

Letter From the President

Dear Reader,

"The concern of Operations Research with finding an optimum decision, policy, or design is one of its essential characteristics. It does not seek merely to define a better solution to a problem than one in use; it seeks the best solution..."

– C. West Churchman (1957)

Stemming from the military efforts during World War II, operations research (OR) is a discipline that employs techniques from mathematics, statistics and computer science to develop optimal or near-optimal solutions to complex decision-making problems. Today, OR remains an active area of research in academia and is used by many businesses and governments around the world.

This is the third journal printed by Simon Fraser University's (SFU) Operations Research undergraduate members. The Analytics Now journal aims to publish innovative and high-quality papers written by undergraduate students at SFU relating to current issues businesses or organizations may be facing. The research projects this year were conducted by students in "Math 208W: Introduction to Operations Research" and in "Math 402W: Operations Research Clinic". Students in Math 208W are given half a semester to propose a topic, conduct their research and offer a solution, while students in Math 402W focus their entire semester on the project.

The three research projects included in this year's journal revolve around current issues faced both globally and within the Greater Vancouver area. The paper for Math 402W on "Selecting Station Locations for a Public Bike-Share Program: A Case Study for the City of Vancouver" by Marko Mitrovic, Mayanka Sharma and myself was selected as finalist for the Canadian Operational Research Society's (CORS) Student Paper Competition and was presented at the CORS/INFORMS International Conference in Montreal, QC.

Of course, none of this would have been possible without the support and guidance of our professors. We would, therefore, like to extend a big thank you to Dr Randall Pyke and Dr Tamon Stephen for making these opportunities possible. I would also like to thank past President, Eric Yuen, and Co-President, Michelle Baillet, for all their hard work and commitment to both this year's and last year's Analytics Now publications.

I hope these papers provide some insight into what OR has to offer and will lend some inspiration to those who may wish to further explore this discipline.

Best,



Mamie Beddis: ORSU Co-President (2015-2016)