
Welcome from the Program Chair

On behalf of the council, officers, and 2013 program committee, I would like to welcome you to the 49th Annual Meeting of the Southeastern Chapter of the Institute for Operations Research and the Management Sciences. The program committee has planned an enriching program for you this year, consisting of over 100 papers, panels, workshops, and special sessions across 40 conference sessions. As Program Chair, it is my hope that your experience at the conference is both informative and rewarding and that you have a relaxing and enjoyable time during your stay in Myrtle Beach. The conference has been organized in such a way that you are able to attend all sessions and workshops during the morning hours thus leaving your afternoon hours free for exploring the beach, the shops and restaurants, or any of the other attractions that Myrtle Beach has to offer.

I would like to extend a very heartfelt "Thank You" to all of those who helped make this conference possible. There are many key individuals responsible for delivering an excellent conference and program for you to enjoy. They include a wonderful team of track chairs, reviewers, session chairs, discussants, workshop, panel, and special session developers, and graduate and undergraduate student paper judges. Also included are the officers, both current and past, who were there to offer advice, encouragement, and support as the conference was being developed. I am very grateful to them for offering to share their knowledge and expertise and I thank them for their support.

One of the most critical elements in developing and delivering a successful conference is the availability of a conference management decision support system. Again, Al Avery of Conference Management Systems deserves a colossal "Thank You!" for all of his advice, support, encouragement, and occasional (well-justified) cattle-prodding to keep me moving and on track in putting this conference together. Al's conference management knowledge is unsurpassed and the amount of business process intelligence contained within the web-based Conference Management System (CMS) which he developed is incredible. I appreciate all of his hard work and dedication.

I would also like to thank all of those at Coastal Carolina University for their support of the conference over the past year. A special thank you goes to Barbara Ritter, Interim Dean of the Wall College of Business Administration and former Chair of the Department of Management and Decision Sciences for all of her support which enabled me to serve as program chair. In addition, I am thankful for the support offered by all of those in the Wall College of Business Administration including the department chairs, fellow faculty colleagues, media development personnel, and administrative personnel. The arrangement of this conference would have been formidable without their support.

My final expression of gratitude goes to you, the participants and members of SEINFORMS. The purpose of this conference is to serve you and it is because of you that this conference continues to be a success and continues to grow. I realize that you have taken time from your busy schedules to attend this conference in Myrtle Beach in order to both teach others and learn from others. It is my hope that you are able to attend as many sessions as possible so

that you can develop your research ideas and network with your colleagues from around the southeast and around the world. With this outcome in mind, I want to say, "Thank you for coming to SEINFORMS 2013!"

If I can be of any assistance to you, please do not hesitate to ask. Please enjoy your time at Myrtle Beach and have a great conference.

Jay M. Teets