Minutes of Event

Forum – Dr. Siqian Shen

Friday, December 01, 2023, 11:30 AM to 12:00 PM

Weil Hall 406

**Subject:** Forum with Prof. Dr. Siqian Shen on Human Factors & Ergonomics

**Attendees:** (#: 8)

Yunmei Liu, Nicolas Grimaldi, Shuyu Liu, Linfeng Xu, Meng Zhao, Dong Han, Dongmin Li, Zihan Li

**Note Taker**: Shuyu Liu

**Notes**:

The HFES Student Chapter recently hosted a 30-minute forum with Dr. Siqian Shen on December 1st. Dr. Siqian Shen is a Professor in the Department of Industrial & Operations Engineering at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. She is an operations research expert with specializations in integer programming, stochastic programming, and network optimization. Her research has made substantial contributions to diverse areas, including energy, healthcare, cloud computing, and transportation systems.

During the forum, students engaged in a vibrant Q&A session, delving into various aspects of academic careers. The discussion covered diverse topics, including strategies for finding suitable collaborators, the different requirements of NSF and NIH funding, and suggestions for writing proposals and securing grants. The forum also touched upon the timeline of postdoctoral researchers regarding when to focus on grant writing. Dr. Shen emphasized that it is influenced by various factors based on the PI and trainee. Dr. Shen advised starting with familiar topics and diversifying reading across fields to enhance one's ability to tell a compelling research story.

Additionally, Dr. Shen shared her experiences navigating a career in academia, including insights on time management, the priorities of a junior professor, as well as the advantages and disadvantages of staying in academia.

