 641-655 has received the journal’s Harold W. Kuhn Award which is presented annually to an exceptional paper published in the journal within the previous three years. The award will be presented at the INFORMS Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C. October 12-15, 2008. The paper was selected for its novel integration of financing and operations decisions faced by a firm.

2. Call for Papers, Special Issue of Naval Research Logistics on Operations Research for Military and Security Applications

Richard E. Rosenthal, who was Editor in Chief of Naval Research Logistics from 1989 through 2003, passed away on January 3, 2008. In Dr. Rosenthal’s memory Naval Research Logistics will publish a special issue dedicated to operations research in military and security applications. Papers should be submitted by or before September 1, 2008 via http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/nrl by indicating a desire to be considered for the special issue in the cover letter. Papers should present advances in OR tools that are especially valuable in the analysis of military or security issues, or novel applications of OR tools to important problems in these areas. The Special Issue Editors: Gerald G. Brown, Keebom Kang and Moshe Kress

For further information, contact Barry L. Nelson, Editor in Chief, Naval Research Logistics, nelsonb@northeastern.edu, 847-491-3747 or see www.nrljournal.com.

Quality Science Summer School at Beijing

This summer school is sponsored by the Center of Quality Science of the Academy of Mathematics and Systems Science of China. This summer school will be held annually during the summer with a typical duration of 10 to 14 days. The lectures will be given by international experts in quality, statistics, and reliability. In 2007, Drs. Jianjun Shi, Judy Jin, Fugee Tsung, and Roshan Vengazhiyil have given lectures. In 2008, Drs. Gregory Levitin, David Coit, Ming J. Zuo, and Xie Min gave the lectures at the school. For more information about this summer school, please see http://www.qualitysci.amss.ac.cn/education.htm.

QSR website moved

The new website address is http://www.informs.org/site/qsr. This website is based on the content management system recently offered by INFORMS. The content management system makes the website editing easier and provides a consistent interface across different sections.

Job openings

Tenure-Track IE Faculty Position at the University of Arkansas

The Department of Industrial Engineering at the University of Arkansas invites applications for a tenure-track Assistant or Associate Professor position with an anticipated start date of August 2009. Applicants should have a Ph.D. in industrial engineering or a closely related field. Individuals whose demonstrated research and teaching interests support the department's emphases in healthcare systems, quality control & reliability engineering, and transportation & logistics are especially encouraged to apply, although all areas of industrial engineering will be considered.

Applicants are asked to provide electronically a letter of interest, curriculum vita, and contact information for three references to: iesearch@uark.edu. To ensure full consideration, application materials should be submitted by December 1, 2008. Applications submitted after that date will be reviewed until the position is filled. Hard-copy applications may also be sent to the address below.

Search Chair
Department of Industrial Engineering
4207 Bell Engineering Center
University of Arkansas
Fayetteville, AR 72701

For more job opening announcements, please see http://www.ces.clemson.edu/pipermail/iefac.list/2007-August/date.html#55
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    Texas A&M University

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    University of Tennessee
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    Emmanuel Yashchin
    IBM, Watson Research Center
    Paul Zantek
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