

A Tribute to Martin K. Starr
The recipient of the First Sushil K. Gupta POMS Distinguished Service Award
Collected from many contributors and composed by Sushil K. Gupta

The Production and Operations Management Society (*POMS*) created the Sushil K. Gupta *POMS* Distinguished Service Award in its annual meeting in Chicago, 2012, to recognize contributions made by those members who substantially contributed to the growth of the Society. The award was named after Sushil to honor him for his dedicated services to *POMS*.

The committee for the first Sushil K. Gupta *POMS* Distinguished Service Award was chaired by Dr. Cheryl Gaimon (Professor, Georgia Tech., U.S.A.). The committee members included Dr. Sushil K. Gupta (Professor, Florida International University, U.S.A.), Dr. James P. Gilbert (Professor, Rollins College, U.S.A.), Dr. Nagesh Murthy (Professor, University of Oregon) and Dr. Janice Carrillo (Professor, University of Florida, U.S.A.). The committee unanimously chose Dr. Martin K. Starr (popularly known as Marty) for this award.

Dr. Martin K. Starr is Distinguished Professor Emeritus of Operations Management and Management Science at the Crummer Graduate School of Business, Rollins College in Winter Park, Florida. Dr. Starr is also Professor Emeritus of Operations Research and Management Science at Columbia University's Graduate School of Business.

Dr. Starr has been with *POMS*, our Society, since the early beginnings. He facilitated the growth of *POMS* during its initial years and has been guiding its path towards excellence for the last 24 years. He has served as President of *POMS* and is now the chair of its Council of Presidents. He has been a constant source of guidance and encouragement to *POMS* Presidents and other members of the Society. The sentiments expressed by some of the past presidents of *POMS* sums up very elegantly the contributions of Dr. Starr to the POM discipline in general and *POMS* in particular.

Dr. Cheryl Gaimon (Professor, Georgia Tech., U.S.A.) states, "... when I became President of *POMS*, Marty enthusiastically helped me to understand the complexity of the position and influenced me in terms of how I might make a lasting impact on *POMS*." Dr. Jatinder (Jeet) Gupta (Professor, University of Alabama, Huntsville, U.S.A.) echoes Cheryl's sentiments and observes, "When I was elected President of *POMS*, Marty freely shared his viewpoints and always provided inputs to ensure the growth and vitality of *POMS*. I found him to be a pillar of strength and encouragement."

Dr. Wickham Skinner (Professor, Emeritus, Harvard Business School, U.S.A.), POMS past president, who is a pillar of POMS just like Marty observes, “Marty is one of the very all-time greats in our field. He combines top flight extraordinary understanding and leadership in Operations Management with skillful teaching, clear and masterful writing, and warm and understanding collegiality. His thinking at a high conceptual level is accompanied by a case-by case realistic awareness of real issues, complexity and problems. He is a model for the young and an object of admiration and affection for the old. I love him dearly.”

Dr. Luk Van Wassenhove (Professor, INSEAD, France), POMS past president, states “There is so much to say but I would like to emphasize the present instead of the past. He is a monument in POMS, a true POMS giant who defends POMS’ uniqueness and differentiation from INFORMS. He is one of the few extremely generous people always ready to share his enormous experience on many subjects and issues. In short, he is a mentor to me. I can only wish that we would grow more academics like him but unfortunately the times are “different”. And I can only wish that I would have the determination to become more like him.”

Dr. Starr has facilitated the creation of an identity for production and operations management as an academic discipline not only in the USA but all around the world.

Peter W. Robertson Vice President, Operations Planning, BlueScope Steel, Wollongong, Australia, describes him as the “‘father’ of POM in the Australian region; and so does Henrique Correa, Professor, Crummer Graduate School of Business, Rollins College (Formerly Professor, FGV Business School, Fundacao Getulio Vargas, Sao Paulo, Brazil), for the Latin American region.

Dr. Starr served as the editor-in-chief of *Management Science* for 15 years from January 1967 to June 1982. He has influenced several generations of students and professors with his writings, teaching, and leadership roles in the POM community. I (Sushil) started my academic career in 1969 in India. Marty’s writings had profound impact on me. I always wanted to meet him. It was a “dream come true” when I met Marty after I moved to the U.S.A.

Dr. Starr has been bestowed with many honors and awards during his career. He was elected Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, Fellow of the Institute for Operations Research and Management Science, and Fellow of the Production and Operations Management Society.

Dr. Starr has influenced the corporate world via his writings in practice-oriented journals, consulting assignments; executive development programs, and serving on management boards of various corporations. In 2006, POMS instituted the Martin K. Starr Excellence in Production and Operations Management Practice Award.

Marty continues to write, mentor young professionals, consult with companies, provide service to professional societies, and travel all over the world to expand the POM community and to raise its impact on organizations. He wants to continue to pursue the themes that have fascinated him for more than five decades.

These days, he is interested in exploring the role of POM in securing safety against conscious acts of terror and acts of Nature that wreak havoc. He helped in establishing POMS College of Humanitarian Operations and Crisis Management.

Marty Starr lives in Winter Park (near Orlando) Florida with his wife, Polly Starr. Norman Faull, Professor at Graduate School of Business in Cape Town, who had heard about Polly even before he met her, says, "My senior colleagues at the GSB would always talk about 'Marty and Polly,' as if they were Siamese twins. What they were attesting was what I would come to experience for myself: the twinkle-eyed partnership of two people who respect each other and respect the seriousness of their joint work on this planet. There is an endearing youthfulness about their curiosity of life and living. A Zulu proverb: 'umuntu ungumuntu ngabanye abantu,' is often translated as 'people are people through other people.' Put differently, 'I am human because I belong in a community with others.' I am indeed richer for being part of a community with Marty and Polly."

Aren't we all richer indeed for being part of a community with Marty and Polly."