



Institute of Industrial Engineers Chapter 47, Greater Detroit Area, Michigan

NEWSLETTER

Mission: It is the mission of the Greater Detroit Chapter to promote the advancement of Industrial Engineering by providing professional development information and resources to our members and the community.

**March 2011
Volume 55, No. 1**

2011 Officers

President

John Preston, Dura Automotive Systems
(989) 225-9965, president@iiedetroit.org

Executive V.P

Lanie Dixon, Henry Ford Health System
(313) 874-8391, exec_vp@iiedetroit.org

V.P Administration

David Stajninger, Plastipak Holdings Inc.
administration@iiedetroit.org

V.P Communications & Web Development

Alex Bohn, William Beaumont Hospital
(248) 597-2742, newsletter@iiedetroit.org

V.P Programs

Vanda Ametlli
programs@iiedetroit.org

V.P Finance

Kerry Coran, Crittenton Hospital
(248) 404-7933, kerry.raschke@gmail.com

V.P Membership

Danielle Hunter
membership@iiedetroit.org

ESD Affiliate Council Rep

Dave Cottrill
(248) 635-8152, programs@iiedetroit.org

Regional V.P

Vanda Ametlli

2011 GDC President's Message

Our newly elected Greater Detroit Chapter President John Preston would like to take a moment to introduce himself and address all of the plans that the GDC has for 2011.

See page 2 for more from John.....

Uni-Solar Plant Tour

Earlier this month, IIE GDC organized a plant tour of Uni-Solar in Auburn Hills, MI. The Operations Manager presented on Uni-Solar's main product: flexible, thin-film solar laminates. He walked us through one of their main production plants and showed us the ways that they have used IE tools to reduce defective laminates, as well as improve employee engagement and safety.

Details and pictures on page 4.....

IIE Board Member Wins SHS Technical Paper Award

The GDC would like to congratulate its own VP of Programs, Vanda Ametlli, for taking 1st place at the 2011 Society for Health Systems Technical Paper Award. The entire Board of Directors is immensely proud of Vanda's Industrial Engineering excellence as well as her hard work.

Details on page 3.....

2010 Programs

Upcoming Programs

- **Fri, May 6** Henry Ford Lab Tour
- **May 21 - 25** IIE National Conference
- **Sat, June 11** Community Service Event
- **July TBD** Chapter Summer BBQ

Check out details at the Greater Detroit Chapter Website:

www.iiedetroit.org

GDC President's Message

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John Preston

2011 Greater Detroit Chapter President's Message

Fellow IIE Greater Detroit Members,

Thank you for your continued support of and participation in our local chapter! Please join me in welcoming our new board members Danielle Hunter and Dave Stajninger. Dave and Danielle bring welcomed strengths and fresh ideas to our board's leadership. I want to thank our departing board members Jeff VandenBoom, Paul Gunnels, and Kim Gunn. Their hard work and dedication have kept our chapter strong!

We've had a great year thus far with some fun events. In January, Wayne State University (WSU) hosted our annual technical paper competition. Norman Dotson won the competition with his presentation on reducing the wastes found in the majors declaration process at WSU. In February, the board attended the ESD Gold Award banquet and presented Gary Altman an award recognizing him for his years of service and leadership to the IIE local and national organizations. In March, we organized a free to IIE members tour of Uni-Solar's state-of-art solar panel facility in Auburn Hills.

Throughout 2011 we are planning more networking and educational events. In May, Henry Ford Health Systems (HFHS) will be hosting us on a detailed tour and roundtable reviewing how they have applied lean methods in their laboratories. HFHS has hosted tours for us before that have generated rave reviews from our membership. Within the next month, we will be sending details on the event.

Our board of directors is working hard to meet your needs. If you have comments or suggestions, please feel free to write me at president@iiedetroit.org.

Best regards,
John Preston
President - Institute of Industrial Engineers, Greater Detroit Chapter

Membership Info

Total Members: 168

New Members: 2

Members Reinstated: 23

Over 20 memberships expire in the next 2 months!
Please check your membership status and renew if needed.

We have a lot of great programs coming in 2010 and you need to be a member to take advantage of discounted pricing!
Visit <http://www.iienet2.org> and go to the "Membership" section to renew.

The IIE Detroit Chapter #047 has 168 members in the greater Detroit metropolitan area. See our website at <http://www.iiedetroit.org/>.

You may contact the following local Greater Detroit IIE Chapter Officer for additional info:
John Preston, President president@iiedetroit.org



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2011 Program Updates

Local Student Technical Paper Competition

By: Lanie Dixon

The Annual IIE GDC Undergraduate Technical Paper Competition was held Tuesday, January 24th at Wayne State University. With only one entrant, Norman A. Dotson, it was an excellent opportunity to critique his paper/presentation and offer valuable feedback to assist with taking it to the regional competition level. Judges included IIE GDC members John Preston, Lanie Dixon, Jeff VandenBoom and Alexander Bohn.

Mr. Dotson chose a subject with which he had intimate experience: Streamlining the Major Declaration and Alteration Process of Wayne State University. Having personally gone through the process, he saw the need to apply lean concepts to make better use of student and staff time. Recommendations included transitioning to a completely electronic system and applying standard policy across university departments to provide efficiency and clarity in the transfer process.

Mr. Dotson was awarded a cash prize to be used toward regional conference expenses where he competed at the IIE Great Lakes Regional Conference February 25-27th at Ohio University in Athens, Ohio. Great work Norman!

IIE GDC VP of Programs Wins SHS Award

By: Kerry Coran

Vanda Ametlli is the 2011 Society for Health Systems (SHS) Undergraduate 1st Place Technical Paper Winner for her paper on "Improving Inpatient Discharge Process to Reduce Readmission".

Vanda completed this project during her internship at Crittenton Hospital Medical Center between January and April 2010. The goal of this project was to identify a complete and efficient patient discharge process while meeting CMS core measure requirements in order to reduce preventable readmissions and improve patient outcomes.

Vanda facilitated an interdisciplinary project team made up of clinical leaders and frontline staff. The project team also went through a 4 month process improvement training which utilized the PDCA methodology and incorporated Lean tools. The project team implemented 7 improvements including an electronic submission of patient activity and diet level, an electronic medication reconciliation form, improved disease specific education, and scheduling of patients' follow-up appointments prior to discharge. The implemented improvements have a potential ROI of \$144,000 annually.

In addition to winning the \$1,000 scholarship, Vanda was also able to present her paper at the 2011 SHS Conference held in Orlando, FL. As she pursues her Masters Degree in Industrial & Systems Engineering at Wayne State University, Vanda is the current VP of Programs for the IIE Greater Detroit Chapter.

Former and current GDC presidents Jeff VandenBoom and John Preston helped judge the Technical Paper competition



2011 GDC President John Preston poses with Technical Paper winner Norman Dotson





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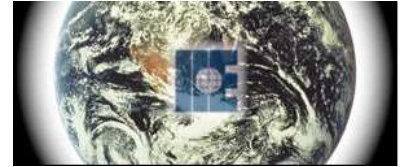
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GDC Sponsored Tour of Uni-Solar

By: Dave Stajninger



Uni-Solar and its parent company, Energy Conversion Devices, manufacture and sell thin-film solar laminates that convert sunlight to energy using proprietary technology. It is the world's largest producer of flexible solar panels with a product that provides more total energy production than any other solar panel on the planet. Uni-Solar is based in Auburn Hills, MI and is helping the state of Michigan become a leader in the development of sustainable energy products.

Uni-Solar opened its factory doors to a group of IIE Detroit Chapter members on Tuesday, March 15th. The group received an introductory presentation about the company by the operations manager. Following the overview, the group was lead on a tour of the entire manufacturing process, which consists of two separate buildings. The process is comprised of three steps; deposition, cell manufacturing and finishing.

During the tour, the group was able to see a number of operational improvements that have been implemented based on lean manufacturing principles. Many of the improvements are focused on quick communication and collaboration. Multiple information boards are placed throughout the facility. In the front area, a safety board is updated and addressed on a daily basis to ensure that issues are quickly identified and resolved. In addition, a metrics board is reviewed on a frequent basis by plant management during their regular shop floor walks.

Uni-Solar recognizes that value is created on the shop floor. As the group toured the manufacturing cells, it was clear that many ideas were generated by manufacturing team members. The facility is neat and organized thanks in part to the use of shadow boards that are diligently maintained to keep tools in their place. A "7 minute" periodic audit of critical equipment parameters was implemented based on the suggestion of a shop floor associate. Additionally, a cell team improvement implementation board is used to encourage the contribution of improvement ideas from all areas of the company. Team members can post ideas on cards which are then reviewed at the team level. Ideas that pass the first level are then reviewed by the supervisor and tracked on the board, in the open, until completed.

The tour demonstrated to the group that industrial engineers are critical in making future technologies viable and competitive. Right here in Metro Detroit.

Visit us on the web at
www.iiedetroit.org

Newsletter questions:
communications
@iiedetroit.org



At left: The IIE members who came to explore Uni-Solar and learn about their operations. Uni-Solar has implemented many IE tools, using both existing models and innovations of their own.