Kim Elsbach, University of California, tells us all about the OMT Division.

As the new division chair for Organization and Management Theory, I want to re-welcome each and every one of you to the division and thank you for your long-standing support and participation in the division. Thanks to your help, as well as the undaunted efforts of my predecessor, Jerry Davis, the OMT Division is in excellent shape, and - to quote a song from the go-go 90's - "the future's so bright we have to wear shades". Currently OMT's membership tips the scales at a whopping 3,872 members. This makes OMT the third largest division in the Academy of Management, behind OB and BPS, with over 21% of all Academy Members claiming OMT as a divisional home. And this year, OMT members Lai Si Tsui-Auch (Nanyang Technological U.) and Guido Moellering (Max Planck Institute for the Study of Societies) won the Academy's Carolyn Dexter Best International Paper Award:


Thanks to our long-time Treasurer, Marshall Schminke, and his enviable accounting and management skills (not to mention all around good looks), OMT is also in healthy financial shape (more on Marshall below). In short, OMT continues its reign as "the place to be."

The 2007 Academy Meetings. OMT set new records for numbers of submissions and program sessions at the Annual Meetings of the Academy of Management in Philadelphia. Continuing
the OMT tradition of pushing the envelope in Professional Development Workshops, OMT PDW Chair Henrich (not Heinrich) Greve pulled out all the stops and accepted a whopping 48 PDWs in which OMT was a sponsor. The PDW sessions ran smoothly, despite the constant threat of food theft by non-participating conference hoodlums, who were only thwarted by the hiding of cookies behind a potted palm. Our fearless and seasoned Reps-at-Large, Tim Pollack and Pablo Martín de Holan, ran an amazing Doctoral Consortium, while our energetic new Reps-at-Large, Marc David Seidel and Marvin Washington put on a star-studded spectacular of a Junior Faculty Consortium. PDW Chair Henrich Greve also made an inspired speech introducing the 2007 Distinguished Scholar, Ron Burt, although Henrich's Scandinavian sensibilities stopped him short of hugging Professor Burt upon presenting the award.

Not to be outdone, OMT Program Czar, Willie Ocasio put together an impressive slate of scholarly sessions from the over 480 paper and 78 symposium submissions sent to OMT in 2007. Scholarly program sessions included such hits as "Open Source, Open Standards and Distributed Innovation: Private Motives and Public Goods", and "Going the Extra Mile: Antecedents and Psychological Processes in Prosocial Behavior and Initiative", and who could forget, "Comparative Organizations: Its History, Promise, and Future Directions." No wonder the paparazzi were there.

OMT also continues its leadership in innovative Academy programs. Some notable initiatives that are underway at OMT include:

- The Teaching OMT initiative started by our Man in Michigan, Jerry Davis, and our Top Dog in Toronto, Kelly Thomson is becoming a continuing part of the Junior Faculty Consortium at the Academy of Management Meetings. Through this initiative, we hope to ensure that OMT becomes and stays an integral part of business and management education.
- The OMT Dissertation Workshop continues to be a widely-popular session at the Academy Meetings, in which past winners of the OMT Distinguished Scholar Award routinely offer their advice and wisdom. In 2007, the panelists for this workshop included a list of esteemed scholars so impressive (e.g., Karl Weick, Mike Tushman, Bob Hinings, Steve Barley, Dave Whetten, and Howard Aldrich) that we had to fight off the paparazzi.
- The Joint Consortia Editors’ Panel, sponsored by OMT, OB, HR, MOC, and ODC. This panel focuses on editorial wisdom from the Academy of Management Sponsored Journals. Thanks to all the OMT officers and volunteers for their tireless efforts and good spirits in putting on an excellent Academy program.
OMT Executive Officers. In addition to my role as Division Chair, in 2007-2008 OMT welcomes to their new roles, Past Division Chair Jerry Davis, Division Chair Elect Willie Ocasio, and Program Chair Henrich Greve. OMT also welcomes its new officers, Royston Greenwood, Professional Development Workshop Chair, and Candace Jones and Diane Burton Representatives-at-Large. We're all looking forward to years of exciting programs and sumptuous OMT social hours with this motley crew of officers. At the same time, we thank our stellar out-going officers -- Pam Haunschild, Past Division Chair, and Christine Beckman and Mary Tripsas, Third-Year Reps-at-Large -- who have left an indelible imprint on the culture of OMT with their good humor and charm.

OMT Executive Volunteers. OMT welcomes William L. Dougan - long-suffering chair of the teaching committee, as it's new Treasurer. While we are looking forward to years of "documents with Dougan", it is with a heavy heart that all of us at OMT bid Marshall Schmike goodbye as Division Treasurer. Marshall has performed well above and beyond the call of duty as our Treasurer for the past 300 years, and we are eternally grateful for his leadership. In addition, OMT continues to be blessed by the innumerable talents of Newsletter Editor, Tracy Thompson, and Webmaster Pablo Martin de Holan.

The Committees. OMT's Research, Teaching, and Practice Committees were also busy this year. The Research Committee, currently chaired by Joe Labianca selects winners of the Best Paper, Best Dissertation, and Best Symposium awards from among the top submissions in each category for the program. The committee receives between 12 and 20 submissions to evaluate and has a very quick turnaround time, so we are grateful for their willingness to drop everything for this task. The Teaching Committee, currently chaired by Kelly Thomson and Anand Narasimhan, is doing two critical tasks for the future of OMT: gathering and disseminating teaching materials (see the repository on our website) and organizing an annual “Teaching OMT” pre-conference workshop. Finally, the Practice Committee, currently chaired by Andrew Hoffman, seeks to connect the T in OMT to practice by putting together PDW's and symposiums that bring together business practitioners and researchers. The committees are the source of much of OMT's energy in bringing our research work to the world of practice, through teaching and connections with the real world.