

Editor's Comments

With this first issue of Volume 12, I would like to personally thank *Blake Ives* for his valuable service as a Senior Editor of *MIS Quarterly Executive*. Within the last six months, three other scholars have joined our Senior Editor team, including two academics who help expand our editorial reach to the AsiaPacific:

- *Varun Grover*, Clemson University
- *Christina Soh*, Nanyang Technological University
- *Philip Yetton*, University of New South Wales

The publication of the first article in this issue, "Realizing Strategic Value through Center-Edge Digital Transformation in Consumer-Centric Industries," provides a unique opportunity to pay tribute to the first author, Paul Gray, who passed away last year. Please join me in thanking Omar El Sawy, Guillermo Asper, and Magnus Thordarson for continuing to revise this article co-authored with Paul, which I firmly believe will stretch your thinking about today's potential Center-Edge digital transformations. The healthcare case study that the authors use to demonstrate different types of value creation will also shed light on the fast-changing IT landscape in this particular consumer-centric industry.

Paul Gray (1930–2012)

The bio at the end of this article, provided by co-author Omar El Sawy, gives you a sense of Paul Gray's impact on the IS academic profession since its formative years. As the editor-in-chief of another journal, I also personally had the pleasure of interacting with Paul as he selected themes for his inimitable BookISMs column in which he masterfully integrated his reviews of recently published books for an IS community readership. A perusal of these columns will quickly reveal not only his enormous intellect and dedication to the IS profession, but also his infectious enthusiasm for all things digital.

The second article, "'Ready to Acquire': The IT Resources Required for a Growth-by-Acquisition Business Strategy," co-authored by Philip Yetton, Stefan Henningsson, and Niels Bjørn-Andersen, significantly contributes to our knowledge about the IT role in enabling an increasingly common

business growth strategy. Two in-depth case study examples from a company recognized for its successful acquisitions are provided to demonstrate the IT readiness needs for two common types of acquisitions, which the authors categorize as IT-expanding versus IT-extending.

The third article is based on the winning paper for the 2012 SIM Best Paper competition: "Leveraging CIO Expertise to Create Social Value: Novartis' SMS for Life Initiative" co-authored by Don Marchand and Jim Barrington. This is an engaging case study of how a CIO was able to leverage his personal skills and working relationships with IT vendors to lead a team that developed an IT-based supply-chain solution to address "stock-out" issues critical to malaria treatments in several African countries. We are grateful to Don Marchand and the SIM paper competition for bringing former CIO Jim Barrington and Novartis' corporate social responsibility story to the *MISQE* readership.

This issue also includes a report based on SIM-sponsored research by Gabriele Piccoli and Federico Pigni: "Harvesting External Data: The Potential of Digital Data Streams." The report presents a framework of five archetypes and four value drivers that was developed by the authors to help IT leaders identify and create business value from high-volume, real-time flows of digital events. An extensive appendix provides multiple examples of each of the archetypes.

As this March 2013 issue goes to press, the special issue editors are reviewing submissions for the December 2013 issue on "big data" enterprise research issues, which was also the theme of the 2012 pre-ICIS workshop held in Orlando that *MISQE* sponsored with SIM. In just a few months we will be planning the theme of our 2013 pre-ICIS workshop to be held in Milan, Italy, and we also anticipate having the journal represented at the upcoming ECIS, PACIS, and AMCIS conferences.

For those academic readers who are SIM members, we hope that you will help to spread the word about *MISQE*'s knowledge transfer mission, and our increasingly global pipeline.

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