Summary and Highlights

Fall 2014 and Spring 2015 were two memorable semesters for the INFORMS Student Chapter. The chapter maintained its considerable and successful events in addition to some new events. We were able to increase the number of members by 26 and now we have more than 100 members. A new section to our executive board was added for Industry communications and relations. All of our events had an amazing turnout, especially our weekly seminars, with an average attendance of 19 members. Most of the events were open to only members while some of them were open to all students.

We also collaborated with other organizations and held joint events with IE-GSO on professional etiquette, academic seminars, and professional networking. We present a special thanks to their board! Our social events gave us the opportunity to interact in an informal environment with colleges interested in OR/MS and other areas. It was fantastic to interact with faculty and staff of the School of Industrial Engineering in those events. We also had a big joint event with HFES to extend our relation with more students from other IE disciplines.

During the last year we moved to Wang Hall because of building renovation in our main building, Grissom Hall. Wang hall includes many new spaces for our events. Next year, we will move back to Grissom to enjoy the renovated building and hold our new events and activities and we are really excited. The communication board has done an excellent job during the last year to keep the website updated that everyone can go online and be informed of our news and latest events any time.

The Chapter received two awards during the last year. The first award was the Cum-Laude INFORMS award due to excellence of performance during the last year. The award was received in the 2014 INFORMS annual meeting in November 2014 in San Francisco. The second award was the first place in the DOW big data challenge in April 2015 among more than 20 students in a competition with University of Alabama, Texas A&M University, University of Buffalo, University of Michigan, and Auburn University. This was the second year in a row that Purdue Chapter received the first place.

The event forecast for the next semester is great. We will continue with our weekly seminars and sporadic INFORMS Hangouts and social events. We also plan to participate in the 2015 INFORMS Annual meeting and continue with the DOW big data challenge. In addition, we will have several social events and joint events with other organizations. Like us in Facebook and follow our website to get informed.

Last but not least, we would like to thank our sponsor, the School of Industrial Engineering and GSOGA 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,
Mohammad Moshref-Javadi
Vice President, moshref@purdue.edu
Dr. Christopher Quinn is an Assistant Professor in School of Industrial Engineering at Purdue University. He presented his research in the field of “Identifying causal influences in networks of stochastic processes” discussing the structure of large complex networks.

Dr. KiHyung Kim presented his work on “affect of time to build on Investment and capacity choices” with case study on Building Dam. He modeled the problem as delayed stochastic optimal control problem, thus giving managerial insights and thorough Analysis of solution.

Dr. Kalyani Nagaraj presented on “Stochastically Constrained Simulation optimization on Integer lattices: The cgR-SPLINE Algorithm” to find solutions to an optimization problem integer lattice domain as sub-set and whose objective and constraints can be observed using stochastic simulation.

Carolyn Ersland is a career Services Consultant and she gave a seminar on “Salary Negotiation” and also provided information on Purdue Center for career opportunities which are required for a student for jobs and internships.

Darshini Render is a career Services Consultant and she presented “Acing the Interview” for guidance on improving on interview Skills like how to prepare for interview, what to expect from an interview and critical interview tips.

We sincerely thank all the speakers who provided interesting and valuable presentations, and the students who attended the seminars to share their ideas for
Seminar Series: Year in Review

Bobby Vaziri, a PhD candidate in IE presented a new ranking method, Crowd Ranking, which uses wisdom and decision-making. The method creates competitive matches between alternatives and ultimately provides a ranking of the alternatives.

Dadi Xing a PhD candidate presented his research on optimal supersaturated design via lasso. Dadi proposed a number of optimality criteria for the construction of SSD for the perspective of penalized variable selection methods. He also presented examples of simulation and the proposed algorithm.

Harikrishnan Sreekumaran a PhD candidate presented a review of Bi-Level Mixed-Integer Nonlinear Programming problems and described the significant challenges in this class of problems. BLMINLPs have several applications in network planning, market design and vulnerability analysis.

Mrs. Joanne Lax is a graduate student comm. Tech. Specialist. She gave a seminar on “Professional Etiquettes” with a focus on job search, negotiation, communication skills (verbal, non-verbal and written) and writing skills required for a student when they enter the job market.

Natalie Barret described several networking and professional techniques for in-person and online interviews. The techniques are also helpful to broaden the networks for future job searching and communication.

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In addition to research seminars, the Purdue University INFORMS student chapter had also some social events. Students came together to practice how to introduce themselves in a professional networks, online networking, and communicating with other professional people. We also had a joint social event with Human Factors and Ergonomics Society student group at Purdue which was held at Jake’s Roadhouse with more than 20 students participating in the event as a large turnout. We also had a great industry tour to Subaru Automotive Company in Lafayette, IN. Students were exposed to all of the steps of car assembly process.
INFORMS Purdue Chapter was awarded the Cum-Laude award by INFORMS for its excellent performance during the last year. The award was received in the 2014 INFORMS annual meeting in San Francisco, 12 November 2014.

Congratulations to Mohammad Moshref-Javadi and Ashutosh Nayak, IE graduate students at Purdue University, who received the first place in the DOW big data challenge 2015. DOW big data challenge is a student competition organized by INFORMS Chapters that aims at Evaluating and analyzing the data given by DOW Chemical Company and identifying and deriving key points in the data to suggest helpful results to the company. The defined problem comes from daily operations and it represents a real situation that required a solution or improvement. This is the second time in a row that INFORMS- Purdue Chapter wins the first place.
Officer Spotlight: Ashutosh Nayak

How long have you been a member of INFORMS?
A year now as I joined in Fall 2014 as a member.

What is your INFORMS position?
Academic Committee Chair

What do you do for your position?
My responsibilities include inviting speakers, coordinating and making Flyers for the seminar.

What have you liked about INFORMS?
Academic exposure, social interaction and working with a great team, and of course free food!

What was a highlight during the Spring semester for you?
The joint socials at Jake’s and seminar by Dr. Christopher Quinn were great.

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 and multi-disciplinary set-up.

What is your research about?
My Research is about Optimization through Distributed Control in different systems like Manufacturing, logistics and Scheduling. I am also interested in Evolutionary Computing and complex networks.

What are your favorite foods and movies?
Chicken Biryani and Paneer chilli are my favorite. I also cannot miss Mexican and South Indian food! Favorite movies include The Dark Knight, Despicable Me, The Conjuring and Hera Pheri (Hindi movie)

Any special INFORMS memories?
The seminar by Dr. Christopher Quinn was a memorable one. The seminar had highest turnout. The Professional Etiquette by Joanne Lax was also very interesting and useful, especially for international students who are new in the US.
In Case you Missed It

Mrs Joanne Lax presentation on Professional Etiquette

Dr. Quinn's seminar on Casual Influences in networks of stochastic processes

Group photo with INFORMS members and faculties

Upcoming Events

Call-out in September 2015.

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