A Letter from Our President

Dear Colleagues:

The uncertainties and challenges that plagued us in 2020 are, unfortunately, continuing in 2021. This is especially true for the citizens of Louisiana, and New Orleans in particular.

Of course, our thoughts are with those in New Orleans and southeast Louisiana at large. We hope their recovery is swift and well supported. Should you wish to contribute to the recovery efforts, a few suggestions are in the article below (as always, please ensure you personally research before giving):

How can I help?
As an organization, SWAM will work through FBD to closely monitor the situation in New Orleans as we continue to move forward on planning an in-person conference with limited opportunity for virtual engagement in March of 2022. If you are interested, here is what New Orleans currently requires (as of August 16).

“Limited opportunity”, you say? Well, yes. Given the current state of COVID-19, it appears we were too optimistic in gearing up for a 2022 conference without contingencies. Of course, as we move into the fall, we are beginning to build those contingency plans. I wish we could support a truly hybrid conference at this time, but we must be conservative financially in the next several years as we gauge the long-term impacts of COVID on conferences.

Our annual conference, of course, is the primary mechanism with which SWAM can generate revenue in order to provide faculty support for development and enhancement in research and teaching. Our annual conference is also the mechanism to support our partnership with the Eastern Academy of Management in publishing Organization Management Journal – an effort undertaken to raise the profile and visibility of SWAM as a key regional arm of the Academy of Management. Moreover, our conference provides networking and preparation for PhD students – both early and late stage – through the doctoral consortium. This year, we plan to both continue and enhance our offerings to SWAM membership, so that the return on investment for their membership and conference fee is as high as possible. We plan to do this through:

- Extremely low-cost ($10!) PDW’s with high profile scholars
- Crafting work for practitioner focused outlets
- Analytical techniques in research
- How to review for journals
- Returning our “Dean’s Panel”
- Returning our “Journal Editors Panel”
- Increased support for doctoral student attendance and engagement

Again, we promise to continue to reach out via our newsletter and other communication outlets. The health and safety of our membership is important to us, and we will continue to monitor local, state, and national COVID-19 conditions to determine if or when we must pivot to increased virtual offerings based on those conditions. In the interim, we wish you a safe, healthy, and productive fall 2021 semester. Even more importantly – we wish you luck in completing all of your SWAM 2022 submissions by our October 15th deadline, so we can see you in New Orleans in March, 2022!

Sincerely,

Ethan P. Waples, SWAM President 2021-2022

PASS A GOOD TIME AT SWAM 2022!

We are very excited to host the 2022 Southwest Academy of Management in the vibrant city of New Orleans! A city known for its wonderful music, delicious food, unique history, interesting architecture, proud culture, and exciting festivals, New Orleans has something for everyone. If you have been to New Orleans before, you know it is worth returning to, and if you have not, this city will not disappoint as a travel destination.
The Southwest Academy of Management conference will be held in the Hilton New Orleans Riverside hotel which is located directly on the famous Mississippi River! In walking distance from the hotel are plenty of exciting attractions from The Outlet Collection (a waterside shopping and restaurant center), to casinos, to museums to highly ranked restaurants and cafes. The Mississippi River hosts steamboat harbor cruises during the day and dinner cruises during the evening (usually with live jazz music!) for anyone interested in getting out on the water.

Just a short distance from our conference location, you will find the world-renowned Bourbon street and French quarter district which boast an endless supply of activities, dining, and drinking options. The French quarter offers wonderful live music, tasty French, Cajun, and Creole cuisine, museums, beautiful architecture, and art and farmers’ markets. For those of us who appreciate a good tour, the French quarter in New Orleans hosts many types of unique options from ghost tours to pub crawls, to walking history tours. For the foodies, there are food tours, cooking courses, and a wide array of famous café and restaurant options to choose from. From the French quarter, one can also be picked up to take tours outside the downtown area including swamps and bayou tours!

“PASS A GOOD TIME” Louisiana is all about fun, and locals and visitors love to pass a good time, which means to have a good time.

In March, if you head to the Battle of the Gumbo Gladiators in Shreveport, you’ll definitely learn the meaning of the phrase. This fundraising event has been brewing for the last four years and gumbo samples are only a dollar.

We hope you will join us for the 2022 annual Southwest Academy of Management conference in the wonderfully unique city of New Orleans!

SUBMIT PAPERS FOR SWAM 2022

Greetings SWAM members. As the conference Program Chair, this is an exciting moment to communicate with you. We are almost 30 days to the conference submissions deadline. As I have shared with many of you, I visited the conference site in early August, and it looks like all is set. The conference site provides many elements that make me think it will be a pleasant gathering for academics. Many of us are ready to have a face-to-face conference; thus, I am optimistic about our oncoming 2022
I want to take this opportunity to share with you the importance of engaging with the organization. Although SWAM focuses extreme attention on developing future leaders through the doctoral consortium, current faculty also have great opportunities to take leadership positions with SWAM. If you are considering becoming an active member, please get in touch with us. We will be happy to have you.

Q&A With the Conference Chair

1) How did you first get involved with SWAM?

One of my colleagues at my previous institution (Southwest Oklahoma State University) Amanda Evert referred me to submit research for the SWAM conference back in 2017 when it was held in Little Rock, Arkansas. Then during that conference, SWAM's past president, Manjula Salimath, invited me to attend a board session. Afterwards in 2018, I joined the board as a Representative-at-large.

2) What were your first impressions of SWAM?

My first impression was that SWAM was an inclusive and friendly organization. A conference on which I could share some of my traditional research, network with other colleagues, and keep moving forward with my professional development.

3) What motivated you to get involved with the organization?

I am an extroverted individual and serving alongside other members of the organization is a way to charge energy. Also, I enjoy networking with others so that is extremely motivating for me.

4) What are you most excited about as program chair for the SWAM 2022 Annual Conference?

It is a great experience, and I think it is a great responsibility. The most exciting part is contributing to the organization through trying to improve past practices making the conference more fruitful. Hopefully, our members can recognize these changes over time.

5) Can you share anything new or in the works with members related to the conference?

The board and I have been working on some potential unique Professional Development Workshops. These, along with those submitted by our members, should solidify the professional development component for the conference. I think this, along with having Angelo DeNisi as the main speaker, are a sign of great things ahead.
6) What advice do you have for new members?

Please submit early and attend the social events, including those with the FBD (Federation of Business Disciplines). Try to develop relationships with colleagues. Engage with the organization, as we are always looking for leadership succession. Great organizations usually develop an effective pipeline of future leaders.

7) What are your hopes or vision for future SWAM conferences?

I hope that SWAM conference becomes the premier choice for those in our region to present their research and get professional development. I also want to continue to keep adding value to our members beyond the conference experience.

8) What are three words you would use to describe your experiences with SWAM?

Friendly, inclusive, and springboard.

9) What might someone be surprised to know about you?

Well, many people are surprised when I tell them I lived in five countries and obtained my higher education in three of those. Nevertheless, now more than ever, I think in academia, this is something that is quite common.

10) Do you have a favorite quote?

I do! In fact, I have a few:

“What we do in life, echoes in eternity” from the Maximus Decimus Meridius, Gladiator (2000).

“Act as if…” from Jim Young, Boiler Room (2000).

"Events, dear boy, events." Harold Macmillan

Did you know that SWAM Co-Sponsors the Organization Management Journal?

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JOB OPPORTUNITIES IN THE SOUTHWEST

Assistant Professor of Management University of Arkansas Fayetteville, Arkansas
Assistant Professor in HR and University of Houston-Downtown Organizational Behavior Houston, Texas

Fields Chair in Ethics and Corporate Responsibility Texas State University San Marcos, Texas

Are you hiring? Did you get a Promotion? Have you published a new paper? We would love to write about it in the next SWAM Newsletter. Please contact the Newsletter Editor, Emily Hammer, Ph.D. at ehammer@wtamu.edu

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