

Welcome Message from the Conference General Chair

On behalf of the 2008 organizing committee I would like to welcome you to Orlando and the 20th Annual Conference of the Production and Operations Management Society. The organizing committee has put together a program that is impressive with over 800 abstracts and registered attendees, and representation from approximately 45 countries. We thank you for your active participation in the conference.



Given the global reach of POMS members the theme of this year's conference is Global Challenges and Opportunities. It is exciting how POMS has evolved into a global community of academics with a strong common interest in Operations and Supply Chain Management. The theme underscores that our purpose with the conference is to share ideas on how to address the challenges and opportunities presented by business today in a global setting. Our hope is that the 2009 conference will be a showcase of relevant research that addresses these challenges and opportunities in our production and operations management context.

We expect the 2009 meeting to be the largest POMS conference to date. Many thanks to Jim Gilbert for arranging the details related to our beautiful and fun Disney World conference site. We also thank Sushil Gupta who handled the website. A very special thanks to Nagesh Murthy who was able to raise extra funding to support POMS and many of the special conference activities. Finally, we need to thank Mark Hanna for his work on the Proceedings.

We are especially indebted to Kyle Cattani for the countless hours he spent putting the conference together. Kyle handled all the details of organizing the tracks, developing and refining the schedule. Special thanks for your patience and persistence in working with over 50 track chairs. Kyle did an amazing job.

Welcome to the 2009 Orlando conference and the 20th Annual Conference of the Production and Operations Management Society.

F. Robert Jacobs

Conference General Chair

Chase Faculty Fellow

Professor of Operations Management

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