President’s Corner

Fall 2013 was a remarkable semester for the INFORMS Student Chapter. We were able to consolidate the chapter as an academic student organization that is innovative and really active. Currently we have a very solid executive board and around 80 members. All of our events had an amazing turnout, especially our weekly seminar, with an average attendance of 23 members. The joint seminars with Omega-Rho were crucial for the kick-off of the seminar series; we extend a special thanks to their board! Our social events gave us the opportunity to interact in an informal environment with colleges interested in Operations Research, Management Sciences and other areas. It was fantastic to interact with faculty and staff of the School of Industrial Engineering during some of those events.

One of our major commitments to you is to improve communication among members of our chapter, therefore we have created social media channels (Facebook fan page, twitter, website) that will allow you not only to stay informed about our events, but also to interact with other members; you never know when you will meet a research collaborator. For this spring semester, we will also advertise events on the bulletin board on the second floor of Grissom Hall.

The event forecast for this semester is great. We will continue with our weekly seminars and sporadic ‘INFORMS Hangouts’. Also, we have some new ideas that will help you to grow professionally and personally. We have planned a competition between the INFORMS chapters of Purdue, Texas A&M and University at Buffalo in the area of Big Data Analysis (details to come!). In addition, we will have several social events, from an ice-cream social to a joint social with our friends of the Human Factors and Ergonomics Society (HFES) Chapter. Stay tuned and follow us on Facebook and Twitter!

Last but not least, we would like to thank our sponsor, the School of Industrial Engineering, for their support of our activities and we hope that the outcomes of our activities were and will be satisfactory from their perspective. Also, I personally will like to thank our faculty advisor, Dr. Patrick Brunese, and the executive board for their great work and effort to make all this possible.

We wish you all the best for this semester and hope to see you in our events!

Best regards,

Jorge Samayoa
President
jorges@purdue.edu
Seminar Series: Semester in Review

The INFORMS Student chapter had one workshop and five research seminars during the fall semester.

KiHyung Kim led the workshop about typing mathematical expressions using Microsoft Word and Microsoft PowerPoint. He showed how the programs provide useful documentation tools for engineers.

Mohsen Moghaddam presented an introduction to the theory and applications of the Data Envelopment Analysis (DEA). His talk encompassed an introduction, significance and impacts, and finally applications of the DEA.

Islam Ali presented the applications of Operations Research and Management Sciences techniques in dealing with different types of disasters. His talk specifically concentrated on the recent massive flood in Colorado.

Harikrishnan Sreekumaran, focused on finding a Nash equilibrium of a complex game using optimization techniques. He also examined applications of the generalized Nash Equilibrium in engineering, market design, and network optimization using new algorithms.

Jorge E. Samayoa introduced the choice cascade model (CCM) for building business strategies. He provided a fresh view point of industry practitioner (Proctor & Gamble) to Purdue graduate students.

Xianyuan Zhan presented the path based cell transmission model (CTM) for heterogeneous users and the dynamic user equilibrium of the model. He utilized a stochastic optimization approach to solve the problem efficiently.

We sincerely thank the speakers, who provided interesting and valuable presentations, and the students, who attended the seminars to share their ideas for mutual benefits.
The Purdue University INFORMS student chapter had an extremely successful fall semester. We held our fall social at the Union Rack ‘n’ Roll, the on-campus bowling alley. We had a large turnout at this first social event of the year, ranging from completely inexperienced bowlers to old pros. We filled several lanes and had a great time teaching each other and competing for the highest score. In addition to bowling, we also reserved several pool tables that night. Many of our members enjoyed this activity as well.

Also, we had the opportunity to enjoy some time with faculty and staff from the school of Industrial Engineering in our ‘INFORMS Hangout’!
Officer Spotlight: Mithun Jacob

How long have you been a member of INFORMS?
Since 2011

What is your INFORMS position?
Treasurer

What do you do for your position?
My responsibilities include preparing the annual budget, ensuring that everyone is reimbursed and handling the finances in general.

What have you liked about INFORMS?
I've had a great time working with the INFORMS team.

What was a highlight during the fall semester for you?
The socials were great fun.

How has INFORMS helped your academic or professional advancement?
It has allowed me to meet IE researchers in a professional setting and learn about ongoing research. This is particularly interesting at Purdue IE thanks our diverse research programs.

What is your research about?
The computational side of human-robot interaction. This includes developing gesture recognition algorithms, building real-time robotics systems and recently, studying multimodal interface design.

What are your favorite foods and movies?
I'm partial to a good steak and a burger. But, my favorite dishes are mostly from Kerala (my state in India) and biryani. Favorite movies include Gattaca, The Dark Knight, Kill Bill: Vol. 1, and Rocky I.

Any special INFORMS memories?
The first seminar was memorable. We made a few mistakes but managed to roll with the punches and put on a pretty good show.
In Case you Missed It

Dr. Abhi Deshmukh joined us during Islam's seminar

Hari's seminar on Optimization Techniques was one of the most popular seminars

Group picture with Dr. Caldwell during Xianyuan Zhan's seminar

Upcoming Events

Thursday, January 30: Dinner social with the Human Factors and Ergonomics Society (HFES) Purdue student chapter at Mad Mushroom Pizza at 6:00 pm. Free pizza and soft drinks will be provided.

Friday, January 31: First Academic Seminar of the spring semester featuring our faculty advisor, Dr. Patrick Brunese, at 12:30 pm in Grissom 210.

For more information about the seminar series, check out our website (web.ics.purdue.edu/~informs/), Facebook page (facebook.com/INFORMSPurdue), or follow us on Twitter (@INFORMSPurdue).