The One Hundred Forty-Ninth

COMMENCEMENT

Graduate Ceremony
Five O’Clock • Thursday
The Eleventh of May
Two Thousand Seventeen
WPI Quadrangle

Worcester Polytechnic Institute
PROGRAM

Prelude     WPI Brass Ensemble
            Douglas G. Weeks, Conductor
Processional Led by the Honorary Marshal
            Full details on page 4
Call to Order Jack T. Mollen
            Chairman, WPI Board of Trustees
National Anthem The audience is invited to join in the singing
Invocation Rev. Cheryl Leshay
            Chaplain, WPI Collegiate Religious Center
Charge from the President Laurie A. Leshin
Student Remarks “Warping Time at the Crossroads of Past and Future”
            Rodica Neamtu ’17 (PhD)
Conferring of Honorary Degrees President Leshin
Commencement Address Deborah Wince-Smith
            President and CEO, U.S. Council on Competitiveness
Presentation of Candidates for Degrees Terri A. Camesano, Dean of Graduate Studies
Conferring of Degrees President Leshin
Remarks from the Alumni Association Rachel Delisle ’96, ’06 (MBA), President
Benediction Rev. Leshay
Recessional WPI Brass Ensemble

The audience is requested to remain standing until the end of the national anthem.

At the conclusion of the Commencement exercises, the audience is requested to remain standing until the academic procession has left the Quadrangle.
This year WPI is conferring undergraduate and graduate degrees at separate spring Commencement ceremonies. Master’s and PhD degrees will be presented during this evening’s exercises; bachelor’s degree recipients will receive their diplomas on Saturday morning, May 13.

This graduate commencement is a reflection of the growing stature of the Institute’s graduate programs, which have expanded substantially—in size, diversity, and international recognition—since WPI awarded its first master’s degrees in 1898 and its first PhD in 1960. Today, nearly 800 graduate degrees will be conferred.

Serving as honorary marshal is Neil T. Heffernan, professor of computer science and director of WPI’s Learning Sciences and Technologies Program, and winner of the 2017 Trustees’ Award for Outstanding Research and Creative Scholarship. The baton he carries is the walking stick of WPI founder John Boynton. The ceremonial marshal is Bruce E. Bursten, provost.

President Leshin wears the Presidential Medallion, with the WPI seal cast in silver and the names and years of service of all 16 presidents engraved on small silver plates that form links in the chain. Provost Bursten carries the Academic Mace, a 42-inch staff made from fluted cherrywood and topped with a circular silver pedestal on which sits a large silver medal with the WPI seal on each side.

Student speaker Rodica Neamtu is receiving her PhD in computer science. As a data mining researcher, she investigates how to develop and leverage groundbreaking techniques to explore time series datasets at the confluence of theoretical computer science and application domains such as medicine, economics, and education. She has over 15 years of teaching experience in various academic institutions, including Emmanuel College, Wentworth Institute of Technology, and the University of Craiova in Romania (where she received her BS and MS in electrical engineering and computer science). After graduation, she will join WPI’s computer science faculty as a teaching associate professor. She is committed to using her love and talent for teaching and research to empower others through education to make a difference in the world.

**Processional and Recessional—**

Graduates begin lining up at 3:30 for the processional, which steps off at 4:30 (the ceremony itself starts at 5:00). Originating at Harrington Auditorium, the processional winds through the campus, crosses Earle Bridge, follows the sidewalk past Alden Memorial, moves onto the walkway behind Bartlett Center, turns at the Proud Goat statue, and proceeds up the center aisle under the tent.

At the conclusion of the ceremony, the marchers move down the center aisle and proceed as a group toward the Sports and Recreation Center. Guests are asked not to block the progress of the processional or recessional. It is especially important to keep the center aisle clear so marchers may make their way to and from their seats.

**Auxiliary Viewing Location:** Olin Hall, Room 107

Follow Commencement Exercises on Twitter @WPICommencement and Instagram @WPI. Share your memories with #wpi2017.
PHOTOS AND VIDEOS—
The pictures taken today will be treasured mementos. The following information should help our guests get the shots they want.

Photos during the ceremony: The area in front and to the side of the stage is reserved for official (badged) WPI photographers. Guests are not permitted in this area and may not stand in the aisles or around the stage area during any part of the ceremony (this will be strictly enforced). Professional photographers (Commencement Photographers Inc.) will take a photograph from an optimal location near the stage of every graduate receiving his or her diploma. The company will mail proofs with an order form to graduates or their families. For more information, you may call Commencement Photographers at 978-851-5924.

WPI records the entire ceremony from several vantage points. A live stream is available on the WPI home-page during the ceremony. A complete, high-quality video of the ceremony will be available for downloading within two weeks at wpi.edu/+Commencement.

Photos after the ceremony: If you’d like to capture your happy graduate following the ceremony, we recommend the following locations:

- The Stage Area: After the procession has left the Quadrangle, guests are invited to take photos on or near the stage (with WPI banner and plantings in background).
- Earle Bridge: Spanning West Street, the footbridge is decorated with flowering plants.
- Boynton Hall: WPI’s first building, with its granite exterior and clock tower, is located just across the footbridge.
- Higgins House: This WPI mansion, located directly behind the Rubin Campus Center, is surrounded by plantings and formal gardens that are in full bloom at this time of year.

Photos with Faculty: Graduates may have photos taken with faculty in Harrington Auditorium after the ceremony.

BOYNTON HALL AND WASHBURN SHOPS
Completed in 1868, WPI’s first building is named for John Boynton, a prosperous tinware manufacturer who founded the Institute in 1865 with a gift of $100,000. Boynton Hall was one of the first buildings designed by noted architect Stephen Earle and was constructed of granite obtained from local quarries. The building originally housed classrooms and labs, where students learned the theory of science and engineering; they applied that theory next door in the Washburn Shops. The towers of these two buildings now symbolize WPI’s unique philosophy of education, the merger of theory and practice.
Audrey Carlan is truly the first lady of WPI. A pioneering computer scientist and mathematician, Carlan made history in 1957 when she became WPI’s first female graduate, earning a master’s degree in physics (the first advanced degree the Institute awarded in that discipline). For her thesis, she conducted what is considered WPI’s first computer science project, using an IBM 650 console that was bigger than a refrigerator to investigate the electromagnetic scattering properties of spheroids. When she and her husband, Alan Carlan, graduated from WPI together, they became the Institute’s first alumni couple and were dubbed the “Precedent Shattering Pair” by the Worcester Evening Gazette. And just a month after Commencement, she gave birth to their first son, who, she proudly notes, “became the first child with a WPI alumna for a mom.”

A trailblazer long before she arrived at WPI, Carlan grew up in Brooklyn, New York. The lone girl in her junior high school math class, she swiftly proved her mettle by winning the class algebra award. She went on to Brooklyn College, where she earned a bachelor’s degree in mathematics. It was there, in an analytical geometry class, that she met Alan Carlan. Married in 1952, they embarked on a love story that spanned more than five and a half decades until his passing in 2007.

After graduation, both Carlans went to work for American Optical in Southbridge, Mass., where she was a mathematical physicist working with the optical computing system. As part of her job, she programmed a high-speed electronic calculator that churned the numbers to solve complex mathematical problems in optics. Her work contributed to advances in aspheric and multifocal lenses for continuous vision. The couple also helped with the development of Todd-AO, the groundbreaking film projection system first used for movies such as Oklahoma! and Around the World in 80 Days. Looking back, Audrey credits one of her AO mentors, Harold Osterberg, for inspiring her to excel in her career. “He told me, ‘Turn light on and off at the frequency of life,’” she told a WPI interviewer in 2001. “I was thrilled by those words.”

While working at American Optical, the Carlans decided to pursue advanced study in mathematics and physics, joining colleagues who were taking on-site courses then being offered through WPI. After the program shifted to the WPI campus, they stuck with it and became the only AO employees to complete their graduate degrees. She recalls those years fondly, even if the campus didn’t seem quite prepared for her, as she told the WPI Journal in 1994. “When we first started taking evening classes, I asked where the bathroom for women was. It wasn’t! I really don’t believe WPI knew I was a woman until we came to campus. We used to joke that WPI thought I was ‘Aubrey,’ not ‘Audrey.’”

Following a cross-country move to Rancho Palos Verdes, California, where she has lived ever since, Carlan enjoyed a successful career as a professor of math and computer science. Today she is professor emeritus of mathematics at Los Angeles Community College. She is also the author of several books that seek to demystify math and science, including Everyday Mathematics for the Numerically Challenged. As one reviewer wrote, Carlan “brings math alive … and makes us aware that mathematics is all around us.”

An adventurous spirit, she is also a sailor, certified navigator, world traveler, bridge player, former competitive square dancer, and devoted grandmother. She continues to pursue a range of computer projects and activities. A loyal alumna, she keeps a close eye on the university she helped shape. “I enjoy keeping informed about happenings at WPI,” she wrote in a recent class note. “I am so proud that there is now a very talented woman president.”

For her outstanding professional achievements, her inspiring example to future WPI generations, and her trailblazing role in the history of the university, WPI is proud to confer on Audrey Carlan the degree of Doctor of Science, Honoris Causa.
Like President Theodore Roosevelt, Deborah Wince-Smith holds no place “with those poor spirits...who live in the gray twilight that knows not victory nor defeat.” One of world’s leading voices on competitiveness, she has long advocated for the men and women who are actually in the arena, who strive to do the deeds, and who spend themselves in a worthy cause. As president and CEO of the Council on Competitiveness—a dynamic coalition of corporate, university, and labor leaders—she champions the human spirit while advancing America’s competitive position in the global marketplace and enhancing prosperity for all Americans.

During a career that has embraced both public service and private enterprise, Wince-Smith has served under three U.S. presidents, holding leadership positions in the areas of science and technology policy, international economic affairs, and competitiveness strategy. Most notably, she served as the nation’s first assistant secretary of commerce for technology policy in the administration of George H. W. Bush. In that capacity, she oversaw federal technology transfer policy, implementation of the Bayh-Dole Patent and Trademark Act, and the White House National Technology Initiative. In the Reagan Administration she served as the first assistant director of international affairs and competitiveness in the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy. In that role she developed and negotiated the 1988 Presidential U.S.-Japan Science and Technology Agreement, President Reagan’s landmark executive orders on federal technology commercialization, the establishment of national science and technology centers, and new public-private partnerships. In 2006 President George W. Bush appointed her to serve as a member of the Oversight Board of the Internal Revenue Service. She began her career as a program manager at the National Science Foundation, where she managed scientific exchange programs between U.S. universities and counterparts in former Eastern Bloc countries, an international exchange program that constituted a major component of U.S. foreign policy during the Cold War.

Following her government tenure, she became active in governance of various national scientific laboratories and provided strategic counsel to several Fortune 100 companies. Generous with her time and expertise, she has served on a wide variety of corporate and nonprofit boards, including NASDAQ-QMX, the Smithsonian National Board, the Board of Governors of Argonne National Laboratory, and the Secretary of State’s Advisory Committee on International Economic Policy. She currently serves on the U.S. Naval Academy Foundation board; the Science, Technology, and Society Forum; the Prime Minister of Malaysia’s Global Science and Innovation Advisory Committee; and the board of Nanomech.

As president of the Council on Competitiveness, she spearheaded the groundbreaking National Innovation Initiative that helped shape the bipartisan American COMPETES Act. Since 2009 she has served as president of the Global Federation of Competitiveness Councils, the first global network devoted exclusively to the exchange of knowledge and practice related to competitiveness policies and strategies. A sought-after speaker, she is frequently called upon to testify before Congress and appears regularly on global television news networks, including Bloomberg, BBC, CNBC, CNN, and Fox News.

A native of Akron, Ohio, Wince-Smith was named valedictorian of her high school class before going on to Vassar College, where she graduated Phi Beta Kappa and magna cum laude with a bachelor of arts degree. She was one of the first female students to enter King’s College at the University of Cambridge, where she read for a master’s degree in classical archaeology. She has been recognized with honorary doctorates from several universities, including Michigan State, the University of Toledo, and the Queens University of Belfast.

With her own life as an inspiring model, Wince-Smith encourages today’s young people to dare greatly. “Taking risks is very important,” she has said. “Be willing to go out of your comfort zone … just go out there and start doing things. If you stumble and fail, you learn, adapt, and grow, so you are ready to seize the next opportunity.”

For serving her nation with distinction, daring greatly, and making it possible for individuals and institutions to do the same, Worcester Polytechnic Institute is honored to confer on Deborah Wince-Smith the degree of Doctor of Humane Letters, Honoris Causa.
Melissa Walsh Mobley  
*BA, BS, University of Rhode Island*  
**Biology and Biotechnology—**
  “Examining the Potential Threat of Pesticide and Pathogen Exposure on Wild Bumble Bees: Proposed Lethal and Sublethal Mechanisms Contributing to Pollinator Decline”  
*Advisor: Robert Gegear*  
Awarded: February 24, 2017

Rodica Neamtu  
*MS, University of Craiova, Romania*  
**Computer Science—**  
“Interactive Exploration of Time Series Powered by Time Warped Distances”  
*Advisors: Gabor Sarkozy and Elke Rundensteiner*

Mahni Shayganfar  
*BS, MS, Azad University, Iran*  
**Computer Science—**  
“Affective Motivational Collaboration Theory”  
*Advisor: Charles Rich*  
Awarded: February 24, 2017

Curtis Robin Taylor  
*BS, University of Tennessee; MS, Worcester Polytechnic Institute*  
**Computer Science—**  
“Software-defined Networking: Improving Security for Enterprise and Home Networks”  
*Advisor: Craig Shue*

Hao Wan  
*BS, Huazhong University of Science and Technology, China; MS, Beihang University, China*  
**Computer Science—**  
“Tutoring Students with Adaptive Strategies”  
*Advisor: Joseph Beck*  
Awarded: February 24, 2017

Dongqing Xiao  
*MS, Harbin Institute of Technology, China*  
**Computer Science—**  
“Towards Graph Analytic and Privacy Protection”  
*Advisor: Mohamed Eltabakh*

Xiaolu Xiong  
*BS, Beijing University of Chemical Technology, China; MA, Brandeis University*  
**Computer Science—**  
“‘Theory and Practice: Improving Retention Performance through Student Modeling and System Building”  
*Advisor: Joseph Beck*

Yiqing Li  
*MS, Worcester Polytechnic Institute*  
**Mathematical Sciences—**  
“Quasi-static Fracture Evolution with Cohesive Energy”  
*Advisor: Christopher Larsen*  
Awarded: October 7, 2016

Binod Manandhar  
*MS, University of North Florida; MS, Utah State University*  
**Mathematical Sciences—**  
“Bayesian Models for the Analyses of Noisy Responses from Small Areas: An Application to Poverty Estimation”  
*Advisor: Balgobin NANDRAM*

William Charles Sanguinet  
*BS, MS, Worcester Polytechnic Institute*  
**Mathematical Sciences—**  
“Various Extensions in the Theory of Dynamic Materials with a Specific Focus on the Checkerboard Geometry”  
*Advisor: Konstantin Lurie*

Liang Wang  
*BS, MS, Beijing Normal University, China*  
**Mathematical Sciences—**  
“In Vivo IVUS-based 3D Fluid-structure Interaction Models for Human Coronary Atherosclerotic Plaque Vulnerability Assessment and Progression Prediction”  
*Advisor: Dalin Tang*

Heng Zuo  
*BS, MS, Beijing Normal University, China*  
**Mathematical Sciences—**  
“3D Multi-Physics MRI-Based Human Right Ventricle Models for Patients with Repaired Tetralogy of Fallot: Cardiac Mechanical Analysis and Surgical Outcome Prediction”  
*Advisor: Dalin Tang*
COMmENCEMENT • MAY 11, 2017

Goker Arpag
BS, Istanbul Technical University, Turkey
PHYSICS—
“Theoretical and Computational Investigations into Cooperative Cellular Transport by Motor Proteins”
Advisor: Erkan Tuzel
Awarded: October 7, 2016

Saeed Pourmasoumi Langarudi
BS, Azad University of Najafabad, Iran;
MS, Isfahan University of Technology, Iran
INTERDISCIPLINARY IN SYSTEM DYNAMICS AND ECONOMICS—
“A System Dynamics Approach to the Political Economy of Resource-dependent Nations”
Advisor: Michael Radzicki
Awarded: February 24, 2017

Raafat Mahmoud Zaini
BS, King Fahd University of Petroleum and Minerals, Saudi Arabia;
MS, Purdue University
INTERDISCIPLINARY IN SYSTEM DYNAMICS AND ORGANIZATIONAL BEHAVIOR—
“Modeling Manifest and Latent Structures in a University: Understanding Resources and Dissent Dynamics”
Advisor: Khalid Saeed
Awarded: February 24, 2017

ENGINEERING

Jason Matthew Forte
BS, ME, Worcester Polytechnic Institute
BIOMEDICAL ENGINEERING—
“Development of a Biomimetic In Vitro Skeletal Muscle Tissue Model”
Advisor: Raymond Page

Fan Zhang
BS, MS, Jilin University, China
BIOMEDICAL ENGINEERING—
“Statistical Methods for Characterizing Genomic Heterogeneity in Mixed Samples”
Advisor: Patrick Flaherty
Awarded: February 24, 2017

Nicholas D. Deveau
BS, University of New Hampshire;
MS, Worcester Polytechnic Institute
CHEMICAL ENGINEERING—
“Microkinetics of Hydrogen Permeation through Dense Solid and Liquid Metal Membranes”
Advisor: Ravindra Datta
Awarded: February 24, 2017

Drew Joseph Martino
BS, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
CHEMICAL ENGINEERING—
“Evaluation of Electrochemical Storage Systems for Higher Efficiency and Energy Density”
Advisor: Ravindra Datta
Awarded: February 24, 2017

Jason Michael Morgan
BS, MS, University of New Hampshire
CHEMICAL ENGINEERING—
“Towards an Understanding of the Gas Diffusion Layer in Polymer Electrolyte Membrane Fuel Cells”
Advisor: Ravindra Datta
Awarded: February 24, 2017

Patrick Daniel O’Malley
BS, Worcester Polytechnic Institute
CHEMICAL ENGINEERING—
“Development and Application of Reaction Route Graph Representation and Analysis of Catalytic Reaction Networks”
Advisor: Ravindra Datta
Awarded: February 24, 2017

Jake Edmond Hughes
BE, The Cooper Union
CIVIL ENGINEERING—
“A Novel 2-Step Control Approach for Damage Mitigation After Bridge Collision Events”
Advisor: Leonard Albano

Hajar Jafferji
BS, MS, Worcester Polytechnic Institute
CIVIL ENGINEERING—
“Incorporating Cinnamaldehyde into Concrete for Corrosion Mitigation”
Advisor: Aaron Sakulich
Awarded: February 24, 2017
Naser Pourakbar Sharifi  
**BS, Isfahan University of Technology, Iran; MS, Sharif University of Technology, Iran**  
**CIVIL ENGINEERING**—“Application of Phase Change Materials to Improve the Thermal Performance of Buildings and Pavements”  
**Advisor: Aaron Sakulich**  
**Awarded: February 24, 2017**

Xiaokong Yu  
**BS, MS, Northwest A&F University, China**  
**CIVIL ENGINEERING**—“Understanding of Chemical-Microstructural-Mechanical Relationships of Asphalt Binders”  
**Advisor: Mingjiang Tao**

Ain-ul-Aisha  
**MS, National University of Sciences and Technology, Pakistan**  
**ELECTRICAL AND COMPUTER ENGINEERING**—“Fundamental Limits of Poisson Channels in Visible Light Communications”  
**Advisor: Lifeng Lai**

Bengi Aygun  
**BS, Yildiz Technical University, Turkey; ME, Bahcesehir University, Turkey**  
**ELECTRICAL AND COMPUTER ENGINEERING**—“Distributed Adaptation Techniques for Connected Vehicles”  
**Advisor: Alexander Wyglinski**  
**Awarded: October 7, 2016**

Travis Fredrick Collins  
**BS, MS, Worcester Polytechnic Institute**  
**ELECTRICAL AND COMPUTER ENGINEERING**—“Enabling 5G Technologies”  
**Advisor: Alexander Wyglinski**  
**Awarded: February 24, 2017**

Chenyun Dai  
**BS, Nanjing University of Aeronautics and Astronautics, China; MS, Worcester Polytechnic Institute**  
**ELECTRICAL AND COMPUTER ENGINEERING**—“Studies of the Relationship Between the Surface Electromyogram, Joint Torque and Impedance”  
**Advisor: Édward Clancy**  
**Awarded: February 24, 2017**

Paulo Victor Rodrigues Ferreira  
**BS, MS, Universidade Federal de Uberlandia, Brazil**  
**ELECTRICAL AND COMPUTER ENGINEERING**—“SRML: Space Radio Machine Learning”  
**Advisor: Alexander Wyglinski**

Yishuang Geng  
**BS, Southeast University, China; MS, Worcester Polytechnic Institute**  
**ELECTRICAL AND COMPUTER ENGINEERING**—“Radio Propagation for Localization and Motion Tracking in Three Body Area Network Applications”  
**Advisor: Kaveh Pahlavan**  
**Awarded: February 24, 2017**

Gorka Irazoqui  
**MS, Tecnun Universidad de Navarra, Spain**  
**ELECTRICAL AND COMPUTER ENGINEERING**—“Cross-core Microarchitectural Attacks and Countermeasures”  
**Advisor: Thomas Eisenbarth**

Lili Yuan  
**BS, Beijing Institute of Technology, China**  
**ELECTRICAL AND COMPUTER ENGINEERING**—“Feasibility Investigation of Real-time Quantitative Quasi-static Ultrasound Elastography”  
**Advisor: Peder Pedersen**

Khalid M. Alzahrani  
**BS, KFUPM, Saudi Arabia; MS, MBA, Worcester Polytechnic Institute**  
**MANUFACTURING ENGINEERING**—“Perspectives on Hybrid Electric Vehicles in the Kingdom Of Saudi Arabia”  
**Advisor: Amy Zeng**  
**Awarded: October 7, 2016**

Inigo Anza  
**MS, University of the Basque Country, Spain**  
**MATERIALS SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING**—“Synthesis of Aluminum-Titanium Carbide Composites by the Rotating Impellar Gas-Liquid In-situ Method”  
**Advisor: Makhlof Makhlof**  
**Awarded: October 7, 2016**

Aaron Marc Birt  
**BS, Lafayette College; MS, Worcester Polytechnic Institute**  
**MATERIALS SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING**—“Materials and Machines: Simplifying the Mosaic of Modern Manufacturing”  
**Advisor: Diran Apelian**

Yinjie Cen  
**BS, Central South University, China; MS, Worcester Polytechnic Institute**  
**MATERIALS SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING**—“Si/C Nanocomposites for Li-ion Battery Anode”  
**Advisor: Jianyu Liang**  
**Awarded: February 24, 2017**
Meinan He  
MS, Worcester Polytechnic Institute  
MATERIALS SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING—“High-Voltage Electrolyte-Based on Fluorinated Compounds for High-Energy Li-ion Chemistry”  
Advisor: Yan Wang  
Awarded: February 24, 2017

Farhad Khooravi  
BE, ME, University of Louisville  
MECHANICAL ENGINEERING—“Carbon Nanotubes Micro-Arrays: Characterization and Application in Biosensing of Free Proteins and Label-Free Capture of Breast Cancer Cells”  
Advisor: Balaji Panchapakesan  
Awarded: October 7, 2016

Gang Li  
BS, MS, Harbin Institute of Technology, China  
MECHANICAL ENGINEERING—“Robotic System Development for Precision MRI-Guided Needle-Based Interventions”  
Advisor: Gregory Fischer  
Awarded: October 7, 2016

Baillie Rae McNally  
BS, MS, Worcester Polytechnic Institute  
Advisor: Richard Sisson  
Awarded: February 24, 2017

Samuel Charles Neu  
BS, MS, Worcester Polytechnic Institute  
AEROSPACE ENGINEERING—“Experimental and Computational Investigation of Electrohydrodynamically –Enhanced Nucleate Boiling”  
Advisor: John Blandino  
Awarded: February 24, 2017

Carl Soderhjelm  
MS, Lund University, Sweden  
MATERIALS SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING—“Multi-Material Metal Casting: Metallurgically Bonding Aluminum to Ferrous Inserts”  
Advisor: Diran Apelian

Anthony George Spangenberg III  
BS, Worcester Polytechnic Institute  
MATERIALS SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING—“Engineering of Light Metals for Dynamic Properties and Fatigue Performance”  
Advisor: Diana Lados

Niravkumar Amrutlal Patel  
BE, North Gujarat University, India; MTech, Nirma University, India  
ROBOTICS ENGINEERING—“Towards Closed-loop, Robot Assisted Percutaneous Interventions under MRI Guidance”  
Advisor: Gregory Fischer

Dmitry Aleksandrovich Sinyukov  
BS, MS, South Ural State University, Russia  
ROBOTICS ENGINEERING—“Semi-Autonomous Robotic Wheelchair Controlled with Low Throughput Human-Machine Interfaces”  
Advisor: Taskin Padir
MASTER’S DEGREES

ARTS AND SCIENCES

BIOLOGY AND BIOTECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT
Max Fine Levine
Bioinformatics and Computational Biology

CHEMISTRY AND BIOCHEMISTRY DEPARTMENT
Xiaomeng Liang
Chemistry
Awarded October 7, 2016

COMPUTER SCIENCE DEPARTMENT
Regan Kurt Broderick-Sander
Computer Science

Nicholas Francis Brown
Computer Science

Dennis Joseph Cammer
Computer Science

Anthony Joseph Chenard
Computer Science

Hongzhang Cheng
Computer Science

Ryan Anthony Danas
Computer Science
Awarded October 7, 2016

William Robert Disanto
Computer Science
Awarded February 24, 2017

Lin Du
Computer Science
Awarded February 24, 2017

James Michael Forkey
Computer Science
Awarded October 7, 2016

Zhongyuan Fu
Computer Science
Awarded February 24, 2017

Yifei Gao
Computer Science

Marc Evan Green Jr.
Computer Science
Awarded February 24, 2017

Thomas William Grimshaw
Computer Science
Awarded February 24, 2017

Rafi H. Hayne
Computer Science
Awarded October 7, 2016

Theresa Kathryn Inzerillo
Computer Science

Tengyang Jia
Computer Science

Aniket Prafulla Kadam
Computer Science

Vsevolod Khibkin
Computer Science

Caitlin Anne Kuhlman
Computer Science
Awarded February 24, 2017

Qian Lu
Computer Science
Awarded February 24, 2017

Neha Satish Mahajan
Computer Science
Awarded February 24, 2017

Benjamin John McMorran
Computer Science

Ahmad Moghimi
Computer Science

Mohamed Essedik Najd
Computer Science

Yuxiang Ren
Computer Science

Austin T. Rose
Computer Science

Amit Kumar Srivastava
Computer Science

Xiaoyan Sun
Computer Science

Siqi Tang
Computer Science

Mi Tian
Computer Science

Antonio Rafael Viñaviles Umail
Computer Science
Awarded October 7, 2016

Arun Vadiel
Computer Science

Tuan Quang Vu
Computer Science

Shi Wang
Computer Science

Kuang Xiong
Computer Science

Fan Yang
Computer Science

Libin Yang
Computer Science

Mei Yang
Computer Science

Zhaojun Yang
Computer Science
Chengle Zhang  
*Computer Science*

Jingjun Zhang  
*Computer Science*

Shirui Zhang  
*Computer Science*

Mingyan Zhao  
*Computer Science*  
*Awarded February 24, 2017*

Yihao Zhou  
*Computer Science*

Hongmei Zong  
*Computer Science*

Kai Zou  
*Computer Science*

**DATA Science PROGRAM**

Yihan Bao  
*Data Science*

Weina Chen  
*Data Science*

Xinyu Dai  
*Data Science*

Cheng Deng  
*Data Science*

Yichen Ding  
*Data Science*

Bian Du  
*Data Science*

Cut Familia  
*Data Science*

Shaowei Gong  
*Data Science*

Qiuyi Hong  
*Data Science*

Muyeedul Hoque  
*Data Science*

Xiang Huang  
*Data Science*

Saber Jahanpour  
*Data Science*  
*Awarded February 24, 2017*

Shijie Jiang  
*Data Science*

Yi Jiang  
*Data Science*

Zhenhua Li  
*Data Science*  
*Awarded February 24, 2017*

Haiyan Liang  
*Data Science*

Yuting Liang  
*Data Science*

Caidan Liu  
*Data Science*

Duanduan Liu  
*Data Science*  
*Awarded February 24, 2017*

Jiaqi Liu  
*Data Science*

Zhiyuan Liu  
*Data Science*

Yanran Ma  
*Data Science*  
*Awarded February 24, 2017*

Thomas Francis Meagher II  
*Data Science*

Neehar S. Mukne  
*Data Science*

Nikita Mutta  
*Data Science*  
*Awarded October 7, 2016*

Qianchao Nie  
*Data Science*

Zheng Nie  
*Data Science*

Mu Niu  
*Data Science*

Qijie Pan  
*Data Science*  
*Awarded February 24, 2017*

Feiyi Wang  
*Data Science*

Qian Wang  
*Data Science*

Guojun Wu  
*Data Science*

Huan Ye  
*Data Science*

Kanrong Yu  
*Data Science*

Liang Zhang  
*Data Science*

Shile Zhao  
*Data Science*

Lu Zhong  
*Data Science*

Boya Zhou  
*Data Science*

Chen Zou  
*Data Science*

**INTERACTIVE Media AND**  
**GAME Development PROGRAM**

Yakin Najahi  
*Interactive Media and Game Development*

Ravi Arun Parekh  
*Interactive Media and Game Development*

Kathryn Lexie Elizabeth Williams  
*Interactive Media and Game Development*
**Mathematical Sciences Department**

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*Financial Mathematics*

Qiyue Chen  
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Xinyu Chen  
*Applied Statistics*

Amorn Chokchaisiripakdee  
*Applied Mathematics*

Yang Cui  
*Financial Mathematics*  
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Shuaichuan Feng  
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*Financial Mathematics*

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*Applied Mathematics*

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Julang Ying  
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Amir Zalloum  
*Power Systems Engineering*  
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Dezhi Zhao  
*Electrical and Computer Engineering*

Huan Zhao  
*Electrical and Computer Engineering*

Yufei Zheng  
*Electrical and Computer Engineering*

Xiangchen Zhu  
*Electrical and Computer Engineering*

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Matthew Wheelock Foley
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Fire Protection Engineering
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Camden Michael Knoff
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Stephen Thomas Maglione
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Jonathan Nicholas Mirabito
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Laura Elizabeth Moreno
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Sayre Paul Jeannet  
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Sigma Xi Graduate Research Award
Anthony Spangenberger, PhD, “Engineering of Light Metals for Dynamic Properties and Fatigue Performance”
Advisor: Diana Lados
Muping Chen, MS, “A Finite Element Approach to Feynman Diagrams and Self-Energy Corrections: I Formalism”
Advisor: Ramdas Ram-Mohan
This award, established in 1983, is presented for outstanding research by students at the doctoral and master’s levels and is sponsored jointly by the Society of the Sigma Xi and the Committee on Graduate Studies and Research.

I3: Investing in Ideas with Impact Award
Best Overall
Meagan Carnes, PhD, Biomedical Engineering, “Fibrin Microthreads for Treating Chronic Muscle Injuries”
Advisor: George Pins
Mitchell Muller, MS, Robotics, “Gyrosopic Shoulder Prosthesis to Dynamically Assist Arm Amputees During Movement”
Advisor: Marko Popovic

Graduate Research Innovation Exchange
First Place Awards
MS, Overall
Johanna Santos, Biomedical Engineering, “Fabrication of a Functional Fibrin-Based Microvascular Network”
Advisor: George Pins
Habibeh Ashouri Choshali, Civil and Environmental Engineering, “Effect of Tablets’ Waviness on the Mechanical Response of Nacreous Materials: Modeling and Experiment”
Advisor: Nima Rahbar

PHD, Arts and Sciences
Tyler Reese, Mathematical Sciences, “Binary Matroids and Kirchhoff Graphs”
Advisor: Joseph Fehribach

PHD, Business and Social Science
Christopher Chagnon, Foisie Business School, “Creating and Modeling a Decision Support System for Optimizing Service Classification and Assignment”
Advisor: Soussan Djamasbi

PHD, Data Science and Cybersecurity
Ramoza Ahsan, “Interactive Time Series Exploration Powered by the Marriage of Similarity Distances”
Advisor: Elke Rundensteiner

PHD, Engineering
Benjamin Cooper, Mechanical Engineering, “Dynamic Sensor-Actor Interactions for Path-Planning in a Threat Field”
Advisor: Raghvendra Cowlagi
Xiaokong Yu, Civil and Environmental Engineering, “Investigation into Chemical-Mechanical Links of Bituminous Materials”
Advisor: Mingjiang Tao

PHD, Life Sciences and Bioengineering
Christopher Chute, Biology and Biotechnology, “TYRA-2: A Trace Amine Receptor’s Role in an Innate Avoidance Response”
Advisor: Jagan Srinivasan
Douglas Reilly, Biology and Biotechnology, “Identification of a G Protein-Coupled Receptor Mediating a Social Behavior”
Advisor: Jagan Srinivasan

PHD, Robotics and Cyberphysical Systems
Shadi Tasdighi Kalat, Mechanical Engineering, “Virtual Coordination in Collective Object Manipulation”
Advisor: Cagdas Onal