

Cheryl Gaimon, March 3, 2009



## Welcome Message from the President of POM

Dear POMS colleagues and friends:

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to the 2009 POMS Conference in Orlando. We have been most fortunate to have an outstanding organizing team for this conference. Robert Jacobs (General Chair), Kyle Cattani (Program Chair), James Gilbert (Local Arrangements Chair and VP-Meetings) and others on Bob's team have worked tirelessly so that we, the conference participants, would have a forum to exchange ideas and opportunities to connect with colleagues both professionally and socially. We owe a debt of gratitude to Bob and his entire organizing team.

The conference theme "Global Challenges and Opportunities" places operations management in the center stage to address the challenges in the global economy faced by organizations in the manufacturing, service, and government sectors. Several conference tracks are devoted to global supply chain and logistics topics including disaster management, global network security, logistics in the public sector, supply chain disruptions, and technologies in global supply chains. The breadth of operations management is apparent with tracks that include service operations, product innovation and technology management, sustainability, and human behavioral dynamics. Equally compelling, the methodological breadth of operations management is evident from tracks on empirical research as well as project management and econometrics. Overall, this conference presents a broad view of operations management and in how the field responds to global challenges.

Lastly, it is you, the members of the society and conference participants, who make the conference an exceptional experience. Special thanks go to all of the dedicated volunteers who organize tracks and programs including those for doctoral students and young faculty, not to mention the many presenters and panel participants. I look forward to an intellectually stimulating and fun conference in Orlando!