

## Spencer Schantz Lecture Series/Banquet

### *Featuring...*

Spencer Schantz  
Lecturer



**Dr. Brenda Dietrich,**  
IBM Fellow and VP,  
IBM Watson Group

Distinguished Alumni  
Award (Academia)

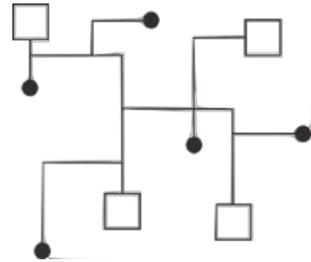


**Dr. J. Michael Harrison**  
Adams Distinguished  
Professor of Management,  
Emeritus, Stanford  
University

Distinguished Alumni  
Award (Industry)



**Everett Van Hoesen,**  
Former President,  
Industrial Systems Group,  
IBM



### Upcoming Events

Please be sure to join the ISE Department for these upcoming events!  
To read more about these events, please visit [www.lehigh.edu/ise/news.html](http://www.lehigh.edu/ise/news.html).

Spencer Schantz Lecture Series  
Wednesday and Thursday, April 16th and 17th, 2014  
Dr. Brenda Dietrich, IBM Fellow and VP, IBM Watson Group

ISE Banquet 2014  
Thursday, April 17, 2014  
Distinguished Alumni— Everett Van Hoesen & Dr. J. Michael Harrison

Reunion Weekend  
Celebrating Reunion Years '44, '49, '54, '59, '64, '69, '74, '79, '84, '89, '94, '99  
Friday and Saturday, May 16 & 17, 2014  
ISE Alumni Breakfast - Saturday, May 17, 2014

MOPTA 2014  
August 13-15, 2014  
[coral.ie.lehigh.edu/~mopta/](http://coral.ie.lehigh.edu/~mopta/)

Development of ISE  
If you would like to make a gift, please contact Moe Rinkunas  
at 610-758-6361 or at [mbw202@lehigh.edu](mailto:mbw202@lehigh.edu).

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#### ISE Update

Department Chair:  
Dr. Tamás Terlaky

Associate Chair:  
Dr. George Wilson

Editor:  
Abby Barlok

#### ISE Department Staff:

Ed Force  
Building Manager  
[ewf1@lehigh.edu](mailto:ewf1@lehigh.edu)

Rita Frey  
Graduate Coordinator  
[rff0@lehigh.edu](mailto:rff0@lehigh.edu)

Kathy Rambo  
Department  
Coordinator  
[kgr0@lehigh.edu](mailto:kgr0@lehigh.edu)

Reader Feedback:  
Please send comments  
to editor, Abby Barlok,  
at [aeb213@lehigh.edu](mailto:aeb213@lehigh.edu)

# ISE MID-YEAR UPDATE

SPRING 2014

## Happy New Year!

Dear Friends,

Happy New Year! I hope you had an enjoyable holiday season with your friends, family and loved ones! I wish you a happy and successful 2014.

We had a very busy ending to 2013! In October, we had our ABET accreditation review. After a lot of time and preparation, I am happy to communicate that we had a very successful outcome! I'd like to thank everyone for their patience during this busy time period.

Our annual banquet will be on **Thursday, April 17, 2014**. I invite you all back to Lehigh for this unforgettable event!

We will be honoring our distinguished alumni, **J. Michael Harrison** of Stanford for his contributions to Academia and **Everett Van Hoesen**, former President, Industrial Systems Group, IBM, for his achievements in industry, along with the great endeavors of the department's students and faculty. **Brenda Dietrich**, IBM Fellow and VP, IBM Watson Group, will be our Spencer Schantz Lecturer.

Watch for your invitations coming out this spring!

As always, I would like to learn more about the ISE family, so please feel free to send me your memories, opinions, ideas, news about your achievements, or anything else you may want to share.

All the best,



Tamás Terlaky  
[Terlaky@lehigh.edu](mailto:Terlaky@lehigh.edu)

## Zümbül Atan wins "Lecturer of the Year"

Zümbül Atan knows the expression "third time's the charm" literally. Zümbül started working as an Assistant Professor at Eindhoven University of Technology, in the Netherlands, shortly after obtaining her Ph.D. from Lehigh in 2010. "At the end of each year, based on student evaluations, the study board Industria nominates five professors for the best lecturer award. Then, students vote for their favorite lecturer. I was nominated twice before, but did not receive the honor. This year, I won the award," explains an enthusiastic Zümbül.

Every year, on average, Zümbül has 110 students. "I truly enjoy teaching and, I think, the students appreciate my enthusiasm."

During Zümbül's studies at Lehigh, she helped teach a Ph.D.-level course with Lawrence Snyder. "Larry was and still is my role model and I admire his teaching style tremendously. He nominated me to be a Rossin College Doctoral Fellow and through those courses, I discovered my own teaching style. I am very grateful for this."

Zümbül admits that winning such a great award, chosen by

students, feels incredible. "It truly is nice to see that my teaching is highly valued by the students." Although she graciously accepts the award, Zümbül believes that "it is more deserved by my role model, Larry Snyder."



Zümbül Atan (middle) poses with fellow faculty nominees and winners after the awards ceremony.

## Advanced Computing Technology Endowment

Analytics and computational methods are at the heart of modern Industrial and Systems Engineering. Recognizing this, the ISE Department, in 2011, identified analytics as the strategic focus of the department and so, relies heavily on up-to-date computing technology. The lifecycle financial support of the Department's critical computing needs is only partially provided by the University. Therefore, we have to raise the additional needed funds on our own.

In 2010, the Industrial and Systems Engineering Department opened its new computer lab in Mohler Laboratory, room 121. The lab was the result of extensive renovation generously

supported by Lehigh benefactors, with its 39 PCs provided through an Undergraduate Laboratory Enhancement Grant from the College of Engineering. The renovation more than doubled the capacity and has had a profoundly positive effect on the way courses are being taught.



It is critical to the ISE educational mission that its computer labs be appropriately updated on a 3-year lifecycle. It

is for this reason that the ISE Department is establishing an endowment called the "Advanced Computing Technology Endowment" dedicated exclusively to the lifecycle support of the ISE Department's key current education-based computing needs.

For more information on how you can help, please visit <http://www.lehigh.edu/ise/techfund.html>.



## Faculty Updates



Frank E. Curtis, Assistant Professor in the ISE Department, has been chosen as a recipient for the Frank Hook Assistant Professorship.

Frank E. Curtis, Frank Hook Professorship recipient.

The Frank Hook Assistant Professorship rewards the most promising junior scholar-teachers who both conduct scholarship at a high level and foster personal interaction and mentoring relationships with students. Awards each year are used for general research support, including travel.

Luis Zuluaga, Assistant Professor in the ISE Department, has been chosen as a recipient for the P.C. Rossin Assistant Professorship.

The P.C. Rossin Assistant Professorship is awarded to the most outstanding individual in the P.C. Rossin College of Engineering and Applied Science who demonstrate high potential for establishing a successful academic career at Lehigh through the integration of teaching and research.



Luis Zuluaga, P.C. Rossin Assistant Professorship recipient.

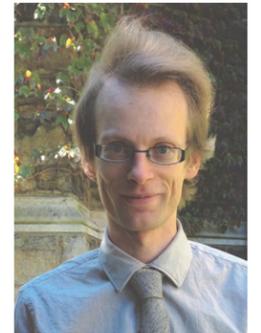
## Boris Defourny Joins ISE Department

Boris Defourny, Assistant Professor, joined Lehigh University's ISE Department in August 2013 to take part in Lehigh University's research cluster on smart grids. Boris's research is at the intersection of power systems engineering, stochastic optimization, and robust optimization. He studies, develops and tests models, methods and algorithms that support the modernization of the electrical power grid. He is particularly interested in improving operations in complex and uncertain environments, in the valuation of interconnected assets, and in the valuation of information.

Boris received his Ph.D. from the Montefiore Institute at the University

of Liege, Belgium. Before Lehigh, Boris was an Associate Professional Specialist at Princeton University where he specialized in sequential decision making under uncertainty, stochastic programming, approximate dynamic programming, reinforcement learning, and energy systems analysis. "I like teaching at Lehigh because the students aren't just learning from their faculty. We are also learning from them," explains Boris.

You can contact Dr. Defourny at [defourny@lehigh.edu](mailto:defourny@lehigh.edu) or please feel free to visit his website at [www.lehigh.edu/defourny/](http://www.lehigh.edu/defourny/).



Boris Defourny joined the ISE Department this past summer as an Assistant Professor.

## New Communications Specialist

In August 2013, Abby Barlok became the new Communications Specialist in the ISE Department at Lehigh University.

Abby majored in English/Professional Writing (with a minor of Public Relations) at Kutztown University and previously worked at Sacred Heart Hospital as the Publications Specialist.

Abby's role at Lehigh University is to facilitate all the communication activities for the ISE Department.

Abby can be contacted by email at [aeb213@lehigh.edu](mailto:aeb213@lehigh.edu) or by phone at (610) 758-2986.



Abby Barlok joined the ISE Department as the new Communications Specialist in August 2013.

## Rebecca Swaszek, Finalist at INFORMS 2013

Rebecca Swaszek, IE major, was a finalist at INFORMS 2013 in Minneapolis for her report called "Quantitative Models of Healthcare Finance: Decision Tree Analysis." The motivation behind her focus on healthcare systems is that it's a growing and evolving field. "Healthcare is a current financial concern because it represents over 17% of the United States' GDP," explains Rebecca. "As with any large system, healthcare has many inefficiencies in practical application. The eradication of these inefficiencies has the potential to save money, time and resources."

The two dynamic models Rebecca created could be applied to patient-centered homes and other systems where there's an emphasis on patient-provider interaction. Use of such models, which provide the most cost-efficient decision, would improve the regularity of patient experience through the system.

Rebecca is very thankful for the guidance of her research advisor, Dr. Aurélie Thiele, and for the support of the ISE Department.



Rebecca Swaszek, IE Major, was chosen as a finalist at INFORMS 2013.