

Industrial Engineering and Management Sciences

FROM THE CHAIR / Fall 2025

Dear colleagues, alumni, and friends,

Our faculty, students, and alumni continue to push the boundaries of discovery and innovation, and we're proud to highlight some of their recent achievements. From groundbreaking research and new academic programs to student-led projects and alumni impact, these stories reflect the energy and vision that drive our department forward.

This newsletter is both a celebration of our accomplishments and an invitation to stay **connected with us**. We hope you enjoy catching up on our news and feel proud of the vibrant community we are building together.



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David A. and Karen Richards Sachs
Professor and Chair
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Student Team Wins National IISE Capstone Award

Marin Clark, Emilia McDougal, Juan Olivia, and Sahaana Rajesh worked with Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital to reduce the time it takes to turn around a room.



Singla Wins Best Dissertation Award at Supply Chain Analytics Conference

Northwestern Engineering postdoc **Akhil Singla** was honored for his research on designing resilient supply chains and service operations amid global disruptions.



Incoming IEMS Faculty Member Xiong Wins INFORMS Optimization Society Student Paper Prize

Zikai Xiong's prize-winning paper offers new theoretical insights with practical computational impact.



Wang Named 2025 Researcher to Know

The annual list compiled by the Illinois Science & Technology Coalition, which includes Professor **Dashun Wang**, spotlights state leaders in innovation.



Grosof, Shafique Win 2025 Cole-Higgins Awards

Professor **Izzy Grosof** and adjunct professor **Amjed Shafique** received the school's annual award for outstanding teaching.



McCormick IEMS Graduate Kosmowski Named University Trustee

Christina Kosmowski, the CEO of LogicMonitor, is joining the University's Board of Trustees along with Philadelphia 76ers president of basketball operations **Daryl Morey** and Weber Shandwick Collective CEO **Susan Howe**.

Department News

The Department of Industrial Engineering and Management Sciences is now ranked No. 5 in the nation by *US News & World Report* for undergraduate industrial engineering programs, moving up from No. 6 last year.

Professor **Noshir Contractor** and PhD student **Megan Chan** received the 2025 Sage Publishers Award for Best Management History paper at the Academy of Management in Copenhagen for their work, “When Two Is Too Many, but Not Enough: Shared Leadership in Ancient Rome.” Chan also received the IEMS department’s Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award.

Professor **Vadim Linetsky** retired after a distinguished career, and colleagues and former students celebrated his contributions at a May 21 event.

Professor **Chang-Han Rhee** was promoted to associate professor.

Heyuan Yao received the Hurter Outstanding First-Year PhD Student Award.

Graduate student research awards were presented to **Shibshankar Dey** and **Taejong Joo** (Nelson Student Paper Prize), **Zhe Su** (Nemhauser Student Paper Prize), and **Kim Yu** (Nemhauser Best Dissertation Prize).

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Kicking off the School Year

The Department of Industrial Engineering and Management Sciences kicked off the new school year with its annual Welcome Back Party, bringing together PhD candidates, first-year students, and faculty to celebrate community and achievement.



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