

Undergrad Presents Paper at INFORMS Conference



Caitlin Bogdan, a junior in the Mechanical and Industrial Engineering Department (MIE), presented a paper at the national conference of the Institute for Operations Research and the Management Sciences (INFORMS), held in Washington, D.C., from October 12 to 15. Bogdan, who works in the research group of Dr. Jenna Marquard (MIE), presented her paper during the October 15 session on Allocation and Planning for Emergency Resources. Bogdan's paper was entitled "Disaster Relief Assignment Problems: Including Conflict Between Communities and Relief Organizations." Dr. Marquard co-authored the paper with Bogdan.

The paper dealt with the allocation of disaster relief organizations to projects, an issue that can be characterized as an assignment problem with several unique attributes. For instance, characteristics of relief organizations (race, gender, nationality, etc.) and disaster-struck communities may constrain organization-project assignments. Bogdan and Dr. Marquard used existing literature and focus groups to explore the nature of these potential conflicts and propose how conflicts can be included in the construction of these assignment problems.

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