
Message from the Program Chair

On behalf of the council, officers, and program committee, I would like to welcome you to the 46th Annual Meeting of the Southeastern Chapter of the Institute for Operations Research and the Management Sciences (SE INFORMS). I hope this year's meeting is a pleasant and worthwhile experience for you. It has been an honor to serve as your 2010 Program Chair and I thank the SEINFORMS Council for their confidence in appointing me.

The energy surrounding our annual meeting comes from the opportunity to renew old acquaintances and to meet new colleagues from universities, governments, businesses, and other organizations. I encourage you to pursue these connections, but also to encourage other colleagues to join us in future years.

Everyone is invited to attend the business meeting which is scheduled from 5:00 to 6:00 p.m. on Thursday. This inclusive meeting provides a forum for you to both learn more about the operations of Southeast INFORMS and present your opinions regarding our future direction. Our program committee will be formally recognized at the Business Meeting. Please join us to thank them for all their work. The meeting is followed by the President's reception at 6:00. Here you can socialize and relax with colleagues in a collegial environment while enjoying a variety of fine foods and drinks.

Our President's luncheon on Friday will conclude this year's meeting. Please plan to attend and help me recognize our officers as well as the winners of the student paper competition and the authors of outstanding papers. Also this year, our President's luncheon will feature a special speaker, Douglas Samuelson, who will be speaking on "Why Smart Managers Do Stupid Things".

As always, many individuals and organizations have provided the support necessary to ensure that this meeting will be a success. I would like to thank my fellow officers, Tim Burwell, Ali Nazemi, and Shanan Gibson who have answered many questions and provided important advice and assistance; the track chairs who have provided all of the necessary support to bring you well thought-out, organized tracks; and the judges in the student paper competition who contribute significant time and energy reviewing and judging papers and presentations. I also want to thank all of you who have developed and presented special sessions. These sessions give all of us a chance to explore new ideas and discuss our own thoughts and ideas with colleagues.

Many generous organizations provided the financial resources necessary to make this conference comfortable and enjoyable. I would like to start by thanking Bill Franz, Provost at Randolph-Macon College, for providing me the support necessary to perform my duties as Program Chair. Additionally, I offer my thanks to Randolph-Macon College for supplying two students to assist with the daily registration duties. Great and sincere thanks to Al Avery who has responded to countless questions and provided invaluable support. This program and our proceedings would be nearly impossible without his assistance; certainly, the role of Program Chair would be much harder. Finally, I would especially like to thank my colleagues Chuck Leska, for his invaluable

assistance in preparing for this conference and George Lowry for his advice and counsel. Their efforts, attention to detail, and dedication have enabled us to enjoy a conference of very high quality.

Numerous other schools and organizations also provided financial support. You can find a list of our sponsors on the pages of this program. Specifically, they include Appalachian State University, Coastal Carolina University, NOVA Southeastern University, Roanoke College, and The University of North Carolina at Pembroke. Their support makes it possible to offer travel scholarships for all student paper entrants and generous cash prizes for the top student authors. Please take a moment to personally thank our sponsors.

Finally, I would like to thank you, the individual participants, who actually make these meetings happen. I urge you all to sit in on as many sessions as possible and to participate in the meeting to its fullest. If you learn something new, renew an old acquaintance, or meet some new colleagues by the time you leave, the conference will have been a success.

Enjoy the conference!

Yours sincerely,

Ed Showalter
2010 Program Chair
