

4-1-2006

## From the Editor

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### Recommended Citation

Wilson, Jerry W. (Ed.). (2006). From the Editor. *Journal of Transportation Management*, 17(1), ix-x. doi: 10.22237/jotm/1143849660

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# From the Editor...

It has been a "late" spring here in the South! It seems that every time I think I will be able to get an issue of the *JTM* to the printer early, I end up being punished for my optimism. Such is the case with Volume 17, Number 1! After you read the included articles, I hope you feel that they were worth the wait.

The lead article in this issue, by Harry Sink, employs data from a mail survey to determine the benefits that are sought by purchasers of third party logistics services. Cluster analysis is then used to identify viable market segments for 3PL services. In the second article, Michael Mongold and Alan Johnson describe the use of "pure pallets" (user-specific pallets), rather than traditional break-bulk methods, to move military cargo. They compare the two with respect to requisition wait time, cargo throughput and revenue performance. In the third article, Michael Maloni provides the most comprehensive review and summary of the literature on third party logistics that I have seen. He has produced a reference work that will be valuable to researchers and practitioners for years to come. The fourth article is radically different from those that precede it. Jennifer and James Pope describe their experience in analyzing a circular queueing system for a manufacturer of peanut butter! They developed a simulation model of the rail supply system in use, and evaluated a number of potential variations in an attempt to improve system efficiency. In the final article of this issue, Carol Johnson, Lidiya Sokhnich and Charles Ng investigate the impact of several supply chain dimensions on overall firm performance. Lidiya and Charles, both undergraduate students working with Carol, build on a research stream initiated by Carol. Their work is impressive!

In the last issue of the *Journal*, I reported that John Kent would be serving as Special Editor for this issue. Due to time constraints, that did not happen. However, I am pleased to report that John, Associate Professor of Logistics and Transportation at Missouri State University, will be the "Special Editor" for the Fall 2006 issue. If you have a manuscript that you would like John to consider, send it directly to him at the following address:

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