A Letter from the Chapter President

Hey guys, sadly this is my farewell letter to IIE. I have been truly honored to serve as your president for the past year. Throughout my presidency, I have had the privilege of working with some of IIE’s greatest leaders. There have been many successes in the year 2011 for IIE Purdue. Our Professional Development team has been very successful at bringing in companies such as Whirlpool, West Monroe Partners, Ingersoll Rand, Subaru, and other great companies. They have done a great job at maintaining and growing professional relationships that will benefit the students of IIE for years to come. The Programs committee has thrown some great events as well in 2011. Some highlights include The Progressive Dinner, the Cardboard Boat Regatta, the Donut Dash, multiple Adopt-A-Spots, and numerous other social events. Public Relations and Marketing has improved so much in the past year under Ellen and Jen. They have been on top of advertising and ensuring our members and the school is well informed of the happenings in IIE. To top it off, our Grand Prix team has become a real contender! I know this spring they will definitely place in the top 10!

This wide variety of events speaks to the core culture of IIE Purdue. We have always been a socially apt group of students. However, we also are highly professional and motivated industrial engineers. To me, this is IIE’s best attribute. I believe our members not only gain the professional skill sets and networks that come with a student organization, but also lifetime friends. I personally can say that some of my best friends are in IIE, and I know that isn’t an uncommon sentiment among the group. Together we have accumulated knowledge and memories that will last us a lifetime.

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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.
The successes of IIE are due entirely to the amazing members that comprise our organization. Each board member has done a great job organizing and pulling off events throughout this year. I couldn’t have had such a successful presidency without the directors this year. Ellen, Vindhya, Marlina, Jen, Ryan, and Allison have done a phenomenal job leading their board members. They all made my job easier. Marissa did a great job ensuring attendance and meeting notes were taken care of, which is a behind the scenes, yet crucial part of IIE. Alexa was one of IIE’s best treasurers. Every dollar was accounted for and tracked properly. Craig’s role as vice president was a crucial support role. He was a great help to me personally. I was able to bounce ideas off of him and have a partner to attend meetings with me.

Sadly during this past year, we have also lost one of our faculty advisors, Professor Barany. Even at the age of 81, he was able to make it to every single executive board meeting. IIE was always something that was permanently penciled in his black calendar for Wednesday night at 6:15 PM in GRIS 155. He was an amazing faculty advisor, always lending his input and wisdom during our discussions. It is impossible to ever replace Professor Barany. I know he has been sorely missed, especially by his students. The best we can do is to continue on in his legacy and ensure that IIE Purdue remains one of the best student chapters in the nation. I look forward to welcoming the new exec board. I am confident they will do an amazing job and keep IIE on the right path.

Allison Scheidegger, Tanya Nagatani, and Kevin Futrell share an IIE bonding experience at the IIE Conference in Spring 2011, only a few months into Tanya’s term as Chapter President.

Chapter President Tanya Nagatani and Programs Director Ellen Coates test out the high-speed cardboard and duct tape creation made by IIE for the Fall 2011 Cardboard Boat Regatta.
Adopt-A-Spot

Progressive Dinner

Cardboard Boat Regatta
A Tribute to Professor James W. Barany
Memories and Anecdotes from Students and Alumni

By Jake Christian
Managing Editor

Unlike most other articles written by your faithful newsletter editor, this one begins with a deceptively simple question: what is it to live? Is living the simple, involuntary act of drawing breath into your lungs, or perhaps the subtle but steady beating of the heart? Is it a warm cup of coffee as you watch the sun rise, fresh and bright on a new day, or a secret laugh with a friend in the dead of night, when it feels like every other soul in all the world is fast asleep? Perhaps life is only truly lived in the beautiful, fragile moments we are given with our loved ones. Is there even a way to capture life in mere words?

The truth is that all of these things are living, and none of them are, at least not by themselves. “Life,” at its simplest, is a word used to capture all of the moments, the millions upon millions of exhilarating, heartbreaking, and infuriating moments which we experience from the time our eyes first open and begin drinking in the world. These moments, like words in a great volume, combine to form sentences, which fill pages upon pages of our very own story, in which we get to be the protagonist. It is this story, this collection of moments, which defines a life in a way a recitation of accomplishments and titles never truly can. To be told about a life makes it something detached, something to be admired while it collects dust on a trophy shelf. To be told someone’s story makes the life vibrant and real, something inspiring, and something which calls to the humanity in us all, resonating from within.

It is for this reason that the passing of Dr. James Barany, whom we all loved and respected in IIE, should be commemorated, at least in part, by those of us who lived part of his story with him. Included in the following pages are some anecdotes and memories of the students and alumni who knew a part of him only they could know. Dr. Barany was an incredibly dedicated advisor and friend to IIE. A legend of the halls of Grissom, his shuffling step and quiet jokes will be missed by all who had grown used to them. Now, without further introduction, here are some memories of his students.

By Tanya Nagatani

“Professor Barany was amazing to his students. He still made it to every exec board meeting until he was in the hospital. I was his TA for IE 200 for the past two semesters and through that heard some of his best jokes. My personal favorite is when he drew 3 rabbits on the overhead and asked, ‘What do you call a line of rabbits who take a step backwards?’ After no one answered he would say, ‘A receding hare line!’

Dr. James Barany
Beloved IIE Faculty Advisor
By Ben Brown

“Rateyprofessor.com says it best: ‘Dr. Barany is the kind of professor that exemplifies Purdue. Old-fashioned, dry humor, a little politically incorrect... and he’s forgotten more about his field than you’ll ever know. He made Purdue IE what it is today and will be missed.’”

By Alex Persha

“Dr. James Barany advised me throughout my 5 years while attending Purdue. My first experience with Barany was during my Engineering 100 class my freshman year where each engineering college brought one of their advisors to talk about the discipline. I still remember the joke he told: ‘When geese fly south, why is one side of the V usually longer than the other? There are more geese on that side.’ It was with those classic jokes that Dr. Barany’s personality was really brought out. He had a great sense of humor and never held back a quick one-liner like that joke.

Dr. Barany cared deeply about the Industrial Engineering department and the students he interacted with. I remember that whenever I was scheduling for classes, he would know exactly the classes I should be taking and would provide some personal insight into what they had to offer and what I should expect out of the class.

It is very sad that Dr. Barany passed away. I know he has made a huge impact on me and that his legend will continue to live on within Industrial Engineering and at Purdue University.”

By Olimpia Burgess

“As a Co-Op student, I feel as though I was able to spend a bit more time with Professor Barany than most other students. I looked up to him and trusted him to mentor and guide me through the Co-Op system. He loved the Co-Op system and all of the students involved in it, and he really wanted to get to know us on a personal level – not just on a typical advisor/student level. I couldn’t have asked for a better advisor, and I already dearly miss his guidance and all of his stories as I went in for advising this semester.

I know Professor Barany touched many of the students’ lives in IE department, and he will be missed for many years to come. May he rest in peace.”
By Ryan Tuomenoksa

“I have a few moments that I remember. The first is that in every IE 200 seminar he would tell us a joke at the beginning. My favorite was: ‘How do you keep an IU grad off your front porch? You pay him for the pizza.’ Most of his other ones were a little inappropriate, but that joke I thought was pretty funny coming from him.

Another moment I remember is when we were at the IIE Regional Conference last year and I was talking to a group of guys from Ohio State and they all new Professor Barany and thought he was awesome. I enjoyed that even Ohio State knew how great Professor Barany was.”

By Kate Gorman

“I had the opportunity to get to know Dr. Barany while planning the IIE conference in 2010. The many emails and thoughts that were exchanged between Dr. Barany and I will be cherished forever. He knew exactly what the students really wanted to do at conference and also knew how to support us. He always had our interest in mind and defended and fought for what the students of IIE deserved.

One of my favorite stories comes from when I was doing a Freshman engineering seminar with him. He had, of course, done the example where he wrote in a circle and talked about how efficient that was, but that if you actually did it, how crazy people would think you were. Dr. Barany went on to explain more about IE and details, and then he told a great joke about management students: ‘I am not trying to say anything about other programs, but did you know the management school had to dig a tunnel to the union in order for their students to find food?’ Dr. Barany had many jokes and stories that brought laughter to a monotonous class or just to brighten your day. I feel honored that I had the opportunity to have him as a Professor and adviser and will cherish those moments forever.”

By Dhvanit Pathak

“Dr. Barany inspired me to choose Industrial Engineering. During my first semester, I was confused like any other engineering freshman about what branch to choose. I just happened to choose one of the IE callouts, as we were required to choose three engineering callouts for my ENGR 195 class assignment. That's where I saw Dr. Barany for the first time. I wasn't motivated at all to pay any attention and wanted to get out of there as soon as possible but then he spoke these miraculous words, ‘Other engineers work hard, Industrial Engineers work smart.’ And those words made all the difference there was to be made. He was a great mentor and a great human being. He shall be missed.”

By Christian Angarita

“I just want to say that professor Barany was an admirable man and it is thanks to his commitment and devotion to develop the Purdue IE program that we have the opportunity to graduate with a great education and have such bright futures ahead of us. He was always cheerful, would greet you with a joke, and was always very eager and willing to help.”
Executive Board & Directors

Executive Board

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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.