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Remembering Daniel Joseph Power

February 9, 1950 – January 26th, 2021

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Abstract

We are writing to celebrate the professional life and significant achievements of an information systems scholar, colleague, and a dear friend of ours. Dan passed away unexpectedly on January 26th of this year due to natural causes. We know and have observed Dan’s contributions to our field. Not only was Dan an accomplished IS scholar and outstanding faculty member, but also a very active member of professional organizations such as Midwest AIS. The idea of starting MWAIS was developed during a conversation between Dan Power and Troy Strader during the annual AMCIS meeting in Omaha, Nebraska in 2005. Later that year, Ilze Zigurs and 23 others submitted a proposal to found MWAIS on September 7, 2005. Ilze Zigurs helped Dan Power craft the initial by-laws of the newly formed MWAIS. The following excerpts were submitted by Dan’s friends and professional associates.

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1. Introduction

On January 26th we lost an outstanding IS scholar, caring faculty member, a constructive leader, and for many of us, a dear friend of more than twenty years. Daniel J. Power passed away due to natural causes. Dan served at the Department of Management, Northern Iowa University, as Professor of Information Systems and Management. He also served as Department Head and Acting Dean of the College. He published a number of books and many scholarly articles in our field. One of his many contributions that numerous colleagues are familiar with, is his well-known and widely used dssresources.com site. Dan served as visiting scholar at many universities around the globe including Brazil, China, Colombia, India, Ireland, Italy, Russia, Spain, and Turkey.

Many of us met Dan at various professional conferences over the years. In the Midwest region, our closer friendship and collaboration with Dan began in 2005 when he played a significant leadership role in the establishment of the Midwest Association of Information Systems (MWAIS). The idea of starting MWAIS was developed during a conversation between Dan Power and Troy Strader during an AMCIS meeting in Omaha, Nebraska in 2005. Later that year, Ilze Zigurs and 23 others submitted a proposal to found MWAIS on September 7, 2005.

Dan was very instrumental in the growth of the MWAIS community. He was always kind and helpful to all colleagues, in particular, newer colleagues in the field who asked for his suggestions and advice. He would not say no to a professional development activity.

During the 2013 ICIS conference in Milan, Rassule Hadidi was serving as the At-Large Director of MWAIS. He approached Dan and mentioned that his proposal was approved by the MWAIS executive committee to start publishing the Journal of Midwest Association for Information Systems (JMWAIS). Rassule asked Dan if he would be willing to serve as Editor-in-Chief. He did not hesitate and said, “sure why not.” Dan served in that role from the journal’s inception until the day he passed away. The last time Rassule talked to Dan over the phone, January 14th, 2021 was about finalizing the January issue of JMWAIS. Dan will be dearly missed by his numerous friends and associates.

Many colleagues shared fond memories of meeting with Dan, his impacts on their professional careers, and collaborations. Following are some examples.

Gaurav Bansal:

It’s a very sad news, Rassule. Dan was a great leader and a very kind-hearted person. I remember in 2012, he visited my house soon after the MWAIS conference along with other committee members. He will always be fondly remembered. I pray to Almighty to give strength to his family and friends to bear this loss.

Dan laid the foundation of Midwest AIS and provided leadership, learning, and networking opportunities for many. Dan was a true visionary who felt a need to create a regional association (MWAIS) to bridge the connection between local businesses, and academia; and provide research and networking opportunities to faculty and students from smaller Universities across the Midwestern region in the US and beyond. His contributions and passion for teaching, research, and enabling students and faculty will be highly remembered.

Many of us will deeply feel the pain of the void created by his passing away.

Mari Buche:

I had the pleasure of meeting Dan Power through participation in the Midwest AIS organization. I served as the MWAIS Treasurer from 2010-2013, and then as the At Large Director. One of the things I looked forward to most was our annual MWAIS meeting, where I was able to reconnect with professional colleagues and friends. Dan and I would discuss research topics, university challenges, and family updates. He was always supportive of my career and served as one of my external reviewers when I sought promotion to Professor.

I will miss Dan’s positive attitude, deep knowledge of DSS, quick wit, and supportive friendship. He never hesitated to challenge the status quo whenever he envisioned a better solution. His engaging and often provocative perspective led to intellectual discussions that challenged the assumptions of other participants. For those of us who have shared

experiences with him on panels, conference committees, editorial boards, and various professional networks, Dan was always someone you could depend on. He will be missed.

Omar El-Gayar:

I knew Dan for many years and I remember having very nice conversations about the IS disciplines early in my career at DSU. I was also there at the MWAIS conference in Omaha. He will sure be missed. My sincere condolences.

Joey George:

Soon after I joined Iowa State University in 2011, my then department chair asked me to look into hosting the MWAIS meeting in Ames. We held the meeting in 2014, and I served as the conference chair. Putting together this conference was my first real experience with MWAIS and with Dan Power. We had met before, but before the Ames conference, I didn't really know him that well. He was very welcoming to me, as a newcomer to the Midwest, and I grew to look forward to attending as many of the MWAIS conferences as I could. It was always a pleasure to see Dan there, to talk with him about the chapter and the conference and the journal. I vividly remember serving on a panel he organized in Milwaukee. To me, Dan exemplified MWAIS and all it did and all it stood for. He and his leadership will be missed.

Matt Germonprez:

I didn't know Dan very well but my interactions with him were always super positive. He was an incredibly nice man with a gentle smile. One of the specific things that I remember was that I was early in my career and he wanted to hear all about it. It was so sincere and genuine, and totally unexpected. I've always taken that one interaction to heart and remember it every time I'm talking with people who are now starting their own careers. Thanks for that Dan!

Yi "Maggie" Guo:

I cannot recall when was the first time I met Dan. He seemed to always be there, with a smile. I remember vividly in a social event of a conference. I was just a young, first-year assistant professor back then, Dan asked me quite a few questions about my experience settling in a new position and environment. His relaxed and caring manner put me at ease in a circle of senior professors in the field. Over the years, we met often during conferences. He was always supportive and provided me with insights on teaching and research from his long and productive career. He was instrumental in establishing the MWAIS chapter and the journal. His passing away was a great loss to the field of MIS. The best remembrance is to keep him in what we do. Dan is my model of what I should be like when talking to a colleague younger than me.

Deepak Khazanchi:

I have fond memories of working with Dan Power, Rassule Hadidi, Ilze Zigurs, and numerous others on establishing the Midwest AIS chapter and later on the JMWAIS. Dan was soft spoken but a terrific leader of ideas. He led from the back while encouraging lots of young faculty to take ownership of the MWAIS. I will always remember Dan as an indefatigable colleague who truly yearned to regularly engage with our AIS community both regionally and nationally. We were lucky to have him amongst us and remember him with great fondness.

Barbara Klein:

This is very sad news. Thanks for sharing it. Dan was so kind and helpful to me and so many others. My brother, who knew him at UNI, and I are chatting and sharing so many stories about his kindness.

Shana Poneis:

This is very sad news indeed. Thank you for letting us know. Dan has been a great champion of MWAIS and JMWAIS and a wonderful colleague in the field.

Kevin Scheibe:

I had known of Dan back in my doctoral student days through my research in decision support systems. It seemed you could not perform a search on DSS without his name coming up. I had the pleasure of serving on a panel with Dan and Cliff Ragsdale at a Decision Sciences Institute annual conference, but it was not until I was involved in MWAIS that I really got to know him. Dan was very welcoming and friendly with everyone he interacted with. He was passionate about MWAIS and the Journal of the MWAIS, and his passion was contagious. His absence is a great loss to our community, and he will be sorely missed.

Shu Schiller:

I am so sorry to hear this. I remember Dan and will never forget his impact on the growth of our community and his support to young colleagues.

Troy Strader:

I clearly remember where Dan and I were standing when we talked about the idea for a regional organization. It was in the Omaha Zoo gift shop. I can't believe how fast that 15 years have gone by. I'll always remember walking around New Orleans a few years ago. I never would have thought that Dan would be gone in just a few short years. We all hope that everyone that knew us has such positive memories just like we do with Dan when we are gone.

2. Overview of the Contents of this Issue

This issue of the journal includes two traditional research articles.

In their timely article, Dennis Acuna, Rajab Suliman, and Nasir Elmesmari look at the susceptibilities organizations currently are facing about their digital data and discuss how to better manage exposures. In their quantitative analysis the authors use logistic regression to measure the significance of using ordinal data to evaluate individual intentions to fulfil the Information Assurance policy. The article proposes a methodology to manage organizational Information Assurance policy requirements.

Mary Lebens in this interesting article suggests that the use of design thinking by organizations potentially increases productivity and hence revenue. However, the lack of available design thinking skills limits abilities of organizations to use it. The article effectively demonstrates how design thinking skills can be taught via prototyping in an asynchronous online course.

We appreciate and wish to acknowledge the contributions of reviewers for this issue of the journal, including Mari Buche (Michigan Technological University), Queen Booker, (Metropolitan State University), Bryan Hosack (Penske Logistics), Barbara Klein (University of Michigan, Dearborn), Alanah Mitchell (Drake University), and Shana Ponelis (University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee).