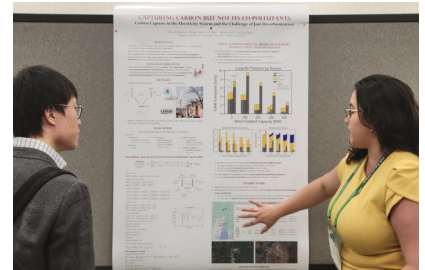
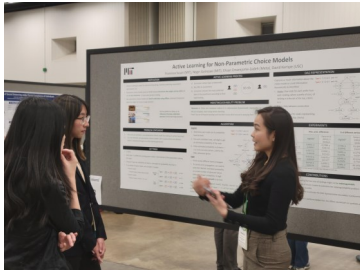


THE MIF UPDATE

Spring 2023 Newsletter



In this issue of The MIF Update, we disseminate information on the available board positions, highlight one of our members, announce several newsworthy items to our community, provide information of the upcoming competitions, outline the process to nominate a MIF fellow, and recognize our sponsors.

Greetings from the current MIF board!



Pictured (from left to right): Michelle Alvarado (Secretary), Aaron Swift (Junior Vice Chair of Communications), Sofia Perez-Guzman (Junior Vice Chair of Programs), Wesley Marrero (Communications Co-chair), Shannon Harris (Vice President), Eduardo Perez (President), Clara Novoa (Programs Co-chair), Karen Hicklin (Treasurer), Diana Ramirez-Rios (Programs Co-chair), Ruben Proaño (Past president).

Not pictured: Alexandra Newman (Communications Co-chair), Alicia Bridges (Industry & External Outreach Liaison).

Interested in serving on the MIF board?

There are several board positions up for election this year: Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, VP of Programs, Junior VP of Programs, and VP of Communications. These positions will be effective for a two-year term from January 1, 2024 to December 31, 2025.

Call for Nominations: August 1 – September 1

Confirmation of Candidate Eligibility and Interest: September 2-17

Electronic Voting Window: September 18 – October 2

Announcement of Results: MIF Annual Board Meeting at annual meeting

Want to learn more about MIF?

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Member's Spotlight

Michelle M. Alvarado received her BS in industrial engineering (2008) from the University of Alabama. She received her ME and PhD in industrial engineering (2010, 2014) from Texas A&M University. She was also a postdoctoral research scholar (2015) and visiting assistant professor (2016-2017) in industrial engineering at Texas A&M University, before joining the University of Florida as an assistant professor in industrial engineering in 2017. Dr. Alvarado is the Co-Founder and Co-Director of the HEALTH-Engine Laboratory, where she develops theory, models, algorithms, and practical tools to enhance the operation of complex systems under



Michelle Alvarado

uncertainty, particularly in healthcare systems engineering. Her research focuses on integrated simulation and optimization methods, with a particular interest in stochastic programming and hybrid simulation modeling. Dr. Alvarado's research applications include health policy modeling for hospital re-admissions and health insurance decision-making, appointment scheduling, and simulation modeling for outpatient clinics and population health. Her research has been funded by the NIH and the UF Foundation, among others.

Dr. Alvarado joined the INFORMS Minority Issues Forum (MIF) in 2012. She received the INFORMS Judith Liebman Award in 2014, won the MIF paper competition in 2017, and was a MIF Early Career Award Finalist in 2022. Dr. Alvarado has served as the secretary of the MIF Board since 2020.

MIF News

New this year!

MIF student membership is free. All students who are INFORMS members may join the MIF organization at no additional cost!

Professor Alexandra Newman is the new Editor-in-Chief of the *INFORMS Journal on Applied Analytics* (formerly, *Interfaces*)

She welcomes submissions from MIF members! The journal accepts papers that are: (i) tutorials, (ii) literature reviews, or (iii) traditional applications of operations research techniques. The latter must be accompanied by a letter from a company verifying the implementation of the application; other types of verification proof is possible, e.g., website hits, and are situation-specific. Please see <https://pubsonline.informs.org/journal/ijaa> or contact Professor Newman directly for more information.



Alexandra Newman

There are eight MIF-sponsored sessions at the 2023 Annual Meeting!

1. Award session - INFORMS MIF Early Career Award 2023 (chair: Wesley Marrero)
2. MIF Paper Competition 2023 (chair: Michelle Alvarado)
3. MIF Student Poster Session (chair: Shannon Harris)
4. Focused research talks (chair: Alexandra Newman)
5. Panel session - MIF Academic Job Search (chair: Clara Novoa)
6. Panel session - MIF Life as a Ph.D. Student (chair: Sofia Perez-Guzman)
7. Panel session (sponsored by DEI/MSOM/MIF) - DEI Research Opportunities in MSOM & Operations Engineering (chairs: Chris Parker, Diana Ramirez-Rios, Clara Novoa)
8. Panel session (sponsored by DEI/MIF) - DEI Funding Opportunities at NSF (chair: Diana Ramirez-Rios)



MIF News *(continuation)*

MIF Summer Webinar Series

The Minority Issues Forum Summer Webinar Series is back! We are looking for early career researchers and Ph.D. students who would like to share an exciting research work. We will showcase two panelists per webinar, with two consecutive 20-minute presentations and a space for Q&A. We will schedule these webinars from 1 to 2pm Eastern Time on June 30, July 14, July 28, and August 11, 2023.

If you are interested in being a presenter, please send an email to Diana Ramirez-Rios at dgramire@buffalo.edu. Limited spots are available!

We encourage everyone to attend these webinars. We will send out the invitations to register. Stay tuned!

Awards

MIF Fellows

The MIF Fellow Award is given to recognize the sustained contributions of individuals to the forum's activities and increase the participation of underrepresented minorities in the OR/MS community. To nominate an active MIF member, the [MIF Fellow Nomination Form](#) should be completed and sent via email to the MIF President, Eduardo Perez (eduardopr@txstate.edu), by August 1, 2023.

Early Career Award

This award recognizes outstanding contributions to the theory or practice of OR/MS *and* service made by early career, active members of MIF. The award recognizes exceptional researchers who have shown promise early in their academic or industrial career. Scholars who are pre-tenure and within 8 years of receiving their doctorate (or equivalent) degree are eligible to apply. The topic of the nomination and the underlying work must be related to the field of OR/MS. Applicants should submit the following documents:

1. Recent CV
2. Two short statements summarizing the applicant's:
 - Research interests, contributions, and future work (one page)
 - Service contributions with a focus on underrepresented minorities in OR/MS (one page)
3. A statement indicating how long the applicant has been a member of MIF
4. At least one letter of recommendation

Applications are due by **June 16th** at 11:59pm EDT and should be e-mailed as a single pdf with the subject line: "*MIF Early Career Award Nomination*" to the chair of the prize committee, David A. Nembhard: david-nembhard@uiowa.edu (please also cc: mif.informs@gmail.com). Finalists will be announced by July 31st.

Poster Competition

We solicit poster entries from student researchers! The following are the deadlines:

- March 24:** Initial request for abstracts
- May 5:** Abstracts due
- May 12:** Notification of abstract acceptance
- June 23:** Submission of posters for feedback (optional)
- July 7:** Final version of posters due
- August 4:** Poster judging complete

Please submit all materials to: mif.informs@gmail.com

Awards *(continuation)*

Paper Competition

We invite submissions for our 8th annual paper competition. Submissions for the competition will be accepted through **May 25, 2023** and should satisfy the following criteria:

- The paper must have been accepted or published on or after **January 1, 2021** in a research outlet in the field of operations research, management science, or information systems. There are no restrictions on the topic of the paper.
- The lead author must be a **current INFORMS MIF member** at the time of submission. MIF considers the lead author to be the first author or the corresponding author.
- The paper must be written in English.
- Submissions should be mailed to the INFORMS MIF email address (mif.informs@gmail.com) and should include:
 - Name, affiliation, and contact information for the corresponding author
 - Bibliographic reference and a PDF file of the paper
 - A cover letter that describes the relative contributions of each author of the paper, as well as the impact of the paper within its respective theoretical field and/or application area

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For more information on supporting MIF, contact our treasurer, Karen Hicklin, at khicklin@ufl.edu.
