

THE MIDWEST MANAGEMENT SOCIETY
1991 Proceedings Introduction

The Midwest Management Society had its origins In 1981, the first year that a program was developed independent of the Academy of Management. That year and the subsequent four years saw a programmatic progress under the leadership of Stuart Klein and David Gustafson that culminated in the 1985 publication of the program's proceedings. These proceedings, edited by Gustafson and Peter Gordon became proof to the MBAA that the Management Society was sufficiently meritorious to receive official sanction as a division. We received provisional status the following year. And each year saw an increasing program quality, something we hope to continue year after year.

Nineteen eighty eight was an especially noteworthy year for it marked the Inaugural Distinguished Scholars presentation for our membership. Jerry Hunt was our first Distinguished Scholar. But Jerry represented much more than that for our organization. He was one of the first people to recognize the need and the potential for our society and on several occasions prodded Gustafson and Klein to get going on institutionalizing the group.

In 1989, we were fortunate to have Dick Ritti, the author of "the Ropes to Skip and the Ropes to Know", as our Distinguished Scholar. We got an outstanding crowd to Ritti's presentation and then to our subsequent reception. The program under the direction of Jann Freed was an extremely strong one marked especially by its diversity.

The past two years we have had equally good programs, thanks to Ron Greenwood and Rich Sebastian. This year a special thanks goes to Gideon Falk for all the hard work and expert editorial judgements that go into assembling a collection of papers that meet the criteria of quality, interest and diversity. We hope that you, the reader, will refer to this volume more than once as you pursue your scholarly work and interests.