

INFORM-ED Newsletter

[Fall 2010 issue]

President's Corner

David Rader (david.rader@rose-hulman.edu)

Yes, it's been awhile since our last newsletter (spring came and went before I knew it). Yes, this is a new look (just trying something new). But now that the INFORMS Annual Meeting is fast approaching, it's time to review what we've done and our plans for the Austin meeting.

To the right is a condensed list of our activities in Austin. I hope to see you all at some of the sessions and at the Sunday Business Meeting. We will update you on some of the activities that have been occurring. I also want to hear from you regarding new ideas for the forum.

Let me call to your attention to the excellent cluster of education sessions that Matt Bailey (Bucknell University) has organized, which are summarized on the next page. Matt has worked hard with our INFORM-ED colleagues to put together a program which will be of interest and value to faculty in many different programs, trainers and practitioners in corporate environments, and others.

Although elections are not held this year, a special elections is needed to replace Elke Leeds, who has stepped down as Newsletter Editor. If you are interested in serving in the role for the upcoming year, please let me know before November 6.

One item I'd like to discuss at the business meeting is how INFORM-ED is positioned to contribute to the teaching of Analytics, which will become a new area of interest for INFORMS. I am interested in your views on this.

I look forward to seeing you in Austin!

2010 Annual Meeting Activities

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INFORM-ED will be active at the Annual Meeting in Austin, TX.

- INFORM-ED sessions (Track 36) go from Sunday until Wednesday morning. They will be held in the **Convention Center, Room 8B, Level 3**
- The annual Case Competition will be held on Sunday during the afternoon sessions (C and D).
- INFORM-ED Business meeting will be held Sunday from 6:15 – 7:30 PM in **Convention Center, Room 8B, Level 3**. Refreshments will be served.
- We are also manning an informational table at the Opening Reception held Sunday evening from 7:30 – 9:00 PM.

INFORM-ED Sponsored Sessions (Track 36)

(All sessions last one and a half hours)

Sunday

- 08:00 The First Undergraduate OR Course, *Susan Martonosi*
- 11:00 Tutorial: Managing Student Projects, *Peter Bell*
- 13:30 Teaching Case Competition I, *Mike Racer*
- 13:30 Panel Discussion - Improving Teaching Effectiveness: tips from Seasoned Faculty, *Burcu Keskin and Matt Bailey* (Joint Session JFIG/INFORM-Ed)
- 16:30 Teaching Case Competition II, *Mike Racer*

Monday

- 08:00 Online Teaching I, *Mike Racer*
- 11:00 Teaching OR Through Active Learning I, *Kevin Hutson*
- 13:30 Teaching OR Through Active Learning II, *Richard Forrester*
- 16:30 Online Teaching II, *Mike Racer*

Tuesday

- 08:00 Accreditation Issues in OR/MS Education, *Eric Huggins*
- 11:00 Communication Instructional Tools from Georgia Tech and Texas Tech, *Judith Norback*
- 13:30 Operations Research in High Schools – Project MINDSET and Outreach: A Panel Discussion, *Ken Chelst*
- 16:30 Panel Discussion: Analytics Curriculum in the Business School. Are We Teaching the Skills Employers Seek?, *Curt Hinrichs*

Wednesday

- 08:00 Research in Teaching Schools, *John Kros*

INFORM-ED website

Kellie Keeling (kellie.keeling@du.edu)

If you have any information that you would like added to the Teaching Materials section, please send the information to Kellie Keeling.

Issues in Education Column

Matt Drake (drake987@duq.edu)

We have had an excellent year of submissions to the "Issues in Education" column in OR/MS Today, but we always have to keep thinking about next year.

Even though we have a bit of a backlog right now, there are spots open in the six bi-monthly issues that fill the 2011 calendar. We're looking for your 900-word submissions on any interesting topic related to OR/MS education. Please send your articles (or ideas for articles on which you want my feedback) to me.

Publications

John Kros (krosj@ecu.edu)

I hope the beginning of the Fall Semester has treated everyone well. Here are some thoughts as we all prepare for INFORMS in Austin this Fall.

Just a reminder of the changes and improvements in the Publications area. Kellie Keeling from the University of Denver is our webmaster. If you haven't yet, go out to the INFORM-ED website and take a look. The website is:

<http://education.forum.informs.org/>

Please send your comments or any ideas for the website to Kellie Keeling (KKeeling@du.edu). OR/MS Today publishes the Issues in Education column in every issue. This column is sponsored by INFORM-ED and the new editor is Matt Drake. Contact Matt (drake987@duq.edu) to contribute an article to this series.

We are all looking forward to another successful case competition. This year is the 11th annual. Please contact Mike Racer (mracer@memphis.edu) for questions regarding the competition.

See y'all in Austin!

INFORM-ED and the INFORMS Business Education Committee

Eric Huggins

The INFORM-ED subcommittee to the INFORMS Business Education Committee has been working on defining which topics management science students should learn. The charge of the main committee is to ensure, as mandated by the AACSB, that students learn "statistical data analysis and management science as they support decision-making processes throughout an organization." Some business schools have started to reduce the size of their business cores, and often management science or analytics requirements have been reduced or eliminated; the main committee's goal is to convince these schools to retain management science courses.

The current goal of the INFORM-ED subcommittee is to determine which topics are essential for a management science course. We have created a document that defines these topics, which is currently being discussed among the main committee. The main question that we are discussing is which topics apply specifically to a management science course. For example, forecasting may be taught in a statistics course, an operations management course, or in a management science course. On the other hand, linear programming is typically taught in a management science course. The long-term goal of the INFORM-ED subcommittee is to help the main committee in any way we can, potentially by developing resources to help management science teachers.

INFORMS/IFORS International Education Initiative

Before 2011 – A Brief History of the Initiative

In the Fall 2006 INFORM-ED Newsletter we introduced INFORMS/IFORS International Education Initiative; through this initiative INFORMS and IFORS (The International Federation of Operational Research Societies <http://www.ifors.org/>) work with operations research societies from developing regions to jointly organize teaching effectiveness colloquia. These colloquia, patterned after INFORMS' highly successful annual series of teaching effectiveness colloquia (TEC), feature extended workshops on effective and novel/innovative approaches to operations research education. The workshops that comprise these colloquia are given by members of INFORMS, other IFORS affiliated organizations, and the host organization; this integration fosters:

- important cross-cultural exchanges of ideas;
- development of infrastructures to support education initiatives within the host organizations;
- creation and extension of a worldwide community of operations researchers who are concerned with the quality of operations research education and the ensuing applications; and
- improvement in the quality of operations research education provided by all participants in these colloquia.

The first five colloquia were held in Montevideo, Uruguay (November 2006); Cape Town, South Africa (September 2007); Cartagena, Colombia (September 2008); Jaipur, India (December 2009); and Buenos Aires (June 2010). These colloquia have been very successful, each attracting 40 – 60 participants. Participants have represented the following countries:

Argentina	India	Portugal
Austria	Iran	Rwanda
Botswana	Italy	Senegal
Brazil	Japan	South Africa
Burkina Faso	Kenya	South Korea
Burundi	Lesotho	Spain
Cameroon	Madagascar	Taiwan
Canada	Malawi	Tanzania
Chile	Malaysia	Thailand
China	Mali	Uganda
Columbia	Mexico	United States
Cuba	Namibia	Uruguay
Ethiopia	Nigeria	Venezuela
France	Panama	Zambia
Guatemala	Peru	Zimbabwe

2011

We are now preparing to hold the sixth workshop in this series in Nairobi, Kenya in October at the 2011 ORSEA (Operations Research Society of Eastern Africa) Conference. We look forward to the opportunity to interact with our ORSEA colleagues and extend the developing network of operations researchers concerned with the quality of education to Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Burundi, and Rwanda (the principal countries of the ORSEA) and other countries in the region.

Beyond 2011

Individuals representing OR societies from Russia, Mexico, Egypt, Malaysia, and Cuba have expressed interest in hosting a Teaching Effectiveness Colloquium, but INFORMS current commitment concludes with the 2011 colloquium. I will propose to INFORMS Board of Directors that the institute extend its commitment to this program for six additional years. Although funding for future colloquia is uncertain, I will continue to work with OR societies from developing regions and volunteers from well-established OR societies to continue to this program.

Jim Cochran

Upcoming Opportunities Outside of INFORMS - The 19th Triennial Conference of the International Federation of Operational Research Societies (IFORS)

I have agreed to organize education related sessions for the 19th Triennial Conference of the International Federation of Operational Research Societies (IFORS), to be hosted by the Victorian chapter of the Australian Society for Operations Research (ASOR). The conference will be held at the new Melbourne Convention Centre in the center of Melbourne, Australia from July 10-15, 2011 and will bring operational researchers from around the globe together, so this represents a tremendous opportunity for members of INFORM-ED to reach out to the international operations research community and visit a spectacular city. Please contact me at jcochran@cab.latech.edu or (318) 257-3445 if you are interested in organizing an OR education-related session or giving an OR education related presentation at this conference. You may also find more information at the conference website (<http://www.ifors2011.org/committee.asp>). The deadline for abstract submissions is **January 31, 2011**.

I hope to hear from you soon and see you at the 2011 IFORS Triennial Conference in Melbourne!

Jim Cochran

The purpose of INFORM-ED is to provide publications, workshops, conference sessions, resources, and networking opportunities for individuals interested in the teaching of operations research and the management sciences at institutions of higher education.

INFORM-ED encourages discussion, interaction, and dissemination regarding education and the relationship of teaching to the profession of operations research and the management sciences

