Elwood S. Buffa Doctoral Dissertation Award
2015 Annual Meeting of the Decision Sciences Institute

This competition identifies and recognizes outstanding doctoral dissertation research, completed in the calendar year 2014, in the development of theory for the decision sciences, the development of methodology for the decision sciences, and/or the application of theory or methodology in the decision sciences.

Eligibility:

To be eligible for consideration, a submission must meet the following criteria:
1. The doctoral dissertation has to have been accepted by the degree-granting institution within the 2014 calendar year (i.e., between January 1, 2014, and December 31, 2014). That is, the student must have met the requirements of graduation with a PhD or DBA in the time period specified.
2. Finalists must register for and attend the 2015 Annual Meeting of the Decision Sciences Institute in order to be eligible to win. This is because the winner will be announced after live presentations by the finalists competing for the Elwood S. Buffa Doctoral Dissertation Award.

Submission Requirements:

Applications will not be considered complete until (a) a nominating letter from the advisor, (b) an executive summary, and (c) the dissertation itself are received. Details of submission requirements are provided below:

1. Nominating Letter from the Advisor

A nominating letter is required from the dissertation advisor. This nominating letter:
• Introduces the doctoral student, the dissertation advisor supervising the dissertation, and the degree-granting institution;
• Argues for the worthiness of the doctoral dissertation; and
• Provides contact information for both the doctoral student and the dissertation advisor.

Please name the Nominating Letter attachment as (the student’s) LAST NAME_FIRST NAME-Nominating Letter.

2. Executive Summary of the Doctoral Dissertation Submission

Content

An executive summary is required with the following suggested sections:
• Describes and justifies the importance of the theoretical / pragmatic problem that the doctoral dissertation addresses,
• Delineates the research questions that stem from the theoretical / pragmatic problem,
• Explains the methods being used in sufficient detail for referees with no a priori exposure to the doctoral dissertation to evaluate methodological rigor,
• Discusses the major findings in terms of its contributions to science and / or to practice, and
• Highlights future research opportunities stemming from this doctoral dissertation, and the
limitations of the work. In preparing the Executive Summary, please feel free to refer the
reader to specific tables, figures, sections, etc., of the actual doctoral dissertation by
including the following pointer: [Please see _____, page ___ of the doctoral dissertation].

Format

The Executive Summary must adhere to the following formatting guidelines:
• Does not exceed a maximum of 10 double-spaced, 8.5x11, pages with 1-inch margins.
• Includes a header with two pieces of information: (i) the most relevant discipline within
which the doctoral dissertation falls and (ii) the dominant method(s) used in the conduct of
the doctoral dissertation research.
• Have a readable font size (10 to 12).

Please name the Executive Summary as LAST NAME_FIRST NAME-Executive Summary.

3. Dissertation

Please name the dissertation as LAST NAME_FIRST NAME-Dissertation.

Submission Procedure:

The Nominating Letter, the Executive Summary, and the dissertation should be submitted as three
separate PDF e-mail attachments to antross@uwm.edu.

It is okay if they are in separate e-mails, although we prefer that at least the dissertation and
executive summary arrive in one e-mail. Please label the e-mail(s):

“BUFFA_submission_LAST NAME_FIRST NAME”.

All submissions must be received by May 1, 2015, to be eligible for the competition.
The finalists will be announced during September 2015. As previously noted, the winners will be
determined immediately after the presentations in Seattle, WA, during the 2015 DSI Annual
Meeting (November 21-24, 2015).

Questions?

Questions about the Elwood S. Buffa Doctoral Dissertation Award for the 2015 Annual Meeting of the
Decision Sciences Institute can be directed to the Coordinator:

Anthony Ross
University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee
antross@uwm.edu