



'Meta-tags' come to improved conference app

Although the holiday season is upon us, it's not too early to start planning for the IIE Annual Conference and Expo. The largest industrial engineering event of the year will be held May 21-24, 2016, at the Disneyland Resort Hotel in Anaheim, California.

Once again, the Engineering Management (EM) track will be one of the largest, highlighting many exciting presentations. Our ISERC and Applied Solutions track chairs, Brian Smith, Patrick Hester, Paul Componation, Sreekanth Ramakrishnan and Helmut Welke, are working to ensure a successful track and a beneficial conference for all.

Next year continues the integration of the Industrial and Systems Engineering Research Conference and the Applied Solutions Conference into one event. Last year, EM was a pilot track for this change, which helps attendees move seamlessly between topics related to both research and applied solutions. IIE will support this integration with an improved conference app experience, including better searches by keyword and topic.

Each presentation will be associated with relevant "meta-tags," which are akin to keywords in a journal paper. These tags will identify techniques and application areas, broadening the exposure of your talk beyond the EM track. For example, a talk on project management for a quality control project in cybersecurity could be submitted to the EM track. That talk would be scheduled in a session with similar papers, but the meta-tags of quality, cyber and project management would be searchable in the app. This alerts other researchers and practitioners who may be interested in cyber applications or quality control, even if they previously had not considered the EM track as a venue for talks of this nature. The goal is to increase the broad appeal and visibility of talks so more IEs can benefit from the great work we are all doing.

Proceedings will be available online and indexed by ProQuest, which will increase the dissemination of your work. The 2015 proceedings can be found at http://www.xcdsystem.com/iie/2015__proceedings/.

The EM track will host a best paper competition as well as a best student paper competition. This year, we had more than 100 submissions to the track, with almost half including papers.

Best paper and related awards will be announced at the SEMS Town Hall meeting. The meeting also will include discussions about all SEMS initiatives, so attending is a great opportunity to increase your networking visibility and involvement in SEMS.

The IIE Annual Conference is the premier event to disseminate your work, gain feedback and build lasting networking relationships.

— Natalie Scala is an assistant professor in the Department of e-Business and Technology Management in the College of Business and Economics at Towson University. You can reach her at nscala@towson.edu.

Says...

Involvement gives nascent career a boost

As a doctoral student in my final year of study, I am preparing for the transition to the professional world. As part of this process, I have been reflecting on many aspects of my education, including the advantages of belonging to organizations such as the Society for Engineering and Management Systems (SEMS).

IIE in general offers many ways to help students develop their technical and professional skills, such as training programs, webinars and the new faculty colloquium, not to mention job listings and resumé building resources at the IIE Career Center.

Joining SEMS adds to those advantages. One of the most important benefits for student SEMS members is the opportunity to network and meet professionals in the engineering management field. Students get to know future colleagues, and the conversations can open the door for more substantial connections that can include informal mentors and role models. Interacting with professionals gives students a better sense of how to manage professional relationships. This includes strategies for networking, such as learning which provider members of the research community prefer for online networking (such as Research Gate, LinkedIn, etc.), allowing students to make connections on these services before they begin the transition to professionals.

SEMS events and the Industrial and Systems Engineering Research Conference allow students to see work conducted by senior professionals. This knowledge includes a better understanding of what it means to conduct academic research as a faculty member as well as how industry professionals use the tools and methods we learned in our coursework. Students can gain a clearer understanding of how their research fits within the larger context of engineering management and how their work should evolve as they move forward in their career.

In addition to getting to see other people's research, students get the chance to show off their work. Students can demonstrate their research and presentation skills by participating in the ISERC and the SEMS student paper competition, building a reputation in the community that they can carry into the next phase of their career.

Getting to know the people in this community while I am still a student means that I will begin my career as a new faculty member with a professional network already established. I plan to participate in the new faculty colloquium at ISERC 2016 and look forward to learning what SEMS and IIE will mean to me as a new faculty member.

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