

## Minutes

For the University of Massachusetts at Amherst Student Chapter of the Institute for Operations Research and the Management Sciences (INFORMS) held an Officer Meeting on September 21<sup>st</sup>, 2006 in room 128 of the Isenberg School of Management - UMass Amherst starting at 5:45 PM E.S.T.

Pizza and soda was served.

### New Business:

1. Elections for new officers for the 2006-2007 school was held. This is outlined in the Charter for the University of Massachusetts at Amherst Student Chapter of the Institute for Operations Research and the Management Sciences (INFORMS).

#### 2006-2007 Academic Year Officers Elected:

- President: Christian Wernz
  - Vice President: Qiang (Patrick) Qiang
  - Secretary: Tara Demeyer
  - Treasurer: Thomas Lenk
  - Speaker Series Coordinator: Trisha Woolley
  - Webmaster: Baris Hasdemir
2. There will be an end of semester party. The date is not yet determined.
  3. Members brainstormed ideas of group activities for the Fall Semester. Some of the suggested activities are:
    - Golf Outing
    - Rent a Movie
    - Skiing
  4. Fund-raising activities were discussed:
    - Bake sale
    - Corporate Sponsorship
    - INFORMS t-shirts
    - Ice-cream social
    - GSO membership
  5. The UMASS INFORMS Fall 2006 Seminar Series in Operations Research/Management Science consists of 6 speakers: Dr. Robin Lougee-Heimer of IBM Thomas J. Watson Research Center, Professor William Hogan, The Raymond Plank Professor of Global Energy Policy at the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University, Professor Cynthia Barnhart of the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering and the Engineering Systems Division at MIT, Professor Andrew McCallum of the Department of Computer Science at UMass Amherst, Dr. Les Servi of Lincoln Labs at MIT, and Professor Nathaniel

Whitaker of the Department of Mathematics and Statistics.

Dr. Lougee-Heimer is an expert in the use of analytics to provide solutions to challenging business problems and is the co-creator of the Computational Infrastructure for Operations Research. She will present the talk, "Advanced Applications of Operations Research at IBM" on September 29, 2006.

Professor Hogan is the Research Director of the Harvard Electricity Policy Group and is the Director of the Energy Environmental Policy Center at Harvard. His talk will be presented on October 13, 2006.

Professor Barnhart is an expert on optimization approaches to airline industry problems and was awarded the Franz Edelman Prize for Achievement in Operations Research and the Management Sciences. Her presentation, "Optimization Approaches to Airline Industry Challenges," will be given on October 27, 2006.

Professor McCallum's expertise is in statistical machine learning applied to information extraction and document classification and was previously a Vice President of Research Development at WhizBang Labs. His presentation, "Bayesian Models of Social Networks and Texts," which will also discuss an application to the Enron investigation, will be given on November 3, 2006.

Dr. Servi, who has also worked at Bell Laboratories and at GTE, is the holder of 7 patents and was awarded in 1999 GTE's highest technical award. He is an expert on performance analysis of telecommunications systems and since 2000 has been at Lincoln Labs in the Advanced Networks and Applications group. He is a recently elected INFORMS Fellow and has been appointed the editor of the journal Management Science. Dr. Servi will be speaking in ISOM on November 17, 2006.

Professor Whitaker develops numerical methods for solving differential equations, especially those which result from fluid mechanics. Professor Whitaker received the 2005-2006 Distinguished Outreach Award from UMass Amherst for establishing a Saturday math program for African-American students which evolved into a program to boost math skills and self-confidence of African-American students in the Amherst-Pelham public schools. He will give his talk, "Some Mathematical Models in Medicine" on December 1, 2006.

Anna Nagurney, the John F. Smith Memorial Professor at the Isenberg School of Management, serves as the Faculty Advisor to the Chapter and the Speaker Series.

Please also visit the chapter's website at:

<http://student.som.umass.edu/informs/> for lists of past speakers and other chapter activities.

After each talk up to 4 members of the student chapter can join in a lunch with the presenter and our faculty advisor Professor Nagurney who substantially contributed to this speaker series as well as the startup of the student chapter. The Department of Finance and Operations Management of the School of Management sponsors these lunches. The chapter is very thankful for the support provided by Professor Nagurney, the Isenberg School of Management, the Department of Finance and Operations Management and the John F. Smith Memorial Fund, and INFORMS.

Graduate and undergraduate students who are interested in joining the chapter may contact Patrick Qiang for more information.

The following students have already signed in to participate in the lunch for September 29<sup>th</sup>, 2006 with Dr. Robin Lougee-Heimer: Trisha Woolley, Christian Wernz, Tara Demeyer, and Baris Hasdemir.

Members interested in participating in one of the lunches at the faculty club should contact Trisha at [umassinforms@som.umass.edu](mailto:umassinforms@som.umass.edu). Lunch assignments are coordinated on a first come first serve basis.

The meeting adjourned at 6:45 PM E.S.T