ROBOFEST World Championship **Bios of Judges** (As of May 14)

May 19, 2018 at Lawrence Technological University (Judges' meeting at 8:30am at 2nd floor in the gym)

Exhibition Judges

Oriehi Destiny Anyaiwe, Ph.D. : Currently, Oriehi is occupying an Adjunct Professor position in the department of mathematics and computer science, Lawrence Technical University and he will be joining the department full time as an Assistant Professor this Fall. He obtained his PhD in Computer Science and Informatics from Oakland University. His research interest spans diverse areas such as Bioinformatics, Big Data Mining and Pattern Recognition, Artificial Intelligence, Data Science and the development of Classification Algorithms for Matrix Data Points.

Maria Castaño received her B.S. in Electrical Engineering from Florida International University (FIU) in Miami, FL. As an undergraduate student, she participated in several undergraduate research programs, and was a recipient of a Ronald E. McNair Post-baccalaureate Achievement Program Fellowship. She has experience in lighting design, working as an intern for 2 years at ISP Lighting Design Inc. She is now a Ph.D. student in Electrical Engineering at Michigan State University, a member of the Smart Microsystems Lab and a recipient of a National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship. Her research interest are in optimal control of robotic fish. She is now an active member and volunteer of the IEEE Robotics and Automation Society (RAS).

Benancio Gonzalez - Ben received his B.S. in Electrical Engineering from Lawrence Technological University. After working in Automotive and Aerospace Applications for 7 years went to Ford Motor Co. Ben received his MSEE from Wayne State University with a concentration in Electronic and Computer Controlled Systems. He also attended University of Detroit earning a Master's Degree of Business Administration (MBA) with a concentration in International Business attending the program in Amsterdam, Holland as part of the curriculum. During his time at Wisne and AT&T he developed various Automated Test Systems for the Military (Security Clearance), V6 Engines and Robotic Lines for laydown Body side Welding. At Ford he developed Test stands for Electric Fuel Pump Development and various Electronic Modules. Ben was the Engineering Launch Manager at Chicago Assembly Launching the first Police Interceptor Vehicles, in addition to the Taurus/Explorer/MKS Vehicles.

Wuming Jing received his B.S. and M.S. degrees in Mechanical Engineering from Harbin Institute of Technology, China and Xi'an Jiaotong University, China, in 2006 and 2009, respectively. He had the Ph.D. degree from Stevens Institute of Technology, Hoboken, in 2014, also in Mechanical Engineering. Currently, he works at Lawrence Technology University, Southfield, as Assistant Professor. From 2014 – 2016, he worked as Postdoctoral Research Associate in MSRAL, Purdue University. His research interests are on the micro-, nano-scale robotics.

Grant Kruger is an Assistant Research Scientist in the College of Engineering at the University of Michigan. Throughout his manufacturing and biomedical research career, Dr Kruger has lead the development of several robotic and intelligent systems. He received his doctorate in Electrical Engineering in Intelligent Manufacturing Systems while working as a Research Assistant and Graduate Student Instructor at the Advanced Manufacturing Technology Research Center within the Nelson Mandela University, South Africa. Thereafter, he accepted a position as a lecturer in their newly established Mechatronics Department to assist with academic program development. In 2007 he continued to pursue his postdoctoral studies in advanced manufacturing and Biomedical Informatics at the University of Michigan within the renowned S.M. Wu Manufacturing Research Center. His teaching expertise spans analog and digital electronics, networks and control systems and he has mentored numerous students and student teams through a range of multidisciplinary design courses.

Peter Guenther has been teaching Computer Science since 2002 and for the last two years he has trained adults to become software developers through coding bootcamps at Grand Circus Detroit. He became involved in robotics in 1999 when the first version of LEGO Mindstorms was released and has eagerly followed each generation since, competing in LEGO Sumo competitions at conventions and winning multiple years at BrickFair Virginia. He has also experimented with Arduino and other platforms. He has been coaching middle and high school robotics teams since 2005 and Robofest teams since 2006; along the way he has taught hundreds more students to code through robotics summer camps.

Mr. Thassyo Pinto received his B.S. in Mechatronics Engineering from Universidade Salvador (UNIFACS), Brazil, in 2014. Throughout his academic life, he had the opportunity to work as a volunteer in various professional societies, promoting technology awareness for the community by organizing engineering seminars, workshops and competitions. He has experience in automotive industry, working as a Vehicle Package analyst and as a Vehicle Evaluation and Verification (VEV) Sign-off engineer at Ford Motor Company. He is now a Ph.D. student in Electrical Engineering at Michigan State University, and a member of the Smart Microsystems Lab and Adami Lab. His research interests are in soft robotics, evolutionary robotics and biorobotics. Currently, he is participating in a National Institutes of Health (NIH) program, Broadening Experiences in Scientific Training (BEST), for enhancing career development and building advanced skills. Through his leadership abilities, he has been guiding and improving the IEEE MSU Student Branch as a Graduate Advisor. He is also an active member of the IEEE Robotics and Automation Society (RAS), acting as the Regional Student Representative (RSR) for Regions 1 to 7, and the Chair of the RAS Student Chapter at MSU.

Jonathan Ruszala received his B.S. in Electrical and Computer Engineering and M.S. in Computer Science from Lawrence Technological University. His graduate work focused on autonomous robotic platforms in the areas of electronic hardware, robot path

planning and stereo vision. He is currently an adjunct professor of robotics and a faculty advisor to LTU's autonomous robotics team. His industry experience includes work in the defense industry improving combat vehicle survivability. Currently he is at General Motors working on autonomous vehicle safety systems. Jonathan also owns a small electronics company that provides electronics to emergency first responders.

Dr. Lior Shamir Associate Professor of computer science and assistant dean for research at Lawrence Technological University. Specializes in artificial intelligence (AI), pattern recognition, and data science, he directed numerous government-funded research projects related to computational intelligence, and developed novel AI methodology for machine perception of complex human-created data such as art and music. His methodology and research has led to numerous data-enabled discoveries in fields such as astronomy, cosmology, medicine, biology, zoology, and more. He is primary author of over 100 peer-reviewed scientific papers, and his research has been noted by public figures such as Ray Kurzweil and Richard Dawkins. His work has been featured on the mainstream media such as NBC, CBS, Fox, Scientific American, Discovery, NPR, Wired Magazine and more, and he is frequently interviewed by the premier international popular press on topics related to machine perception.

Elmer Santos has been the Robofest Assistant Director since 2017. Elmer is a Mechanical Engineer with a BS in Mechanical Engineering from Cornell University and MS in Manufacturing Systems Engineering from Stanford University. He worked for General Motors for 30 years in body assembly, industrial engineering, injection molding, paint engineering, and advanced vehicle development as an engineer and an engineering group manager. At GM, Elmer has worked with various robotics applications in Body Shops (resistance spot welding, material handling) and Paint Shops (sealing, painting). He has been involved with student robotics activities since 2001, mentoring teams and volunteering in Robofest, First Lego League, First Tech Challenge, First Robotics Challenge, Vex Robotics Competition, Vex IQ Challenge, and World Robot Olympiad.

Queen Umeana (Confirmed to come) Graduated with a B.S. degree in Geological Earth Sciences and M.S. in Civil Engineering with emphasis in GIS from the University of Colorado at Denver. She has been interested in GIS, engineering design and in robotics to encourage STEM oriented learning in youth. She is one of the 2017 IMAGINE (Geospatial) Graduate student paper presentation winners. She has coached/mentored/Judged for the Michigan mathematics competition. She taught at the University of Science and Technology in Beijing, China. She has volunteered for many years with programs focused on increasing the number of minorities entering STEM fields. Her interest is to develop a charter school that increases STEM attitudes, knowledge, skills and workforce capacity in the use of robotics and geospatial technologies as an informative platform for middle school students. She is now a Ph.D. student in Technology / Engineering Management with emphasis in GIS at Eastern Michigan University, Ypsilanti, MI and a member of the National Association of Black Engineers. She is also an instructor at a community college. Her research interest focuses on STEM Curricula in middle school with GIS/Engineering in science classrooms.

RoboArts Judges

Katherine Bis Katie earned her B.S. in Mechanical Engineering and her B.A. in Child Psychology from the University of Michigan. She worked for 15 years at Lionel Trains as a manufacturing engineer, design engineer and then as an Engineering Program Manager. She has taught AP Statistics and Algebra 2 at Country Day Upper School and has taught ACT/SAT prep classes for the past 10 years. Katie has been actively involved in coaching teams and/or coordinating competitions for FLL, Robofest, Science Olympiad, WRO, and Vex robotics for the past 9 years and has traveled internationally to Russia (2014), Qatar (2015), and India (2016) with her son's WRO World Championship qualifying teams. Katie is currently the Robotics Program Manager for Cranbrook Schools in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan.

Santosh Patel Santosh completed his degree in Computer Science Engineering from Karnataka University India. He has worked in the field of Information Technology for over 20 years and works setting up Datacenters supporting the Server, Storage and Virtualization platforms. Besides implementation and configurations, he also helps in designing solutions for various technologies and holds certifications for Cisco, Microsoft, VMWare, Dell EMC and other IT vendors. His work experience also includes teaching and coaching students, various computer science subjects at schools and private training centers. He has been actively coaching Robofest Jr. exhibition team.

Mirit Shamir Graduated of Radzyner Law School and Arison School of Business School in 1999, and earned a Master degree in law (LL.M) from Tel-Aviv University in 2003. In 2006 graduated from Michigan Technological University with M.S. in Environmental Policy. Recipient of NSF IGERT (Integrative Graduate Education and Research Traineeship for Sustainable Future) scholar award. Admitted to practice law in Israel in 2000, and actively practiced law as a profession for few years, focused on commercial, labor and environmental law. Since 2010 has taught in the Humanities, Social Science and Communication department at Lawrence Technological University. Also teaches leadership at Lawrence Technological University. Learned to play the piano, music theory and dance at the conservatory for music and dance.

Lara Yaldo Graduated with B.S. degree in Computer Science (2009) and M.S. degree in Computer Science (2018) with Data Science concentration from Lawrence Technological University. She had worked as a web development/design artist. Also, She has worked as a system engineer for 10+ years, in which she developed websites to control High Performance Computing Clusters for Automotive companies. Currently, she works as a technical system engineer at Federal Mogul where she handles all issues with HPC Cluster, CAE, FEA and CAD software for mechanical engineers.