

operations research/management science journal in the world has been a captivating experience. The articles in INFORMS Transactions on Education are a great source of interesting reading and new ideas for me. We have been able to push readership of this journal, which is freely available online at <http://www.informs.org/Pubs/ITE>, to over 11,000 in the six month period at the end of 2009. Readers from over 130 countries visited the journal's website during that period, and we are now working with editors of other journals, such as Jan Van Vuuren of ORiON, to identify articles published in these journals that can form the basis of good teaching cases. Once written and reviewed, these cases could then be published by INFORMS Transactions on Education and made freely available to all operations research instructors. I also hope that we can eventually use this journal and its resources to support efforts undertaken to improve the quality of education in southern Africa. I have been very fortunate in both my professional and personal life!

**When was the idea of the Wiley Encyclopaedia of Operations Research and Management Science conceived?**

Susanne Steitz-Filler, who is an Editor with John Wiley & Sons, Inc., approached me in the fall of 2006 with the idea for an encyclopedia of operations research and management sciences. I thought the product of this effort would be an important contribution to the discipline that would support both research and education, and so I was immediately drawn to the concept. I was very comfortable with Susanne and her colleagues, and Wiley had produced several very successful and important encyclopedias for other disciplines, so I was confident that Wiley had the resources, expertise, and commitment necessary to ensure the success of this project.

**How does the Wiley Encyclopedia differ from the Encyclopedia of Operations Research and Management Science?**

*The Encyclopedia of Operations Research and Management Science*, which was first published by Kluwer Academic in 1996, consists of a single volume of approximately 1000 pages, and provides one to three page overviews of important topics in operations research and management science. *The Wiley*

*Encyclopedia of Operations Research and Management Sciences* is more comprehensive; it consists of eight volumes, each of which is approximately 800 pages. The approximately 600 articles in this encyclopedia cover topics in greater detail and generally provide extensive references. I greatly admire Saul Gass and the late Carl Harris and the contributions they have made through their efforts as co-editors of *The Encyclopedia of Operations Research and Management Science*; Professor Gass and I have discussed our ventures and agree that there is a unique place in the market and a unique need for each of these resources.

**Who are the major contributors to the Wiley Encyclopedia?**

There are 600 articles, many of which were coauthored by multiple authors, so the encyclopedia will feature approximately 1,000 contributors. In addition, the articles were subjected to a rigorous peer review process similar to what is used by top academic journals, so we probably utilized approximately 2,000 reviewers. In addition, we had 23 Topical Editors who were responsible for working with me to ensure the encyclopedia provided extensive coverage of the discipline, managing the review process for papers in their respective areas, and making recommendations on these articles. Four Area Editors were responsible for also working with me to ensure the encyclopedia provided extensive coverage of the discipline, managing the Topical Editors in broad areas of operations research and management science, and making final decisions on most articles. Operations research/management science professionals from well over forty countries were involved in the creation of the first edition of this encyclopedia. Furthermore, members of academia, private industry, nonprofit organizations, government agencies, and the military have all participated, so I feel comfortable in saying that the entire worldwide community contributed – and I strongly believe this is the defining strength of this resource.

**Do you have an inspiring message for OR practitioners in South Africa?**

Wow – that is a difficult question. It is much easier for me to talk about what inspires me. I have made several trips to South Africa and I have been privileged to be