



Health Care Forum Attracts Record Turn Out

The *Application of Mathematical Modeling and Quantitative Methods in Improving Healthcare Decision-Making Technical Forum* proved to be the biggest one ever held by the ORSP. A total of 504 participants showed up from as far away as Southern Luzon State University of Quezon Province as early as 12 noon on August 25 for the 1:00 program. Fortunately, the Leong Hall of the Loyola Schools of Ateneo de Manila University had ample space to accommodate all who showed up for the very informative and stimulating talk of the three speakers. Speakers were Ronald Po, who talked on *Optimization Tools in Hospital Admissions and Discharge*; Rex Robielos on *Survey of Research Studies on Healthcare Services* and Cyrus Selga on *Utilizing Healthcare Claims Data to Predict Hospitalization Risk*.

A member of the Special Bids and Awards Committee for the Rationalization and Simplification of Business Processes in UP PGH and an Assistant Professor at the UP IE Department of Industrial Engineering and Operations Research Diliman, Ronald Po discussed how the rise in healthcare costs brought about by increasing population and prevalence of illnesses and “lifestyle” diseases make healthcare institutions conscious about bringing these costs



Ronald Po explains the hospital processes.

down. To counter the rising costs of healthcare delivery, hospitals and other healthcare institutions have started to significantly reduce their non-value-adding processes through the use of various Operations Research tools and techniques. Po showed how a review of end-to-end admissions-discharge process with the application of basic queuing theory and other optimization tools result in potentially significant cost reductions

In his talk, Dean of the School of Industrial Engineering at the Mapua Institute of Technology Rex Robielos went through several published studies that improved hospital operations, layout of facilities, disease diagnosis and cure, among others, with the use of such OR techniques as mixed integer, goal and dynamic programming.

On the other hand, Data Mining Analyst of the Center of Analytical Excellence West Business Solutions and ORSP Board Member Cyrus Selga related approaches on the development of an algorithm to predict how many days a patient

will spend in a hospital, in the context of the Heritage Health Prize Competition. He showed how raw data provided by the competition was converted into the modeling dataset using SQL. He further illustrated how approaches such as linear regression and gradient boosting machine reduced prediction error.

The open forum conducted at the end of each talk was lively and a lot of questions were raised. Among the questions raised by the students were opportunities for operations researchers to find work in the health care field. One forum feedback from Marie Paz Quilnat, states: “As Operations Research students, we are taught the technical aspects of various models such as Linear Programming. As such, it is easy to lose sight of the practical applications of these models. This forum gives us an improved understanding of how OR can make life better not only for Filipinos but for people around the world.” On the other hand, Vanessa Joy Burgos quipped, “The forum was an effective extension of the classroom, in that it made me aware of how vast the application of Operations Research is, even in health care. The speakers were all good and it gave us an opportunity to mingle with other OR students. I am now convinced that I am in the right field.”

ORSP President Francis Miranda thanked everyone who attended the affair and all the speakers who made the event possible. ORSP Officers Iris Martinez, Malu de Guzman U, Alleli Domingo, Jed Loma and Elise del Rosario were on hand to moderate the sessions and offer remarks. ♦



Asia Pacific College Hosts ORSP Technical Workshop

by Jed Loma

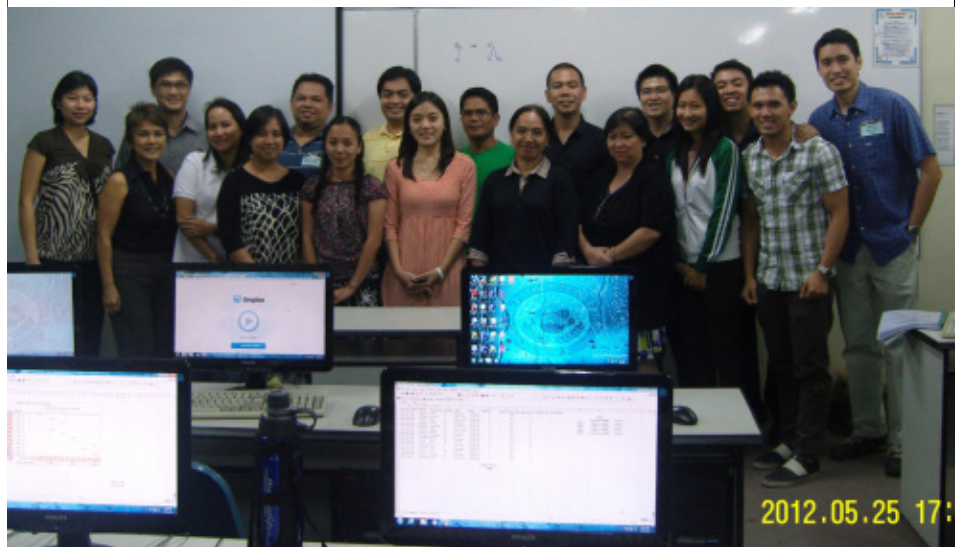
The Asia Pacific College (APC) hosted the ORSP Technical Workshop on “Foundations of Mathematical and Spreadsheet Modeling” from May 25 to 26. Workshop tutors were from De La Salle University’s Center for Operations Research / Management Science (CORMS) who developed the materials for the two-day workshop. This workshop was offered by ORSP in response to the request from members for a workshop that would equip analysts and educators with a knowledge of spreadsheet modeling, the most commonly used program for solving OR problems both locally and internationally.

The workshop kicked off with a brief introduction to MS Excel and Spreadsheet Modeling followed by Excel Solver for Optimization in the afternoon. Understanding the Solver Reports was tackled by Norbert Enriquez and Bryan Gobaco on the second day morning session. Solving ILP Models and Constructing a Spreadsheet Interface were the last topics discussed.

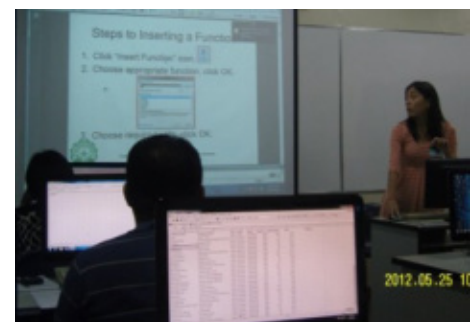
Attendees from Asia Pacific College, FEU-East Asia College, University of the Cordilleras, De La Salle-Lipa, Ateneo de Naga University and University of the East Manila acknowledged the new techniques they picked up from the workshop. All participants, who included Angeline Laddaran, Frederick Belen, Jan Michael Asturias, Leila Mejia, Lorena Gomez, Mario Genova, May Macatangay, Melinda Beninsig, and Walter Mang-usan, were unanimous



Dennis Beng Hui opens the workshop in photo above. Below, participants pose with the lecturers and organizers.



in asking for more sessions. Everyone had an interactive model to show as the fruit of their labor at the end of the second day. ORSP felt rewarded as two participants quipped, “It was two days in the weekend very well spent, and we do not regret at all having chosen to invest this time for the workshop.”♦



Dhesirey Sio handles navigating the spreadsheet.



Bryan gives the first solver problem.



Lecturers receive Certificates of Appreciation from ORSP Directors Jed Loma and Malu de Guzman U.

Student Chapters

Federation of ORSP Student Chapters Elects Officers for SY 2012-2013

By Braimar Isle Ancheta

The Federation of ORSP Student Chapters election was held on the morning of July 7 at the Faura Hall of Ateneo de Manila University, presided by ORSP Board Director Chairperson for Student Affairs, Jaypy Tenerife.

Present were twenty six participants from the ten affiliates, namely: Ateneo de Manila University, Lyceum of the Philippines – Laguna, De La Salle University – Dasma, Asia Pacific College, De La Salle University- Manila, University of the Philippines Diliman – CIEM, University of the Philippines Diliman - IE Club, Mapua Institute of Technology, Technological Institute of the Philippines - Quezon City, University of Santo Tomas.

An icebreaker session enabled all the participants to know and get comfortable with one another. Candidates for the election of officers then gave speeches, focusing on the main goal of advancing ORSP by establishing programs and activities that will spread



Student Federation Officers sworn into office by J.Tenerife.

awareness about OR and ORSP thus enhancing the identity of the organization and the discipline.

Elected were: Rafael Alexis E. Sison (Ateneo de Manila University) president, John Steveson G. Lee (De La Salle University- Manila) vice-president, Anne Klarisse H. Tandog (UP CIEM) secretary, Edilberto Faner Jr. (Mapua Institute of Technology) auditor and Rachele Joy S. Fabico (UP CIEM) treasurer. The other Board Members included: Melissa Karen Mico (University of Santo Tomas), Mill Joseph L. Seraspe (University of Santo Tomas), John Cedrick P. Bugarin (Asia Pacific College), Frances Joyce D. Vallejos (Technological Institute of the Philippines- Quezon City) and Althea C. Mendoza (Lyceum of the Philippines-Laguna).

Everyone was happy about the process and outcome of the elections. It was a chance to meet old friends and make new ones. Everyone is looking forward to the activities to be led by the crop of new officers of the Federation of ORSP Student Chapters. ♦



2012 Student Congress: Unbounded Success

Dubbed UNBOUNDED, the 2012 ORSP Congress was held last February 4, 2012 at the Abelardo Hall College of Music, University of the Philippines. This Congress featured two speakers, Dr. Leorey Marquez, Research Scientist at the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO), Australia's national science agency, and Lowell Lorenzo, Assistant Professor at the UP IE/OR Department.

A project of the 2011-2012 Federation, the event was hosted by the UP Industrial Engineering Club and the UP Circle of Industrial Engineering Majors. Congress highlight was the much-awaited Quiz Bee, which had the following teams winning the Prize: UP Diliman (first place), Ateneo de Manila (second place) and De la Salle University (third place). Other schools which participated included: Adamson University, Asia Pacific College, Mapua Institute of Technology, Southern Luzon State University, Technological Institute of the Philippines, University of Sto. Tomas and UP-Los Banos.

The fun part, the Variety Show, was won by Mapua, while on second and third places were both UP entries. The whole-day affair had around 500 federation members actively participating in all the events. While it can be said to have been a good day for UP, everyone went home happy winners! ♦



Contestants and judges Jed Loma, Shella Mariscal-Tan and Francis Miranda take their places as Quiz starts.

Competitiveness and OR Tackled in Fifth National Conference

by Congress Chair, Malu de Guzman U

The 5th National Conference, held last November 11, 2011 at the Richmond Hotel in Eastwood, brought together operations research professionals and educators from different parts of the country. The record number of papers and abstracts the invitation brought in confirmed that through the past several years, the ORSP National Conference has become the primary venue for OR practitioners and enthusiasts to share and discuss current research and applications in the Philippines.

“Operations Research: Towards a More Competitive

Philippines” as conference theme focused on how competitiveness through the use of OR could help face the many challenges faced by the Philippines. For the plenary session, Dr. Ronald U. Mendoza, Executive Director of the Asian Institute of Management (AIM) Policy Center, posed the challenge to promote a more inclusive growth process, one that sustains competitiveness and a robust economic growth performance, while ensuring that wealth creation provide the widest possible benefits. He cited the poor investment climate of the country as manifested by the results of different competitiveness as well as the lack of political participation and genuine representative government as key policy reform areas that should be addressed by the government.

Gulliermo “Bill” Luz, the Chairperson for the Private Sector of the National Competitiveness Council (NCC) and Executive Vice President of Ayala Foundation, via his representative Executive Director of Center for Industrial

Competitiveness National Industrial Manpower Training Council (CIC/NIMTC), Virgilio Fulgencio presented the current state of Philippine competitiveness, goals for the next few years, and how the public and private sectors can work in partnership toward achieving these goals.

ORSP’s own and Immediate Past Presi-

sions. Throughout the parallel sessions, presentations were followed by questions from the audience.

There was enthusiastic participation from the attendees eager to learn more about new OR applications and ideas for further research.



Robielos moderates the parallel session featuring the competition papers. Above, with winner Dominique Rustia.



Mendoza, Fulgencio and Del Rosario giving their plenary talks.

dent of the International Federation of Operational Research Societies (IFORS) Elise del Rosario presented “Philippine Survey of OR Practice: Powerful but Untapped Tool for Competitiveness”. Sharing the results of the IFORS-sponsored worldwide survey, del Rosario stressed that while OR practice has a definite presence in the Philippines, it is not widespread in the business community as shown by the existence of internal OR consultants in less than 10 companies.

She also touched on the size of group, experience and training of analysts, barriers to the use of OR, OR techniques and software used. She noted that while some OR groups have disbanded, others have formed, and so the size of the local OR community has stayed around the same level.

The sponsor presentations and a sumptuous buffet lunch were followed in the afternoon with the presentation of 24 original research papers in six parallel

For the first time, the conference featured a Paper Competition. All full papers submitted were reviewed by past ORSP President Vicente Reventar and current ORSP Board Members Rex Robielos and Cyrus Selga, who grilled all presenters.

Best Paper award went to “The Dynamics of Higher Education Contributions to the Global Competitiveness of the Philippines,” a systems dynamics application by Maria Dominique Rustia (presenter) and Camille Marie Villar of the Dept. of Industrial Engineering, DLSU-Manila.

The day ended in a very informal and relaxed atmosphere with the distribution of raffle prizes. Based on feedback, everyone felt the day was a productive one of learning and fellowship. ♦



Scenes from the presentations, registration, fellowship and report from the President.

President Represents ORSP at APORS

by Francis Z. Miranda

Call for Participants

*to the
Joint ICORD/EWG-ORD Workshop
“Operations Research: Addressing
Issues of Development”
June 27-28, 2013 Rome, Italy
in conjunction with EURO XXVI -
EURO-INFORMS, June 30- July 4*

Operations Researchers who have done work in the area of OR for Development are invited to participate in this joint workshop. To qualify, participants are required to submit a full paper (of at least 1500 words) on their work which has used Operations Research to help the decision-making process in the areas of education, health, water and other basic services, technology, resource use (physical or financial), infrastructure, agricultural/industrialization or environmental sustainability, that help optimize development in view of constraints and limited resources. A stress on developmental issues will be an important factor; papers of a purely technical nature, or those that have no relevance in the developmental context, will not be considered. All work presented are eligible for submission to the IFORS Prize Competition. [file://localhost/http://ifors.org/web/ifors-prize-for-or-in-development-2014](http://ifors.org/web/ifors-prize-for-or-in-development-2014)

Workshop Format

The Workshop will feature presentations by the participants of their papers. One reactor will be assigned for each paper. All participants will be given all the papers of accepted participants in advance, which will give them time to study the other papers. Ample time will be given for a discussion of each of the papers presented. There will also be a plenary session for invited speaker/s. Details and updates will be available at <http://ifors.org/web/joint-icordewg-ord-workshop/>.

Important Dates

Full Paper Submission: Dec 15, 2012

Notification of Acceptance:

Jan 15, 2013

Workshop Registration Fee USD 200

Support for Participants - A limited number of slots for accommodation and registration support will be available

I was privileged to be invited as a speaker during the 9th Triennial Conference of the Asia-Pacific Operational Research Societies held in Xi’an, China. Xi’an in the north western part of China is a 5-hour plane ride from Manila via



Hong Kong or Beijing. It is one of the ancient capitals of China, and famous home of the “Terra Cotta Warriors”, which is sometimes referred to as the “eighth wonder of the world”. The theme for the 12th APORS conference, held at Jianguo Hotel Xi’an, was “**OR: Innovation and Development**”.

I arrived at the conference venue on July 27, 2012 in the late afternoon, and was just in time for the registration and welcome dinner hosted by the APORS organizing committee headed by Xiadong Hu, General Secretary of the OR Society of China (ORSC).

The conference officially began on July 28 at 8:30 am. The speakers and participants were welcomed by Yaxiang Yuan, President of APORS and ORSC, and Xiangsun Zhang, Vice President of IFORS. The morning session was for the invited speakers. There were interesting lectures by Xiulu Chao of the University of Michigan on optimizing inventory with limited capital, and by Sunity Shrestha, President of the OR Society of Nepal (ORSN), on using frontier analysis to determine the efficiency of

rural financing in Nepal. I also gave a presentation of a non-linear programming model for marketing research.

Parallel sessions were then held in the afternoon. Two presentations I liked the best were from Dr. Stefan Pickl, President of the German OR Society, who presented emerging applications of OR in complex networks, and from Dr. Yindong Shen of Huazhong University China who talked about an optimal scheduling and decision support system for bus companies. In the evening, all participants were treated to a buffet dumpling dinner at the Shaanxi Grand Opera House accompanied by Tang Dynasty music and a magnificent dance performance.

Among the invited speakers during the morning session of July 29, I liked the presentations of Shouyung Wang of the Chinese Academy of Sciences on the use of OR in helping fight the economic crisis, and of Tatu Oyama of the National Graduate Institute of Policy Studies of Japan who talked about the applications of OR in the public sector. After the contributed paper session in the afternoon, there was an APORS council meeting where the group elected the officers for 2013-2015. The day ended with a dinner banquet at the Xi’an Grand Restaurant.

On the last day of the conference, delegates were treated to a one day tour to Xi’an’s historical sites including the Huaqing Hot Spring in the morning and the famous Emperor Qin’s Terra Cotta Museum in the afternoon. Overall, attending the 9th APORS conference was a very memorable experience for me. Not only did I learn more about new and interesting OR applications and theories,



APORS Council Members from China, Singapore, Korea, Iran, Japan and Nepal gather for the APORS meeting. Standing 3rd from left is ORSP's Francis Miranda.

I also had the chance to meet and link with other OR enthusiasts across the region. ♦

Vilnius Conference Attracts 2000 Delegates

by Elise del Rosario, with excerpts from IFORS News, September issue (www.ifors.org)

Focusing on the multi-disciplinary nature of operations research, the 25th European Conference on Operational Research was a worldwide event that gathered more than 1,910 presenters and over 2,100 participants from 68 countries. The conference was held in Vilnius Lithuania from July 8 to 11. Elise del Rosario of ORSP was the lone representative from the Philippines and was present in her capacity as Immediate Past President of IFORS, which held its Administrative Meeting during the Conference.

The Conference academic program included three plenary sessions, twelve keynote and tutorial lectures, as well as presentations by award winners, award candidates, invited and contributing speakers. A social program and tours both in Vilnius and its surroundings offered the participants a unique opportunity to immerse in history, culture and traditions of this young Baltic nation at the crossroads of Western and Eastern Europe.



IFORS Past President del Rosario receives Plaque of Appreciation for services rendered to IFORS from IFORS President Dominique de Werra.

The **Conference Topics** were combined in 26 Main Areas with 153 streams and 524 parallel invited and contributed sessions. The scientific program included the following **Main Areas**:

Continuous Optimization, Control Theory & System Dynamics, Data Mining, Knowledge Discovery and Artificial Intelligence, DEA and Performance Measurement, Decision Analysis, Decision Support Systems, Discrete Optimization, Geometry & Graphs, Emerging Applications of OR, Energy, Environment and Climate, Financial Modelling & Risk Management, Fuzzy Systems and Soft Computing, Game Theory, Mathematical Economics, Location Analysis, Logistics, Transportation, Traffic, Metaheuristics, Multiple Criteria Decision Making and Optimization, OR Education, History, Ethics, OR in Health

& Life Sciences, OR in Industry and Software for OR, OR in Natural Resources, OR for Development and Developing Countries, Production Management & Supply Chain Management, Revenue Management & Managerial Accounting, Scheduling, Time Tabling & Project Management, Simulation & Stochastic Programming and Modelling, Soft OR and Problem Structuring Meth-

ods, and Telecommunication & Networks.

Plenary sessions were delivered by 2004 Nobel Laureate *Finn Kydland*, *Hans-Jürgen Zimmermann* and *Ralph E. Gomory*. Among the semi-plenary talks are: *How to Make OR the Most Liked Course in the Curriculum* (given by Erhan Erkut who was a guest speaker in one of the ORSP-organized international workshop here in Manila); Kenneth Sörensen on *"Metaheuristics – the Metaphor Exposed"*; Jonathan Caulkins on *Providing a Scientific Basis for Managing Illegal Drugs & Markets*; and Karla Hoffman on *Auctions: Why are They Proliferating and What You Need to Know to Participate*.

Six shortlisted nominees for the *EURO Excellence in Practice Award* included:

Clearance Pricing Optimization at Zara (USA); *Scheduling the German Basketball League (Germany)*; *Optimization of advertisement revenue for the French TV group TF1 (France)*; *SPRINT: Optimization of Staff Management for Desk Customer Relations Services (Italy)*; *Flood Prevention by Optimal Dike Heightening (Netherlands)*; and the winning entry, *Logistic planning using DSS FlowOpt (Norway)* by Mikael Rönnqvist, Patrik Flisberg, and Mikael Frisk from the Norwegian School of Economics.

The social program was well thought out. The opening ceremonies featured classical music. The welcome reception was graced by the Vilnius Mayor with entertainment provided by the Vilnius Ballet Theatre.

The courtyard of the Vilnius Picture Gallery in the heart of the Old Town was the perfect place for the Gala Dinner, which featured wine, live music, and dancing. There was more live music and dancing on the last day during the farewell party held at the historic Grand Courtyard of Vilnius

University. Founded in 1579, the university is one of the oldest and most famous establishments of higher education in Eastern and Central Europe.

Following an established tradition, this year's conference was accompanied by *satellite events* that took place in Vilnius and other parts of Lithuania. Being a co-organizer, E. del Rosario was present at the EURO Working Group PhD Workshop on OR for Developing Countries: Times of Economic Crises held the day before the conference on July 7.

EURO XXV was organized by *EURO* along with *The Lithuanian Operational Research Society (LitORS)*; and *Vilnius University*. Since it was the 25th conference, a special celebration that featured all the EURO presidents was held. EURO is the regional grouping of European national societies within IFORS. ♦

Nepal Joins Asia-Pacific Grouping of OR Societies

ORSP Director Elise del Rosario attended International Conference on Operations Research on the theme Operations Research for Sustainable Development from February 1 to 2 at the Nepal Academy of Tourism and Hotel Management (NATHM), Kathmandu.

The conference was hosted by the Operational Research Society of Nepal (ORSN). ORSN was accepted into the International Federation of Operational Research Societies (IFORS) only in November 2011. In her capacity as IFORS Immediate Past President, E. del Rosario welcomed ORSN into IFORS with a Plaque of Recognition. In her talk, she informed the new members of the activities of IFORS and how they can benefit from membership in this organization. The conference was successful in exposing participants from various disciplines to the huge potential of OR in optimizing resources. This was the topic of the talk delivered by E. del Rosario on the second day. The participants expressed realization of the multidisciplinary nature of the discipline and the huge contribution it could make to-



Plenary speakers called to the stage for the opening ceremonies. Photo shows ORSN president Sunity Shrestha (6th from left) and Elise del Rosario (4th from right).

wards sustainable development of the country.

The conference attracted some 92 participants and featured 33 paper presentations. Participants from the Philippines, Brazil, New Zealand, South Korea, and India joined the local participants from Nepal. Subhash Datta and Arabinda Tripathy, guests in two ORSP conferences in the past, were the other plenary speakers. Both Datta, Tripathy and del Rosario helped the ORSN President, Sunity Shrestha and other local dignitaries in the traditional lighting of the inau-

gural candle.

In her capacity as IFORS representative, Elise del Rosario was interviewed by a Nepali daily, *The Rising Nepal*. In the interview, she emphasized the benefits of being a part of a national society, which provides the environment where members can share their knowledge and benefit from the experiences and expertise of others. On OR practice, she referred to the US (INFORMS) and UK (ORS) websites and how a visit to these sites will help anyone realize how useful OR is, and how it has helped thousands of companies enhance their operations, profits and services they provide to customers.

When asked about the prospects for the newly formed ORSN, she replies, "I belong to the Operations Research Society of the Philippines which will be celebrating its 25th year next year. Like the ORSN, ORSP is a very small organization, compared, let us say, to IT or Management professional associations. However, the quality of the people, the leadership, the enthusiasm of the members are very important ingredients that have made the society last as long as it has." ♦

Call for Participants cont. from page 5 and will depend on the quality of material submitted.

For inquiries, please contact:

Elise del Rosario

elise@JGdelRosario.com

Honora Smith

honora.smith@soton.ac.uk

Gerhard-Wilhelm Weber

gweber@metu.edu.tr

R.I.P. Ex-President Wilson Wy Tiu

ORSP recently lost a member of the Board in the person of ORSP Committee on OR for Public Service (ORSP Corps) Chairperson, Wilson Wy Tiu. Wilson was ORSP President from 1999 to 2000. It will be recalled that it was during his time as President when the ORSP Corps



was formed. His wide network within the government that comes from his active involvement in various advocacies enabled the ORSP Corps to reach out and do work for different government agencies.

Wilson died of a heart attack last October 7 and is survived by his wife, Marge and his two sons. ♦



Welcome New Members!

This newsletter issue welcomes new members who have joined the ORSP Team.

From the *Academe*, we have **Jennifer Operio**, Program Coordinator in Our Lady of Fatima Uni-



J. Operio



S. Barandon

versity – Lagro Campus; **Seth Barandon**, Research Director of Camarines



P. J. David

Sur Polytechnic Colleges; **Peter Jonas David**, Research Coordinator of World Citi Colleges in Quezon City; **Richard Figueroa**, Industry Link-



R. Figueroa



R. J. Curbano

age Coordinator of Holy Angel University; **Ryan Jeffrey Curbano**, Instructor in Lyceum of the Philip-



L. Bacudio

ippines; **Lindley Bacudio**, IE Coordinator of De La Salle Canlubang; **Leo Vicente A. Tago**, Academic Head of Systems Plus College Foundation in Balibago, Angeles City and **Enrico Yee, Jr.**, of University of Southeastern Philippines.

From the *Industry* sector are **Andrew Paulo Robillo**, a Work-



A. P. Robillo

force Forecaster of Stellar Global Solutions Philippines,



A. Baysa

Inc. and **Adrian Baysa**, Senior Manager of Metrobank Card Group.

Institutional members joining ORSP for this period is the **De La Salle University – Dasmariñas** which designated **Edwin S. Bunag** and **Maria Estrella Natalie Pineda** as their ORSP representatives. ♦

President's Corner by Francis Z. Miranda

ORSP at 25: Celebrating the Past and Looking to the Future

2012 is a milestone year for the Operations Research Society of the Philippines (ORSP) because it marks our 25th anniversary. Since its founding in 1987, the society has organized dozens of workshops, forums and conferences which served as venues where academicians, practitioners, students and other enthusiasts interacted and shared their knowledge of Operations Research. ORSP also did consulting work for both the public and private sectors and enabled them to optimize their resources using OR.

In 2012, ORSP started the year by assisting the ORSP Student Chapters with the Student Congress held at UP-Diliman last February 4. The event featured the annual OR Quiz in the morning and invited speaker sessions in the afternoon. This was followed by the Technical Workshop on Excel Solver held at Asia Pacific College last May 25 and 26. For the second half of the year, on August 25, ORSP organized the Technical Forum on Healthcare held at Ateneo de Manila University. The 6th National Conference and 25th Anniversary of ORSP at Eastwood Richmond Hotel on November 9, 2012 caps the year's activities.

As we look forward to the next 25 years of the society, the ORSP Board is eager to further engage its members and to continue to raise awareness of OR. It is very timely that the Board had a planning session at Valle Verde Country Club last June 9. In order to engage the members more, the Board discussed having quarterly member meetings. There was also a suggestion of creating Special Interest Groups (SIGs) so that there will be greater interaction among members with similar interests. These SIGs can also organize special symposiums on their topic of interest with the help of the ORSP Board. This will complement the existing Technical Fora and Workshops.

To continue to raise awareness on OR, the Board discussed having more activities within the year. It was proposed to have a regular workshop on the basics of Operations Research to target those that are new to the field. It was also proposed to publish a calendar of activities one year in advance for the benefit of the OR community. Lastly, the Board also discussed the need to have linkages with other professional societies and associations especially in allied disciplines such as Industrial Engineering, Corporate Planning, Supply Chain, Computer Science, etc. These partnerships will mutually benefit our societies.

ORSP has done a lot for the OR community in the past 25 years. We are privileged that the officers and members of the society in the past had a strong passion for OR, and enabled us to reach this milestone. Now, it is our turn to ensure that we keep the torch burning, and carry it forward for the next 25 years and beyond. ♦

If undelivered, please return to Publisher:

Operations Research Society of the Philippines

Suite 14 A Cyber One, Eastwood City,

Bagumbayan, Quezon City

☎: (632) 439-9496 Mobile: (63) 927-8775219

Comments are welcome: please email secretariat@orsp.org.ph