

MSOM Business Meeting Minutes, INFORMS National Meeting *October 25, 2004 (Denver, Colorado)*

MSOM President Izak Duenyas opened the meeting by welcoming *MSOM* members and congratulating Awi Federgruen and Morris Cohen for becoming *MSOM* fellows. Izak also congratulated Kenneth Baker and Linda Green for their election as *INFORMS* fellows.

The Chair of the 2004 *MSOM* Student Paper Competition, Phil Kaminsky, gave an overview of the competition. There were 54 very high quality entries this year; about a dozen of them were already accepted to top quality journal such as *M&SOM*, *Operations Research*, and *Management Science*. Phil Kaminsky announced the finalists, and the winners:

First Place: Retsef Levi and Martin Pal for the paper: Approximation Algorithms for Stochastic Inventory Control Models

Advisors: Robin Roundy, David Shmoys, and Eva Tardos

Second Place: Ravi Subramanian for the paper: Emissions Compliance Strategies: A Permit Auction Model

Advisors: Brian Talbot and Sudheer Gupta

Honorable Mention: Xinxin Hu for the paper: Optimal Joint Inventory and Transshipment Control under Uncertain Capacity

Advisors: Izak Duenyas and Roman Kapuscinski

Other Finalists: Gad Allon for the paper: Competition in Service Industries, Advisor: Awi Federgruen

Felipe Caro for the paper: Dynamic Assortment with Demand Learning for Short Life-Cycle Consumer Goods, Advisor: Jeremie Gallien

Holly Lutze for the paper: Promised Leadtime Contracts and Renegotiation Incentives Under Asymmetric Information, Advisor: Ozalp Ozer

Marty Lariviere announced the 2005 *MSOM* Conference which will take place at Northwestern University, Evanston, IL on June 27-28, 2005, preceded by the Multi-Echelon Inventory Conference on June 26, 2005. For more information on the conference, visit www.kellogg.northwestern.edu/MSOM2005.

Marty thanked the organizers of the previous *MSOM* Conferences for sharing their experiences and providing very valuable information about the organization. Compared to earlier years, there has been a significant increase in submissions at the recent conferences, resulting in as much as 5 tracks with 5 talks per session. To increase the quality and decrease the number of talks, potential speakers need to submit abstracts by March 1. Authors will be notified by April 1st if their talk is accepted. Extended abstracts (4-6 pages) will be requested by May 31st for all accepted papers and will be published in a conference proceedings.

In the past, the number of on-site registrations was very high (about 30% of the participants), which makes it quite difficult for the organizing committee to plan in advance. This year, the penalty for late registration will be increased significantly (to \$100 for general registration), with the goal of motivating early registration for better planning. ♦ Registration will open April 1, 2005 and fees will increase after May 1st.

Tava Olsen called for proposals for the *MSOM* 2006 Conference. She posed the question as to whether we should establish a pattern, e.g., every 3 years, for holding the *MSOM* conference in a location outside North America. It was noted that the attendance was high in Eindhoven; there were fewer attendees from U.S. but a higher number of attendees from Europe and Asia. Candi Yano suggested that organizing the conference outside the U.S. once in a while is a good idea, but we should not force a schedule. Another question that was posed is whether to schedule for the next two *MSOM* conferences rather than only the next *MSOM* conference at any given time.

Izak thanked Ling Dong for serving as the *MSOM* cluster chair in 2004.

Esma Gel called for contributions to the *MSOM* sponsored sessions in New Orleans in 2005. She emphasized the theme of the 2005 INFORMS Conference (economies, ecologies, and OR) and encouraged submissions that follow the theme.

Candi Yano made a brief announcement about IFORS 2005 in Honolulu and encouraged participation.

Garrett van Ryzin, editor-in-chief of the *M&SOM* Journal, provided an overview of the progress of the journal. Circulation increased from 120 in 2002 to 184 in 2004. In comparison, *Interfaces* has 900 institutional subscriptions. Garrett encouraged everyone to request that their libraries subscribe to the journal to increase its circulation. The journal is approximately at a break-even (financially). The number of submissions was approximately 100 in 2002, 160 in 2003 and the journal has received 104 submissions between January-October 2004. The review process is mostly on time and should become even smoother with the journal's planned transition to ManuscriptCentral. While the publication backlog is currently small, it is growing and the journal has published on time for the last two years. The response to the OM Forum and OM Practice sections has been quite good so far, and further submissions are encouraged. A special issue of *M&SOM* is coming up on Empirical Science, edited by Aleda Roth. As the main challenges of the journal, Garrett mentioned (1) professional recognitions, such as ISI, journal rankings, etc., (2) continuing to attract the best papers in the field and (3) maintaining quality and timeliness of reviews.

Pinar Keskinocak gave an overview of *MSOM* finances. She noted that at the current rate of spending, *MSOM* budget will go to negative in about two years. Christy Kline pointed out other societies which have significantly better finances than *MSOM*; for example, Marketing Science donated \$26K to INFORMS. One possibility for maintaining healthy finances would be to cut on expenses, in particular, on the expenditures made for the *MSOM* reception. Alternatively, we should look for increasing revenue, which might come from a number of sources. For example, *MSOM* might get support for the *MSOM* conference from universities. Anant Iyer reminded that deficit of the previous two conferences were covered by the deans of the schools hosting the conference. Alternatively, *MSOM* could look for support from companies for *MSOM* activities, in particular, the reception. After some discussion, it is decided that the dues should be increased to make up for the potential deficit. The dues are increased to \$20 for regular members (from \$10), but kept at \$5 for student members.

Submitted by Pinar Keskinocak
MSOM Secretary/Treasurer