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.

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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 Ntaimo
Industrial and Systems Eng.
Texas A&M University

Awards

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.

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

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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
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 Ntaimo. A full list of paper competition finalists can be found on the last page of the newsletter.

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.

2017 Paper Competition Finalists

Winner


Finalists


Want to learn more about MIF?

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Or visit us on the web at:

[connect.informs.org/minorityissuesforum/home](http://connect.informs.org/minorityissuesforum/home)

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