

An e-Newsletter  
Serving Northwest  
Arkansas and the  
River Valley

April 2015

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## Student Paper Competition Winners Announced

The Northwest Arkansas Chapter of APICS hosted its first ever Student Paper Competition in 2015. This event allowed students to compete for the opportunity to network with professionals and develop local contacts in the supply chain industry. The winners received a cash prize and presented their papers at an APICS NWA meeting and networking event.

APICS NWA would like to thank all participants of the Student Paper Competition for their hard work and congratulate the following winners:

- **Amirali Ghahari**, University of Arkansas  
1st Place Graduate Division  
“Designing a Transportation Network for a UAV Delivery Service”
- **Payam Parsa**, University of Arkansas  
1st Place Graduate Division  
“Optimal Selection of Customers from the Perspective of Manufacturers in Continuous Replenishment Programs”
- **Arley Bejerano**, University of Arkansas  
1st Place Undergraduate Division  
“Challenges of Forecasting Demand for E-Commerce”

To view the winning student papers, visit:

<http://apicsnwa.org/index.php>

## Call for Nominations

The APICS NWA Board of Directors would like to invite you to self-nominate for a position on the Board of Directors for the upcoming chapter year. The year starts July 1, 2015 and ends June 30, 2016. A hand-off meeting of the current Board and new members will be held in June 2015.

Questions regarding any of the listed positions may be directed to [programs@apicsnwa.org](mailto:programs@apicsnwa.org).



Student Paper Competition Winners



APICS NWA members observing student presentations

### Board Positions:

- President-Elect\*
- VP of Education\*
- VP of Programs\*
- Secretary/Treasurer\*
- VP of Membership\*
- VP of Marketing
- VP of Student Affairs
- VP of Public Relations

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>> Join Today

>> Membership  
Renewal

## Call for Nominations (cont.)

- VP of Corporate Affairs
- Webmaster

\*Indicates positions that must be filled according to the tenants of the chapter charter.

To nominate, send an e-mail to [programs@apicsnwa.org](mailto:programs@apicsnwa.org) along with your name, company affiliation, and title. Include a short biography of your credentials as well as the reason you are nominating for this role. This information will be included

in the ballot. This must be completed no later than May 2, 2015. Those who may be interested in helping, but do not want to take a leadership role, are also welcome to join a committee. Come help your Chapter grow and prosper!

## 3D Printing: The Process, the Promise, and the Problems

Additive manufacturing, commonly known as 3D printing, has received considerable press in recent years, frequently accompanied by bold and fanciful predictions of how it will change the future. 3D printing is capable of producing objects from plastic, metal, nylon, and hundreds of others materials using a variety of very different types of additive manufacturing technologies. Pixar's John Lasseter's sentiments on 3D printing summarizes the innovative process as follows: "The art challenges the technology, and the technology inspires the art."

On March 10, APICS NWA hosted a PDM on 3D printing presented by Dr. Harry Pierson, Assistant Professor of Industrial Engineering at the University of Arkansas. Dr. Pierson's presentation offered a down-to-earth glimpse into the revolutionary technology of 3D printing while answering three important questions: What is it?, What can it do?, and Why hasn't it changed the world yet? An introduction of the general method of 3D printing and some of the common processes were offered, as well as its unique capabilities and fundamental challenges that limit its application.



*Dr. Harry Pierson, Assistant Professor of Industrial Engineering, University of Arkansas*

## API Arkansas Poly Inc.

API has been a customer manufacturer of flexible packaging for over 35 years. They extrude, convert, and print a variety of flexible polyethylene all under one roof. From general purpose liner grade, to shrink wrap, to high impact freezer materials utilizing a state-of-the-art blending system for special needs and formulations, API controls quality from order placement to customer delivery.

From their start up in 1972, as a manufacturer of plain poly bags, API continues to expand and diversify to better meet the needs of the customer. Growth includes the addition of flexographic printing in 1978 and blown film in 1981 to the addition of a high density extrusion line in 1996 and a three layer co-extrusion line in 2001. The most recent addition in 2007 of an eight color high-speed flexographic press provides opportunities for customers to enhance their packaging and increase their market share.

Sample products produced by API include trash bags, drum liners, lawn bags, ice bags, furniture covers, product packaging, polyethylene bags, re-closable Zip Lock bags, and more! Industries served include Paper Goods, Frozen Foods, Poultry Bags, Retail Sales Bags, and Medical.

On January 20, APICS NWA hosted a tour of the API facility in Van Buren, AR. The tour allowed members and guests to observe the different processes and machinery at API while gaining more insight into the Flexible Packaging business.



*API's eight color high-speed flexographic press allows for enhanced packaging for customers*



*API's state-of-the-art blending system allows API to create customized formulations for customers*

## Ask Joan

This column is for members and non-members alike to ask Joan Smith, VP Programs for APICS NWA, a question about APICS, APICS Certification, or Supply Chain information in general.

**Question:** Where does the money go that we pay for tours (\$35) and PDM's (\$25)?

**Answer:** We have a budget for our chapter for the year. Each year we strive to do the following:

- Cover our legal and accounting expenses (501C3)
- Cover other expenses, which include liability insurance, website maintenance and hosting, PO Box rental, materials for communications, badges for meetings, miscellaneous items
- Offer free of charge attendance for students (limited quantities)
- Fund a contest for students (paper on a Supply Chain subject)
- Provide community service (example would be gloves and water for volunteers picking up trash on I-49)
- Provide financial assistance to other chapters, research funds, etc.
- Absorb the expense of meals for no-show attendees when we have to guarantee a certain number of meals

As for the \$35 cost, we charge a little more for our tours because we typically have a greater turn out and that allows us to meet our expenses (law of supply and demand). The cost does include the meals, which, on average run between \$18-\$22 per person including taxes, tip, and room rental if there is any. We also offer the people who help us arrange the tours at the location to join us for the meal. Sometimes this means as many as six people join us for no charge.

We are a non-profit organization. We strive to simply break even each year and sometimes that can be a challenge. We do get a small amount from the membership, but oftentimes that is not enough to allow us to provide the quality of services we have developed over the past couple of years.

If you have a question for Joan, send it to [programs@apicsnwa.org](mailto:programs@apicsnwa.org) and watch for the answer in an upcoming newsletter!



**Joan Smith, CPIM, CSCP**  
VP Programs, APICS NWA Chapter

## Welcome New Members

APICS NWA would like to welcome its newest chapter members:

Wei Bao  
Jenny Dixon  
Philip Farr  
Michael Hesson  
Adam Holdridge  
James Huckabee

Vic Kennett  
Joshua Lanier  
Amanda Lawson  
Ronald Lee  
Janie McReynolds  
Gerald Reeves

Steven Ross  
Harold Scifres  
Britnee Stearman  
Katherine Uselton  
Brenton Webb  
Bryan Wright

## APICS: Built on a Foundation of Excellence

The APICS NWA Mission is to build and validate knowledge in supply chain and operations management. We aim to enable our community of members, affiliates, and customers to lead in the global marketplace.

Since 1967, individuals and companies have relied on APICS for its superior training, internationally-recognized certifications, comprehensive resources, and worldwide network of accomplished industry professionals. APICS recognizes the contributions supply chain and operations management professionals make to their employees and the global economy and has developed a comprehensive suite of educational resources, including:

- Education, training, industry publications and research, and world-renowned certification programs
- Opportunities for career development, networking, and best practice sharing
- Local and global membership and affiliation opportunities worldwide

For more information about APICS NWA and how you can get involved, visit <http://www.apicsnwa.org>.



APICS NWA Chapter Board Members (not all pictured)

### Connect with Us

Be sure to connect with us on LinkedIn, Facebook, and Twitter to keep up-to-date with all our latest news, events, certification classes, and other information.



Contact us directly:

P.O. Box 8804  
Fayetteville, AR 72703  
479-756-9251 ext. 459

President—[president@apicsnwa.org](mailto:president@apicsnwa.org)  
Education—[education@apicsnwa.org](mailto:education@apicsnwa.org)  
Membership—[membership@apicsnwa.org](mailto:membership@apicsnwa.org)  
Corporate Initiatives—[corporate@apicsnwa.org](mailto:corporate@apicsnwa.org)  
Secretary/Treasurer—[treasurer@apicsnwa.org](mailto:treasurer@apicsnwa.org)  
Programs/Communications—[programs@apicsnwa.org](mailto:programs@apicsnwa.org)

For more information or inquiries regarding this Newsletter, contact [Jane Van](#), Editor-in-Chief, Director of Public Relations, APICS NWA Chapter

### Upcoming Events

