Hello alumni! WMU Institute of Industrial and Systems Engineers (previously Institute of Industrial Engineers) would like to send our warmest welcomes your way. Recently, we have recognized a gap in our connection to alumni; due to this we have decided to start an annual newsletter to send updates, make connections, and hopefully build a stronger relationship with our alumni. We hope you enjoy seeing pictures of our students and members of IISE, as well as some fun updates and events to come! GO BRONCOS!
GENERAL UPDATES

CHANGE IN LEADERSHIP

Since this newsletter is reaching a wide range of alumni, we would like to give updates on not only IISE but also our major, Industrial and Entrepreneurial Engineering.

Recently our department has undergone a leadership change. Dr. Butt has been promoted to Interim Dean of the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences; the acting department chair position has been filled by our own Dr. Greene. I hope you all join us in congratulating our new interim dean and acting department chair on these huge accomplishments!

2019 GREAT LAKES REGIONAL CONFERENCE

Pictured right are students Anna Konstant and Cortney York after the student technical paper competition. Anna placed 2nd overall and Cortney placed 3rd. Anna presented a version of her senior design project, sponsored by Pridgeon and Clay, which was incredibly well received by not only the audience but also the judges. Anna focused on optimizing the pack out process for the tier 1 automotive supplier. Cortney was able to present her work design project regarding delivery optimization at a local fast food restaurant, Two Fellas.

We are so proud of our technical paper competitors and their successes. If you or your company is interested in sponsoring a senior design project please contact Dana Hammond at dana.hammond@wmich.edu.
GENERAL UPDATES

INNOVATION EXPO 2019

The Innovation Expo 2019 outreach event drew 360 students from K-12 to our campus to show off their innovative products and ideas. Some of our undergraduate students participated as well, and the event grows every year.

Students had a chance to gain experience in presenting their products and prototypes. Judges evaluated the projects and the winning student teams in various categories received medals and prizes. The event encourages entrepreneurs of the future and at the same time acknowledges and celebrates the local entrepreneurial community.

MEDICAL ENGINEERING

In September 2018, WMed launched a new Master of Science degree in Medical Engineering, an effort that is being spearheaded by Dr. Fredericks and several faculty from the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences, as well as Drs. Kenter and Sawyer from WMed.

The interdisciplinary, graduate-level program is for engineers and quantitative scientists with an end goal in mind – creating new medical devices and improving systems and processes to improve healthcare. The program welcomed its first class in September of last year.

New Faculty:
Dr. Jim Burns

EXPERIENCE:

Applied optimization, simulation modeling for operations and supply/inventory/demand planning, business analytics. 10+ Years of experience in high-volume & contract manufacturing operations (metals, tool & die, and plastics).
GENERAL UPDATES

AMP LAB

The Advanced Manufacturing Partnership Laboratory occupies the first two floors of Western Michigan University’s downtown Grand Rapids location. The AMP lab serves as a program to cultivate the next generation of engineers, designers and other skilled individuals to serve the manufacturing industry. At full strength, the space will be used for six to eight WMU undergraduate courses a semester with class sizes of 16 to 24. The $2.7 million AMP Lab development and the equipment it houses were partially funded through private investment efforts and the Michigan Economic Development Corporation. Opportunities exist for the facility to be used as a makerspace for entrepreneurs needing manufacturing assistance.

STUDENTS

PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLAR

Denise Azcui was named a Presidential Scholar in the department of Industrial and Entrepreneurial Engineering & Engineering Management Friday, March 22 during the 2019 WMU Presidential Scholars Convocation. Azcui is part of the top 0.9 percent as only one student can be chosen per department each year by faculty, on behalf of the Faculty Senate and the Office of the President. The Presidential Scholar is a recognition bestowed upon outstanding undergraduate students at the annual Presidential Scholar Convocation. Students who qualify for selection as Presidential Scholars are required to have senior class standing, having completed 88 or more credit hours by the start of spring 2019 semester, and demonstrate academic and/or artistic excellence and promise in their program of study.

A two-year team captain for the Broncos, Azcui was a 2018 ITA Arthur Ashe Jr. Leadership and Sportsmanship regional award winner and is a two-time Mid-American Conference Distinguished Scholar Athlete and Academic All-MAC honoree. In addition, she has received the Robert E. Boughner Engineering Student-Athlete Award, an honor awarded to a student-athlete who excels in both academics and athletics.
GENERAL UPDATES

ADVISOR CHANGES

As many of you know, Dr. Butt and Dr. Fredricks were the original advisors for IISE. They led the annual trip to conference and assisted with the student organization. Within the past few years, Dr. Lee Wells and Mrs. Dana Hammond have stepped up and taken the position of faculty advisors for our student organization. Lee and Dana are energetic and excited about IISE and it shows in their dedication and strides they are making in WMU IISE. Dana is an undergraduate alumnae of the WMU IE program who was previously involved with the student chapter of IISE. She is currently teaching Work Design to IE sophomores as well as acting as the academic advisor. Lee is a graduate of Michigan Tech University and Virginia Tech. Dr. Wells teaches both undergraduate and graduate courses at WMU including Statistical Quality Control and Design of Experiment. Though we are sad Butt and Fredericks are no longer our advisors, WMU IISE is thrilled to have Lee and Dana on board.

2020 GREAT LAKES REGIONAL CONFERENCE

This year, Western Michigan University has the honor of hosting the Great Lakes Regional Conference here in Kalamazoo. As many of you probably remember conference is a great way for our students to learn more about their career opportunities, bond with their classmates, and meet others in the same profession. We are excited to announce the theme of the conference: Entrepreneurial Engineering. We will be able to showcase our unique major and take on Industrial Engineering. We hope that the students of the Great Lakes Region will learn about small business entrepreneurship, intrapreneurship within a large corporation, and build their leadership and management skills during this conference. If you or your company is interested in having a presence at this event, more information is listed on the next page!
MEET OUR CONFERENCE PLANNING COMMITTEE

CONFERENCE PLANNING CO-CHAIR - ANNA RYAN

Anna is a senior this year graduating in the fall. She was a transfer to WMU from U of M Flint and quickly made IISE her home here at Western.
email: anna.l.ryan@wmich.edu

CO-FINANCE CHAIR - TESSA WILLIAMS

Tessa is a graduating senior this semester. Tessa has been active with IISE since starting at Western. She has previously held the vice president and treasurer positions with our student chapter. Her position as treasurer has helped her during her transition into the co-chair of finance.
email: tessa.m.williams@wmich.edu

CONFERENCE PLANNING CO-CHAIR - MORGAN KRONNER

Morgan is a senior this year, graduating fall 2020. Morgan previously held the president and vice president positions with IISE and is very excited to continue her time with IISE as Co-Chair of Conference Planning.
email: morgan.m.kronner@wmich.edu

CO-FINANCE CHAIR - CAROLINE KONSTANT

Caroline is the youngest on the conference planning board as a sophomore. Caroline was active her freshman year in IISE and is excited to have a larger role this year as the co-chair of finance.
email: Caroline.m.konstant@wmich.edu

HOW TO GET INVOLVED

CONFERENCE INVOLVEMENT AS AN ALUMNI

At Western we are proud of our extensive and successful alumni. We hope that you want to get connected and stay involved. There are many ways to get support the conference; we are currently looking for corporate and individual sponsors, donations, speakers, and breakout session leaders. Whether you want to donate, volunteer, speak, or just be at conference we would appreciate anything as it all helps!
For corporate donors there are many incentives to help. We are holding a career fair, networking events, and many advertising opportunities that will reach approximately 300 students in the Great Lakes region. Also, all donations are tax deductable.

If you are interested in partnering with us - in any capacity - please feel free to reach out to Morgan Kronner or Anna Ryan, emails listed above.

If you wish to register, please utilize this QR code:
THANK YOU!

WMU IIE is so excited to build our relationship with our alumni base! We hope you have enjoyed hearing about what’s new with Western, seeing pictures, and catching up with IIE! If you want to see something in particular please let us know! Feel free to reach out to Morgan Kronner with any questions, comments, or concerns (email: morgan.m.kronner@wmich.edu).

We hope to see you at our upcoming conference on February 21st-22nd, 2020.

Until next time: GO BRONCOS!