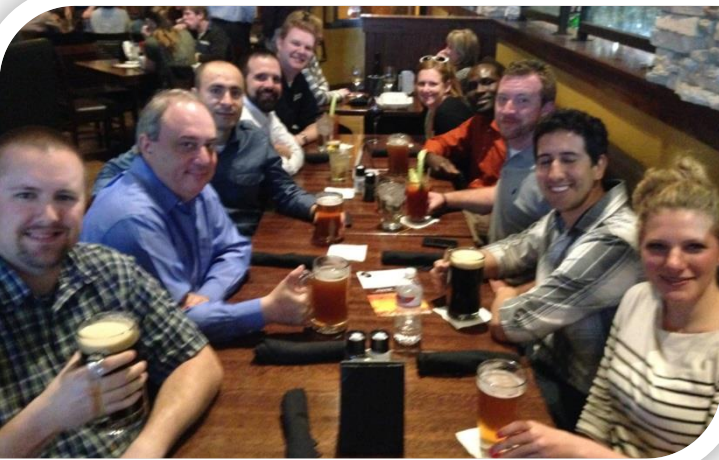


In a tour that resembled a life-size game of “Chutes and Ladders”, 18 participants were welcomed into the UPS Maple Grove facility on the afternoon of Wednesday May 14<sup>th</sup>, 2014. Climbing up ladders, navigating catwalks, dodging package movement and ducking under conveyor belts, this tour was not for the weak-of-heart! The Maple Grove facility is unique in that the majority of the sorting is performed using a combination of sensors, scanners and algorithms (vs people). Participants were welcomed into the heart of the operation and able to observe numerous examples of flow control, load leveling and the automated methods used in sorting as well as some of the pitfalls that have been identified since this facility was constructed.



Prior to the facility tour, several UPS representatives holding a variety of roles in the company shared their insight into the workings of UPS from an IE perspective. At UPS, IE's are responsible for and/or involved in setting standards for every part of the process from facilitating technology implementation, deliver center load/unload, package flow throughout the facilities and the world, nearly every detail of a driver's movement and contingency and holiday planning (to name just a few!). In addition, the history of technology and the effect it has had on UPS's success was presented and discussed.



Following the event, those who were not completely exhausted met at nearby Granite City for a little networking and grub. Thanks to everyone who was able to join us for our latest event and ESPECIALLY to Board Member Allison Shaver for organizing (and her co-hosts at UPS in Maple Grove).