TOYOTA Production Systems Laboratory

A new initiative continues, and so many students ....

Raymond Collaboration
In January of 2015 we made our first trip to Raymond Corp.’s plant in Greene, NY (near Binghamton) to give students the experience of “working” on a Toyota production floor. Our hosts were Scott Campbell, TPS Manager, Manufacturing, and Steve Coletka, a member of the TPS team. Six IE students, 4 of whom work in the Toyota Lab, spent 5 days in the transmission cell, doing timed observations and identifying and then helping to implement some process improvements. Next week (January 11 to 13) we will make our second visit. Five students will be participating in this effort, and will be focused in the OPR weld cell. The task will be to document the current state, and develop plans to increase the rate of production.

Imagine RIT
RIT held its annual festival the first weekend in May when the campus is open for visitors see all the cool things students and faculty are doing. We did not break last year’s record turnout in the TPS Lab, but we had 1,428 visitors, including 500 who experienced the productivity benefits of assembling a lego car on an assembly line. This event was a success yet again, mostly because of the 33 ISE student volunteers who helped out.

New Lab Activities
We have designed and run a continuous self balancing flow (bucket brigade) lab in a couple of versions in two of our courses. We also have a mixed model assembly lab that we have tested and is ready to go. In addition, we are working on a lab that will be used in our Design of Experiments course.

Company Visitors
The lab was visited this year by leaders, engineers, and others from Nypro, Micron, Penske, Harris RF, Klein Steel, General Dynamics, Rochester Precision Optics, and other companies.

Lab operations and other activities

Staffing
This fall semester Srikanth Peyeti ’and Poojith Kalluru returned as grad students working in the lab, and were joined by Vaibhav Rungta and Saurabh Paralikar.

Operations
We are using our updated white board to manage our lab activities (see photo). Each post-it represents a project, and the “columns” are time buckets. The post-its on the right are completed projects.

Student Number Growth
The lab is significantly used for 3 courses in the fall (1st year, 4th yr, and grad), two in the spring, and camps in the summer and year-round. The RIT K-12 office continues to ask us to host camps for kids (see summary under “News”). For, the grade 5-12 camps, we use a mix of the activities developed under our REMS program which was funded by a generous grant from the Toyota USA Foundation.

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