

INFORMS TRANSACTIONS ON EDUCATION

James J. Cochran*

Editor-in-Chief, INFORMS Transactions on Education
 Department of Marketing and Analysis
 Louisiana Tech University

As I assume the position of interim Editor-in-Chief of *INFORMS Transactions on Education (ITE)* for 2008, I am pleased to find a journal that is healthy and enjoying steady growth in its ninth year. *ITE* is a rigorously refereed electronic journal on management science and operations research education that is published three times annually by the Institute for Operations Research and the Management Sciences (INFORMS). *ITE* strives to achieve its mission to foster the advancement OR/MS education at all levels worldwide by publishing high-quality articles in a variety of areas related to the teaching of OR/MS - cases, spreadsheet applications, review and opinion articles, resource reviews, and discussions of the impacts of new technologies and new methods of assessment on OR/MS education.

The electronic format of *ITE* supports innovations in content and reader involvement not possible in a print journal, such as immediate electronic access to data sets, software, Java applications, interactive graphics, multimedia applications, hypertext links, and full-text searching. *ITE* is an open access journal, so anybody interested in OR/MS education may read the articles in the twenty-four past issues or the current issue of *ITE* at no cost. I invite you visit the *ITE* website (<http://ite.pubs.informs.org/>) to browse through the journal's current and past issues; you likely will find several articles that will help you sharpen your teaching skills and improve you performance as an instructor.

I am very excited about the opportunity to serve as Editor-in-Chief of *ITE*. While the journal has achieved a great deal in its relatively brief life, *ITE* is poised to accomplish a great deal more. During my term as Editor-in-Chief of *ITE*, I plan to work with the Editorial Board (and others, including you) to expand awareness, readership, authorship, and editorial contributions to a wider audi-

ence. I hope to accomplish this by attending international conferences and large regional conferences in targeted geographies and through outreach via e-mail and the Internet to promote *ITE* and recruit authors, referees, and Editorial Board members.

My recent experiences co-organizing and co-chairing the INFORMS/IFORS/EURO series of OR education workshops (2006 in Montevideo, 2007 in Cape Town, 2008 in Cartagena, 2009 in Nairobi) have reinforced my beliefs that i) a very large potential worldwide audience for *ITE* exists and ii) every culture can learn a great deal about effective pedagogy and instruction from other cultures. My goal is for *ITE* to become a worldwide facilitator of such exchanges.

Also note that *ITE* produces an annual special issue. Topics of these issues and the years in which these issues have been published to date include:

- *SpORts in the OR Classroom* - Volume 5, Number 1, September 2004
- *Integrating OR in Teaching Supply Chain Management* - Volume 6, Number 3, May 2006
- *Effective Use of Software in the MS/OR Classroom* - Volume 7, Number 1, September 2006
- *Educational Games* - Volume 8, Number 1, September 2007
- *Teaching Revenue Management* - Volume 9, Number 1, forthcoming in September 2008

These special issues have been extremely popular and successful, and they are generally published in conjunction with special sessions at INFORMS conferences that feature presentations by authors who have written articles for the special issue. This coordination provides readers/session participants with the unique opportunity to discuss a paper with the author(s) within a few weeks of the publication of the paper. Topics under consideration for future special issues include:

- unique challenges of hybrid OR/MS-Statistics classes (now common in American MBA programs);

*Corresponding Author. E-mail: jcochran@latech.edu

- differences and similarities in classroom environments across cultures;
- project-based teaching (perhaps with an emphasis on service-based education);
- case-based teaching (perhaps including tutorials on how to find promising case topics, write cases, use cases, and publish cases);
- green/environmental OR/MS education;
- unique challenges of teaching OR/MS in math departments;
- unique challenges of teaching OR/MS outside the traditional engineering/business/math settings (such as the OR/MS in public service at Indiana, OR/MS in forestry at U of Washington, etc.); and
- executive education and OR/MS

I welcome suggestions for other provocative potential special issue topics.

Finally, *ITE* is developing a system for controlling the distribution of teaching notes associated with cases that are published by the journal. I expect this system will result in more frequent publication of teaching cases (accompanied by an article about the creation and/or use of each case) on a wide variety of OR/MS topics for classroom use by instructors (again, at no charge). I hope this will support and encourage the classroom use of cases

by OR/MS instructors who have previously lacked access to quality cases.

I sincerely hope you will become a regular reader of *ITE*. I further hope you will submit your original cases, spreadsheet applications, review and opinion articles, resource reviews, and discussions of the impacts of new technologies and new methods of assessment on OR/MS education to *ITE*. Finally, I hope you will become involved in the administration of *ITE* by volunteering to referee cases, spreadsheet applications, review and opinion articles, resource reviews, and discussions of the impacts of new technologies and new methods of assessment on OR/MS education for *ITE*. Please visit the *ITE* website (<http://ite.pubs.informs.org/>) or contact me at jcochran@latech.edu or 001-318-257-3445 for explicit instructions on how to contribute to the journal.

I will gladly discuss *ITE* with you, so please let me know if you have questions, suggestions, or concerns about the journal and the thoughts I have expressed in this brief note. I genuinely believe this is a tremendous opportunity for us to share and learn across cultures, and I look forward to working with each of you toward these goals.