Winter 2015 Newsletter

We have much to report this quarter, including the appointment of a new dean for the School of Engineering, groundbreaking research and honors for MS&E professors, the retirement of a popular educator and mentor, and some new education opportunities for you. Also, see what happened at the MS&E Reunion - recap and photos!

New Dean: Former SLAC Director, Persis Drell, Takes Top Leadership Role at Stanford School of Engineering

Persis S. Drell, physicist and former director of the U.S. Department of Energy SLAC National Accelerator Laboratory at Stanford, became the first woman dean of the School of Engineering on September 1. Said Drell, "We must avoid becoming complacent and continue to move forward." See interview with Dean Drell here.

Professor Yinyu Ye Awarded Optimization Prize: Proves Efficiency of Popular Markov Decision Process Algorithms

Stanford MS&E Professor Yinyu Ye has managed to answer one of the longest-running questions in optimization research and applied Big Data analytics. He has proved that two algorithms widely used in software-based decision modeling are, indeed, the fastest and most accurate ways to solve specific types of complicated optimization problems. For his work, the Society of Industrial and Applied Mathematics (SIAM) awarded him the 2014 Optimization Prize. Read more...

MS&E Celebrates the Storied Career of Retiring
Professor David G. Luenberger: Teacher, Advisor, Groundbreaking Engineer
More than 90 friends and colleagues joined in honoring MS&E Professor David G. Luenberger, who recently retired after a distinguished career in teaching, student advising, and research. The November celebration acknowledged his significant contributions to the field of optimization theory and algorithmic analysis, as well as his mentorship of 52 Ph.D. students during his years at Stanford. Read more...

MS&E Professor Ron Howard Shares Honors for Pioneering the Field of "Decision Analysis"
The Society for Decision Professionals has honored MS&E Professor Ron Howard, along with Professor Howard Raiffa of Harvard University, by using their names in a newly-created award recognizing practitioners of the discipline they co-developed: The Raiffa-Howard Award for Organizational Decision Quality. Fifty years after Howard coined the term "decision analysis," he continues to inspire and attract new practitioners and academics to this rapidly growing field. Read more...

Staff Profile: MS&E Student Services Manager, Lori Cottle, Celebrates 25 Years of Service
If you have been an MS&E student during the past couple of decades, then you are probably aware of the heroic efforts of Student Services Manager, Lori Cottle, who offers students genuine care and concern in navigating toward graduation. There is a lot that happens behind the scenes. This is her story...

MS&E Reunion 2014 Recap: See the Photos and View the Presentation
Didn’t make it to the MS&E reunion in October? We hope you’ll join us for future events. At the 2014 reunion events, alumni enjoyed networking with other attendees, catching up with former classmates, mingling with current students and participating in an engaging presentation by Professor Bob Sutton. Read the recap and check out the pictures.

Watch a similar lecture by Professor Sutton to MS&E students.

Save the date for the next MS&E Reunion! October 23-24, 2015
Course Profile: MS&E 271, Global Entrepreneurial Marketing (GEM), Teaches Both the Art and Science of Technology Marketing

Legendary lecturer, Tom Kosnik, describes his goal with the course as to “teach students to think from day one how to design products and services, so that they will travel well from one country to another.” If you missed this course while at Stanford, enroll now for spring session through the Stanford Center for Professional Development (SCPD).

Learn more...

Join Us for Winter DFJ Entrepreneurial Thought Leaders Series

Come to hear the stories and insights of leaders in technology, business, finance, education and philanthropy, every Wednesday at 4:30 p.m. in the School of Engineering’s NVIDIA Auditorium. The winter lineup of the DFJ Entrepreneurial Thought Leaders Series includes speakers Jeanne Gang, Alon Cohen, Kathryn Gould, John Collison, Josh Reeves and Laurene Powell Jobs (pictured).

All talks are free and open to the public. If you can't make it to campus, podcasts and videos of the talks are available online at ECorner. Get the ETL lecture series schedule here.

MS&E Faculty in the News and on the Go!

- James Sweeney in Scientific American on the potential impact of lower gas prices...read more...and Precourt Institute creates four-part iBook Textbook, Clue Into Climate...learn more...

- Sig Hecker's historical perspective on North Korea nuclear programs in the latest issue of the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists...read more...

- Stanford Crowdsourced Democracy team led by Ashish Goel receives special proclamation from city of Vallejo, CA...read more...

- Margaret Brandeau is teaching winter quarter at Stanford's Cape Town campus in South Africa: HIV Policy Issues and Models...Pamela Hinds taught Global Work during fall quarter at Stanford's Santiago campus in Chile...

Keep up with MS&E news here...

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