A Letter From the Chapter President

Welcome back to school IIE! I am still so honored to be president of the Institute of Industrial Engineers, Purdue Chapter. Last semester we accomplished a lot, from career events to our Grand Prix team. As a result, we’ve been awarded our tenth consecutive Gold Award from the National Institute of Industrial Engineers! We already have our new board for the fall of 2011, and they are an exceptional group.

In the spirit of continuous improvement, IIE is looking to make some changes this semester. One of our new programs is the BiggIE program, which is a mentor-mentee program inside of IIE. So far, it has been a great opportunity for old members and new members to meet each other and network. A BiggIE is a wealth of knowledge for new members, from inside information about IE professors to knowing the hidden passageways of Grissom. I hope it’s a program that continues to grow and becomes a staple opportunity of joining IIE.

Another great concept we’re trying out this semester is our committee members. In IIE there was a large gap between board members and general members, so we decided to try out having committee members as a level between the two. The success of the position is really up to the initiative of the member. It has gotten off to a great start. They are already having a large impact; hosting events, updating our alumni list, and helping board members host and organize events.

The potential growth for IIE this semester is fantastic due to the commitment and dedication of our great board and committee members. IIE’s success is directly due to the work put in by their members. I can already tell that this will be a great semester!

Tanya A. Nagatani
Chapter President

Mission Statement:

The mission of the Institute of Industrial Engineers is to help our members succeed academically, grow socially and professionally, and discover the opportunities within Industrial Engineering.
Our story begins at 5:55 pm on September 12, 2011, the evening of the yearly IIE pre-Industrial Roundtable career night. It was eerily dark as I entered the shadow-swathed halls of Armstrong Hall. The wind gusted through the open door, smelling of impending rain, and far behind me in the parking lot, dead leaves skittered across the bleached pavement, scrambling to find shelter from the coming storm. As I advanced slowly down the hallway, the hair on the back of my neck rose and for a single moment I was enveloped with the overwhelming feeling that I was destined to fail, and that no one on earth would want to hire me. Then that moment was gone. Being the epitome of a man, I pushed the thought out of my head, and recovered instantly. Wearing a tailored suit and a wicked smirk, I opened the door of the lecture hall and confidently strode through to meet my fate, laughing in the face of fear.

You can imagine my surprise and relief then, when I realized what IIE Career Night was all about. Even though all engineers were invited to go (not just IIE students), there were still few enough people that face-time with company representatives was actually possible. Anyone who has braved the crowds of IR knows that quality face-time is hard to find, and how valuable it is. In a week where it is easy to feel like a number or name on a piece of paper, Career Night was refreshing.

By Jake Christian
Managing Editor

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Not only is the quantity of personal time increased, but so too is the quality of that time. The companies that attended this year were all prestigious corporations with incredible programs. They were Crowe Horwath, PepsiCo International, Proctor and Gamble, and Whirlpool Corporation. Each of the companies gave a presentation to tell the students what they as a corporation are all about, and then students were encouraged to go to a breakout session with one company of their choice. The breakout sessions were basically more detailed presentations on what each company had to offer and gave an opportunity to ask questions in a smaller, more comfortable setting. Finally, the last half hour of the night was an opportunity to submit resumes to each of the four companies and talk to representatives before anyone at IR.

So, what was the final verdict? The Bad: It turns out I'm not a smooth-talking man hunk in a suit. The Good: Career night was a much more comfortable environment than I had expected. It was a great chance to get some practice talking to companies before the madness of the Industrial Roundtable, so that even though I could no longer smile birds out of the sky, I was ready and confident the following day at IR.
A Closer Look: The BiggIE Program

By Jake Christian
Managing Editor

It's 7:28 pm, and already the dull roar of 40 unknown people is wafting down the hall, feeding the dread nervousness inside you. All of the sudden your legs begin to wobble, your heart begins to pound, and while just 15 minutes ago you were a normal human being, your brain has now lapsed into a primal state where you seem to only be able to communicate in mumbled grunts and nervous laughs.

You approach the door slowly and cautiously pass the threshold, only to be greeted by a sight more frightening than the darkest alleyway in the dingiest part of town: a crowd of brand new faces, pre-separated into cliques for rejection at your convenience. A few people say hello, probably because it's their job, and then you're carted off to the back corner of the room.

We've all been there. Joining a new club or society can be a nerve-wracking experience, and anyone who has ever had to be "new" knows that fighting a regime of cliques can be exhausting and discouraging. Luckily for new members to IIE, both this year and in the future, a new program has been implemented called the BiggIE Program, which is designed to put a stop to this.

The BiggIE program was the idea of Programs Director Ellen Coates, who recognized that sometimes new members need a little extra help getting to know people in an environment where old friends are mixing with new people.

"The idea of the BiggIE program came from a couple semesters before, actually," said Coates. "It started as the idea for a mentor/mentee program involving all of Industrial Engineering, but we decided to try it first in IIE, as a prototype."

So what exactly is it? The basic idea is that new members are paired with a member who has been in IIE for a while, and are given guidance by the older member. However, this simple description hardly does the program justice; Miss Coates describes it as a relationship which is dynamic, evolving, and multifaceted.

"The goal for the BiggIE program is to help new members feel like a part of the group. It gives them someone who can be a resource for not only IIE, but for all of IE and Purdue in general; someone they can be on first name basis with, and someone with whom they enjoy communicating. They can be a resource for questions, advice, interview tips, and classes, while being a friend as well."

Even still, some of the best-intentioned plans can fall short of their lofty goals, and only the people in the program itself can truly gauge the success. However, when asked how she would rate the program, Grand Prix Director Allison Scheidegger, a first time BiggIE, had nothing but positive things to say.

"The whole thing feels very natural I think, because the idea is so great. It is someone to give guidance to, someone to take under your wing."

However, it's not all the one-sided wisdom of the wizened upperclassman. In fact, according to Scheidegger, the relationship between her and her SmallIE is a very amiable and equal one.

"My SmallIE has my back, often reminding me of office hours or meetings if I happen to overlook them in my schedule," she said, with a bit of a blush. "I'd say we bonded through texting actually, and we often just text throughout the day, from a simple 'How's your day going?' to making each other laugh."

From the creator to the participants, it is clear that this BiggIE program is catching on. In a world where it can be so hard to break into cliques and summon the courage to face another meeting full of strangers, the BiggIE program is providing relief and friendship one member at a time.
Burritos Meet Academia: Faculty Luncheon

By Jake Christian
Managing Editor

Throughout the annals of time, mankind has changed dramatically. For instance, at some point in the last 1000 years, men started wearing tights (then thought about it and stopped wearing tights), and for the good of everyone, indoor plumbing was perfected. However, there is something that both you and I have in common with King Henry VIII, Napoleon, Confucius, and every cannibalistic tribe in New Guinea: we love to eat. Indeed, from the time homo-erectus roasted his first squirrel-kebab, to the artery-clogging innovations of modern fast food, human beings have had a love affair with consuming copious hordes of calories. We at the Institute of Industrial Engineers decided to capitalize on this fact, using a tool that has been destroying diets and expanding waste lines since its invention so long ago: the burrito.

On Wednesday September 21, 2011, IIE hosted the first of its bi-semesterly Faculty Luncheons, and anyone who was in attendance will agree that the guest of honor was most certainly the box of deliciously irresistible Chipotle burritos.

Luckily for the good of conversation everywhere, people enjoy eating with their friends almost as much as they enjoy eating itself. Because of this, the Faculty Luncheon was a great place for students to spend time with friends (and free burritos) as well as to get to know the faculty a little better. Faculty members in attendance this time were Professor Landry, Professor Uhan, and legendary IIE faculty advisor Professor James Barany, to name a few. To the surprise of no one, there was never a shortage of starved IIE members to attack and consume the free burritos that were left.

For those that weren’t able to make it to the faculty luncheon yet have an insatiable craving for a Chipotle Burrito, fear not: there is a Chipotle on State Street that is open late. However, if like so many college students, rabid bears, and pirates, you prefer not to pay for your burritos, there is hope. There will be another faculty luncheon before the end of the semester, so keep an eye out, and eat up!

Top Left Picture: (From Left to Right)
Director of Professional Development Ryan Tuomenoksa and long time IIE Faculty Advisor Dr. James Barany enjoy a burrito and a laugh at the faculty luncheon.

Bottom Right Picture:
A box of pristine Chipotle Burritos sits in wait for the inevitable crowd of IIE members and faculty members that is sure to gather around it.
Executive Board & Directors

Executive Board

President: Tanya Nagatani
Vice President: Craig Brissman
Treasurer: Alexa Fisher
Secretary: Marissa Stautz
Assistant Treasurer: Brandon Lewalllen

Directors

Professional Development: Ryan Tuomenoksa
Public Relations and Marketing: Jen Zemola
Programs: Ellen Coates
Grand Prix: Allison Scheidegger

IIE Board Members - Fall Semester 2011

Do you have questions, concerns, suggestions, or feedback? Please don't hesitate to contact Jake Christian, Managing Editor, at christi2@purdue.edu with any or all of them.