In this Winter 2018-2019 newsletter issue you will find a recap of the awards and events from the 2018 INFORMS Annual Conference. During our business meeting we presented three awards: the Early Career Award, the Paper Competition Award, and Doctor Colloquium Award for current students. We also heard from our board concerning the continued growth of our membership and the MIF sponsored sessions.

We would like to express a special thank you to all of our sponsors who make the MIF events possible! We appreciate your continued support as we grow and continue to make an impact in the INFORMS community!

**MIF by the Numbers**

*$500$: The increase in support between 2016 and 2017.

*15*: The number of posters presented during our Student Poster Competition

*92*: The number of current MIF members.

*We are always looking to welcome new members to our community!*
From our President

I am so delighted to report that 2018 was yet another great year for the INFORMS Minority Issues Forum. This was possible because of the wonderful volunteers and financial sponsors. We are grateful to the University of Michigan’s department of Industrial and Operations Engineering and North Carolina State University’s Fitts department of Industrial and Systems Engineering for co-sponsoring our 2018 MIF Reception and Poster Competition.

This year, we continue to strive towards reaching our goals of increasing regular and graduate student membership, improving visibility and participation of minority and underrepresented groups at INFORMS. To help us achieve these goals, I encourage you to join MIF, volunteer as a “judge”, and/or encourage your students to participate in the MIF poster competition.

Finally, on behalf of the MIF Board and community, THANK YOU to all our financial sponsors and volunteers for making it possible for MIF to carry out all those wonderful events and make an impact in the INFORMS community.

Professor Lewis Ntaimo
Marilyn and L. David Black Faculty Fellow
Industrial and Systems Engineering
Texas A&M University

Awards

The MIF Early Career Award Recognizes outstanding contributions to the theory or practice of OR/MS and service made by active members of MIF. Dr. Eduardo Perez is our 2018 Early Career Award Winner! Dr. Perez is an assistant professor of Industrial Engineering at the Ingram College of Engineering, Texas State University. His research interests involve opportunities and challenges in patient service personalization and the design of systems for service customization.

In 2018, MIF sponsored two students to attend the INFORMS Doctoral Colloquium. The award was given to Gian-Gabriel Garcia and Alejandro Vigo Camago, both who are doctoral students at the University of Michigan’s Department of Industrial & Operations Engineering. The colloquium precedes the INFORMS conference and helps future graduates learn about careers as academics or practitioners through various panels and discussion sessions.

The 2018 student poster competition gives MIF graduate students the opportunity to present their research, get feedback from leaders in OR/MS, and grow their network in the INFORMS community.

Left to right: Shannon Harris, Ruben Proaño, Liz Halter, Donald Richardson, Destenie Nock, Lewis Ntaimo, Young-Jun Son.

Want to learn more about MIF?

E-mail us at: mif.informs@gmail.com, or visit us on the web at: connect.informs.org/minorityissuesforum/home

Join our LinkedIn group. (search for “INFORMS Minority Issues Forum”)

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The 2018 student poster competition gives MIF graduate students the opportunity to present their research, get feedback from leaders in OR/MS, and grow their network in the INFORMS community. Participants are judged on the rigor of their research and their presentation skills. Our 2018 winners were Destenie Nock, a graduate student from the University of Massachusetts Amherst (“Sustainable Electric Generation Portfolios: A Multi-Criteria Decision Analysis Framework”) and Donald Richardson, a graduate student from University of Michigan (“Simulating the Outcome of Make-Ahead Drug Policies at an Outpatient Chemotherapy Infusion Center”). Liz Halter, Washington University in St Louis (“Using Discrete-Event Simulation to Evaluate Radiology Process Changes Pre-Implementation”) received honorable mention.

The 2018 poster competition reception was sponsored by The NC State University Fitts Dept. of I&SE and University of Michigan I&OE Dept.

Our 2018 Paper Competition winner was “Routing and staffing when servers are strategic”, authored by Ragavendran Gopalakrishnan, Sherwin Doroudi, Amy R. Ward, Adam Wierman. The paper competition Finalists were:

- Demand fulfillment probability in a multi-item inventory system with limited historical data” Canan G. Corlu, Bahar Biller, Sridhar Tayur
- A decomposition-based heuristic for stochastic emergency routing problems” Belleh Fontem, Sharif H. Melouk, Burku B. Kesin, Naeem Bajwa
- “The value of waiting during labor” Karen Hicklin, Julie Ivy, Fay Cobb Payton, Meera Viswanathan, Evan Myers

Thank you to all the participants and judges for a great award experience. Hopefully, we will see you all at the next annual meeting in Seattle!

Special Thank You to our Sponsors

With the help of our sponsors, we are able to continue to support the research of minority scholars in OR/MS. For more information on supporting MIF, contact our Treasurer, Jamol Pender at jjp274@cornell.edu.