

What's Your StORy?

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What is the best advice you can give to students in your field?
If you have already decided to become part of the OR/MS community, then you have already accepted some good advice. I recommend learning as much as you can about data structures, algorithms, programming, and analytics while you are a student.

After graduation, I recommend evangelizing early and often. Once you enter the workforce, you will encounter and work with others who have not heard of operations research. Your success—as well as the health and vitality of our field—in part depend on us getting the word out so others know about what we do so they can use our tools when they are needed.



What has been your best INFORMS experience?
I have three; all at INFORMS Annual Meetings over the years. First and foremost, I thoroughly enjoyed serving on and chairing the Doing Good with Good OR committee. Students talking about how their research is making the world a better place is inspiring. Second, INFORMS meetings give us many chances to celebrate the achievements of our colleagues. I am fortunate to have successfully nominated two colleagues (Anna Nagurny and Jason Merrick) for major INFORMS awards, and it was a pleasure to see them honored for their achievements. And finally, the Forum for Women in OR/MS (WORMS) lunch is my favorite part of the INFORMS Annual Meeting. I was president of WORMS in 2013, and it was an honor to organize and host the lunch.



If we were sitting here a year from now celebrating what a great year it's been for you, what would we be celebrating?
I am running for a position on the INFORMS Board, and I am looking forward to the possibility of serving as the VP of Marketing, Communications, and Outreach. It is an exciting time for our OR/MS, and I hope to have the chance to contribute to our field. Next year, I hope we can celebrate some good press and extra visibility for OR/MS and all the wonderful things we do.



More questions for Laura?
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