WPI's 147th Commencement

The largest graduating class in WPI's history, 1,680 students, received their degrees at WPI's 147th Commencement on May 16. In all, WPI awarded 956 bachelor's degrees, 682 master's degrees, and 42 PhDs. Former astronaut Bernard Harris gave the Commencement Address, telling the class of 2015 they are “infinite beings with infinite possibilities.”

WPI President Laurie Leshin also spoke about the WPI’s sesquicentennial celebration and compared the large graduating class to the Institute’s very first class of 16 graduates in 1871. View more photos on Facebook.

Welcome First Year Parents & Friends

For those of you with students who are starting their educational journeys at WPI this fall, welcome! We’d like to remind you about several important deadlines coming up this summer:

6/15-7/15: Fall Course Registration Open

6/30: Housing and Dining Request Deadline

8/23: Move-in Day

8/23-26: New Student Orientation

Visit our First Year Experience page for more important dates.

Senior Women's Reception

On May 7, graduating female
Summer is an ideal time for your student to get ahead or make up a class. New courses in computer science and electrical and computer engineering have been added for E2, running July 6 – Aug 20. Tuition for all undergrad courses is discounted at least 30 percent. WPI students who need to repeat selected courses because of a “No Record” will receive a 50 percent discount. Evening and online options are available. Email Sara Ringer for more information.

Message from Sarah Pelletier, Associate Director of Parent Programs

The old adage was right: if you don’t like the weather in New England, wait a minute! I closely monitored the weather for Commencement as the event neared. The 72 percent chance of rain decreased to 40 percent, and Saturday turned out to be a beautiful day—perfectly indicative of the bright future of the Class of 2015. It was my first Commencement at WPI, as I started five months ago, and the excitement of our newest graduates was infectious.

The Parents Program was able to offer two new ways to enhance our families’ experiences that day—our most loyal parent donors received reserved seating at the ceremony; and during the Post-Commencement receptions, we sponsored a family photo area and provided complimentary photo frame keepsakes.

Congratulations to the Class of 2015 and their parents and families! And best wishes to all of our students, new alumni, and families for a happy and healthy summer.

Global Ambassador Photo Contest

The Global Ambassadors, a student organization that provides resources for students who are interested in off-campus opportunities, recently announced the winners of their photo contest, which showcases photos from Project Centers around the world.

Jinghan Wu ’16 took home the top prize for her “Projects In Action” photo at the Cape Town Project Center.

Athletics News

In recent athletics achievements, the Engineers softball team completed a historic season with a 34-11 ledger, while two baseball student-athletes were selected for the Academic All-District I Baseball Team, and five track and field students participated in the NCAA Division III Women’s Outdoor Track and Field Championships.

WPI Community Takes Stand Against Racism

On April 24, the Office of Multicultural Affairs and YWCA hosted “Stand Against Racism,” a campus-wide event featuring a banner signing, reception, and open discussion about racism. Pictures and responses from WPI participants may be found on social media channels using #WPIStands.

Financial Aid Updates

The Office of Financial Aid has been busy putting together award packages for returning undergrads. Award letters will be mailed on or about July 8, 2015. Students may still submit application materials if they have not yet done so.

We will be reaching out to students in the Class of 2019 shortly with information about paperwork for Stafford Loan processing and reporting of any outside scholarships.
Zachary Harmony ’16 earned top honors for his “Around the Project Center” photo taken during his time in Hong Kong:

Global Projects Applications

WPI’s Global Projects Program offers students opportunities to complete their Humanities and Arts requirements, IQPs, or MQPs at one of 38 project center locations in 25 countries. The process of exploring off-campus opportunities and applying for the 2016-17 academic year starts right away in A-Term 15, and the application process is competitive.

Students are invited to attend the Global Fair during the first week of classes for more information.

Visit our Global Portal to learn more about programs and resources for students traveling off-campus. If your student has questions, they may contact IGSD directly at global@wpi.edu.

Does Your Student Have a Job?

Every spring, the Career Development Center fields questions from students about interviewing and job offer evaluations and negotiations. We also begin to collect post-graduation data through our Outcomes Survey. We compile this data and create a Post-Graduation Statistical report, a resource that helps current students gain insights into future careers and provides essential information on the return on investment of a WPI degree.

Please encourage your students to complete the survey. If they do not have plans, send them our way so we may assist them in their search! They can call us at 508-831-5260, stop by, or schedule an

New Online Programs

Corporate and Professional Education is pleased to announce the launch of two online programs: the Master of Science in Construction Project Management, a degree covering construction engineering, legal relations, and the organization and use of resources; and the Graduate Certificate in Systems Thinking, a certificate for non-engineers and engineers who create and deploy innovative products and services.

Dining Programs

Chartwells Dining Services had a successful and busy year serving over 600,000 meals to more than 3,500 students from our five dining locations. We take pride in our service and strive for excellence each day. As a result, we received a lovely plaque and a gift from our students. Watch our video highlighting dining events throughout the year.