

## TALKING POINTS

### **INFORMS explores theory-practice link in operations research**

A Nervous System for Humanity? A Smarter Planet? Those are just two plenary sessions on tap as the College of Engineering and the Isenberg School of Management host the first Northeast Regional



INFORMS (Institute for Operations Research and the Management Sciences) Conference at the Campus Center May 6 and 7.

INFORMS is the largest professional society in the world for professionals in the field of operations research management science, and business analytics.

The theme of the conference is "From Theory to Practice." Hari Balasubramanian, professor of mechanical and industrial engineering at UMass Amherst, is the general chair of the conference with Massachusetts co-chair Les Servi of the MITRE Corporation. Professor Anna Nagurney of the Isenberg School at UMass Amherst is on the program committee and will take part in a panel discussion on "Research in Academia and Industry."

The goal of the conference is to assist communication and learning among academics, practitioners and students in the field around current research and applied work.

Plenary addresses will be delivered by Brenda Dietrich of IBM, Professor Alex "Sandy" Pentland of the MIT's Media Lab, and Professor David Simchi-Levi of MIT. Dietrich will speak on a Smarter Planet; Pentland on Building A Nervous System for Humanity: Making Health, Financial, Logistics, and Transportation Networks Work; and Simchi-Levi will speak on Flexibility - From Theory to Practice. Tutorials will also be given on Transforming U.S. Army Supply Chains and Modern Design of Experiments - Recent Advances in Screening Methods. In addition, panels have been organized on: The Academic Job Search Process, Research in Academia and Industry, and How to Run a Successful INFORMS Student Chapter.

Special clusters of invited paper sessions are on the following topics: aviation applications, healthcare/transportation/energy, military applications, networks, operations research theory and applications, public programs, service & needs, and supply chain management. There will be about 150 paper presentations with speakers from as far as Florida and Texas.

#### **More Information**

**[INFORMS Northeastern Regional Conference 2011](#)**

April 27, 2011.