Welcome to the UMASS Amherst Student Chapter of INFORMS

http://student.som.umass.edu/informs/

UMASS Amherst is located in the beautiful Pioneer Valley in western Massachusetts with neighboring colleges such as Amherst College, Smith College, Mount Holyoke College, and Hampshire College comprising with it the Five College System. The chapter’s purpose is to encourage interest in and provide a means of communication on topics and activities surrounding operations research and the management sciences.

Our members include students from the Isenberg School of Management, the College of Engineering, the Computer Science Department, the Resource Economics Department, and other departments at UMass Amherst.

As a major activity of the student chapter, the bi-weekly Operations Research/Management Science Speaker Series has just celebrated its 8th semester birthday. Many world-renowned scholars have given talks in the speaker series, including Professor Richard Larson of MIT, Professor Cynthia Barnhart, Dr. Brenda Dietrich, Professor Karen Polenske, Professor Edward Kaplan, Professor Dietrich Braess, and Dr. Irv Lustig. The topics in the speaker series are truly interdisciplinary and intellectually inspiring, including gang homicide in Chicago, OR applications to music composition and visualization, technologies used to monitor and predict tornados, and many other interesting themes. Due to its increasing impact, the speaker series has appeared on the university home page and local newspapers several times, which helps to attract a wide audience from the local area.

Professor Richard Larson Giving Talk in the Speaker Series
Ever since its establishment in 2004, the student chapter has devoted itself to raising the awareness of and interest in OR/MS in many ways. For example, the student chapter has organized a field trip to the Savage Arms Factories and Supply Chain Department in Springfield, MA. The chapter members had a chance to see the operations of the company and listen to a presentation by the company management, which gave members an exposure to the real-world applications of OR.

Savage Arms Field Trip

The student chapter is also actively involved in promoting the participation of women in OR/MS and science. We successfully co-sponsored "Women In Science: Changing the Climate from the Bottom Up and the Top Down," in which participants ranging from government officials, to university professors and students, to even high school teachers. The plenary talk and the discussion afterwards were well received.
The UMass Amherst Student Chapter also holds several social activities each semester to create venues for its members to socialize and for ‘outsiders’ to get to know the student chapter. So far, we have organized such activities as an end-of-semester party, bowling night, a golfing event, and an INFORMS ping pong tournament.
Because of the exceptional accomplishments of our student chapter, it received the INFORMS Student Chapter Annual Award Summa Cum Laude at the NATIONAL INFORMS Conference in Seattle in November 2007. This highest distinction given to a student chapter recognizes the outstanding achievements of our student chapter in 2006.
The social activities are funded by INFORMS and by the Graduate Student Senate of UMass Amherst, whose support are gratefully acknowledged.

Finally, the student chapter is especially grateful for valuable support provided by our faculty advisor, the John F. Smith Memorial Professor Anna Nagurney.

Current officers

**President**
Qiang (Patrick) Qiang

**Vice President**
Trisha Woolley

**Treasurer**
Amir Masoumi

**Secretary**
Deanna (Bean) Kennedy

**Webmaster**
Zugang (Leo) Liu

Some Members of the UMASS Amherst Student Chapter of INFORMS with the Present President, Patrick Qiang, in the Red T-shirt