



# THEMIFUPDATE

## 2017 Newsletter

2017 was an exciting year for the Minority Issues Forum. During our annual meeting we honored our Paper Competition and Early Career Award winners, and voted in new board members. We also heard from 17 MIF graduate students who are doing research in OR/MS. The annual meeting concluded with a reception where the students presented their research poster, and members were able to network.

## Welcome to our new board members!

MIF board members are elected to the board for two year terms. The 2018-19 board was elected during the INFORMS 2017 Annual Meeting.



Left to Right: Lewis Ntiamo (president), Trilce Encarnacion (Junior Programs Chair), Shannon Harris (Communications Co-Chair), Jessye Talley (Secretary), Eduardo Perez (Programs Co-Chair), Laila Cure (Communications Co-Chair)

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# A message from our President

*As president of MIF, my goal for the next two years is to go beyond the progress that MIF has achieved so far. Specific goals include increasing regular and graduate student membership; improving visibility and participation of minority and underrepresented groups at INFORMS; and growing the MIF financial portfolio to enable MIF activities.*

*If you have interest or passion in minority issues, you are welcome to join MIF, participate in MIF by volunteering as a “judge” for one of our activities, or make a financial contribution to MIF.*

Professor Lewis Ntiamo  
Industrial and Systems Eng.  
Texas A&M University

## Awards



Julie Ivy and Krystel K. Castillo

The **MIF Early Career Award** was created to promote and bring visibility to recent contributions of MIF members in the field of operations research, management science, or information systems.

**Krystel K. Castillo** is our 2017 Early Career Award Winner! She is an Assistant Professor at The University of Texas at San Antonio. Her research interests focus on the application of Operations Research as well as statistical methods to

model, analyze, and solve complex decision problems. **Shadi Sharif Azadeh** is the 2017 Early Career Award Honorable Mention. She is an assistant professor at the Econometrics department of Erasmus School

of Economics. Her research interests are mostly focused on choice based optimization in revenue management and pricing in the context of mobility, transportation and logistics.



Julie Ivy and Shadi Sharif Azadeh



Destenie Nock

This year, MIF sponsored a student to attend the Doctoral Colloquium. The colloquium precedes the INFORMS conference and helps future

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Maria E. Mayorga

## A message from our Past President

*Over the past 7 years, I have served the Minority Issues Forum of INFORMS as Treasurer, Secretary, Vice-President, President and I will continue to serve as Past-President. However, MIF has been a part of my life for a lot longer than that, as I started participating since graduate school in the poster session. Since then, MIF has increased the quantity and quality of activities. In recent years we have added more awards to highlight the professional achievements of MIF members. Of course, none of this would*

*have been possible without the help and support of all the board members, judges and sponsors. MIF provided me with leadership opportunities since early in my career, but what I am most grateful for are the friendships and networks that it has allowed me to build. I look forward to continue to grow with the MIF family as we strive to foster under-represented minority participation and success in Operations Research and Management Science.*

Professor Maria E. Mayorga  
Dept. of Industrial & Systems Engineering  
North Carolina State University

# MIF by the Numbers

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graduates learn about careers as academics or practitioners through various panels and discussion sessions. This year's winner of the **travel award** was **Destenie Nock**, a doctoral student at the University of Massachusetts Amherst. Her research is focused on studying the sustainability of Power Systems.

The **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. The 2017 first place was shared by **Gian Gabriel Garcia**, a graduate student from the University of Michigan ("A Stochastic Programming Approach to Determine Decision Boundaries for Medical Diagnosis) and **Toyya A. Pujol**, a graduate student from Georgia Institute of Technology ("Assessing the Health and Wellness Outcomes of Infants Born to Teen Mothers"). **Donald Richardson** ("Predicting Patient Treatment Deferrals/No-show's to Improve Chemotherapy Pre-mix Policies") and **Lauren Steimle** ("Multi-model Markov Decision Processes for Mitigating Parameter Ambiguity in Medical") received honorable mentions. Our 2017 **Paper Competition winner** was "**Chemotherapy appointment scheduling under uncertainty using mean-risk stochastic integer programming**", authored by **Michelle Alvarado** and **Lewis Ntiamo**. A full list of paper competition finalists can be found on the last page of the newsletter.



Toyya A. Pujol



Left to right:  
Gabriel Zayas-Caban, Maria Mayorga, and Lewis Ntiamo.  
Lauren Steimle, Gian-Gabriel Garcia, and Donald Richardson.



Lauren Davis, Lewis Ntiamo, and Sean Barnes

**\$4,500**

- The increase in support between 2016 and 2017.
- These funds supported the prizes to our award winners, funded graduate students to attend the conference, and to learn about the research of their peers.

**18**

- The number of posters presented during our Student Poster Competition

**78**

- The number of current MIF members.
- We are always looking to welcome new members to our community!

# 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](mailto:jjp274@cornell.edu).



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## 2017 Paper Competition Finalists

### Winner

- Alvarado, Michelle, and Lewis Ntiamo. "Chemotherapy appointment scheduling under uncertainty using mean-risk stochastic integer programming." *Health care management science* 21.1 (2018): 87-104.

### Finalists

- Akcay, Alp, and Canan G. Corlu. "Simulation of inventory systems with unknown input models: a data-driven approach." *International Journal of Production Research* 55.19 (2017): 5826-5840.
- Büyüctahtakın, İ. Esra, and Joseph C. Hartman. "A mixed-integer programming approach to the parallel replacement problem under technological change." *International Journal of Production Research* 54.3 (2016): 680-695.
- Mayorga, Maria E., Emmett J. Lodree, and Justin Wolczynski. "The optimal assignment of spontaneous volunteers." *Journal of the Operational Research Society* 68.9 (2017): 1106-1116.

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more about  
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Shannon Harris and Laila Cure