Dear all ISE family members and fans,

Welcome back for another year of exciting news, events, awards, and fascinating individuals shaping the VT Grado ISE Department. The 2011-2012 academic year was a busy one for the ISE Department, and a lot has happened since our last issue. Enclosed you will find a recap of awards and honors given the end of the spring semester. A lot of dedication and hard work went into the achievements of the students and faculty recognized in this issue, so when you see them, go ahead and congratulate them!

We strive to provide you with all that is ISE, and it is our hope that you provide feedback and creative ideas on how to improve this newsletter. Please do not hesitate to contact Joyce Vest [vestjs@vt.edu] with your comments. We hope you enjoy the issue and look forward to hearing from you. Stay tuned for our next edition coming in December.

Sincerely,
Your ISE Editors

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As we start another academic year, I would like to take a moment to simply say how proud I am of the Grado Department of Industrial and Systems Engineering. At all levels, including undergraduate students, graduate students, faculty, staff, and alumni, we are working together to achieve excellence in all aspects of departmental life.

The year that we have just completed is likely the best one that we’ve ever had relative to almost any of the metrics that we track. Our rankings are up and we have experienced rapid growth in our student population. We are enjoying great leadership from our students.

Our distinguished, diverse and growing faculty and staff have also been leaders in their profession. We continue to enjoy strong teaching performance, increased success in research and publication, and excellent service to the university and the community.

Our alumni continue to make us proud as well, with diverse and significant achievements being reported almost daily.

I firmly believe, however, that our success as a department has no bounds. I anticipate that each person in the ISE family will continue to strive, to improve, and to achieve during the coming year, and I expect that next year I will once again be able to say that we just finished our best year ever. I wish each of you a fantastic year!

Don Taylor
Hallo! My name is Brian Crowe, and I am an Industrial and Systems Engineering major with a minor in German. When I first began my search for an exchange program, I did not have a particular program in mind, but I knew I wanted to study in Germany. After getting in touch with a professor in the ISE Department, I learned about a brand new bilateral exchange program between Virginia Tech and the Karlsruhe Institute of Technology. I decided this was a perfect opportunity for me.

When I signed up for this program, I did not have any experience speaking German. I signed up for classes in the spring before I left and took eighteen credits of German in eight months in order to be prepared to take classes in German when I got there. At first I was really nervous that I wasn’t going to be ready to take engineering classes in another language, and initially it was difficult, but I worked hard and was able to succeed.

One cool thing about classes in Germany is how different they are from classes at Virginia Tech. During the semester, we did not have any exams or projects to complete; instead we had one final exam worth one hundred percent of our grade. This meant the semester was a little less stressful until finals came along.

KIT has an amazing international organization called the AK Erasmus. They are a student run group who organize events for the international students. Together we traveled around Germany visiting cities and soaking in the local culture. We also had a chance to travel to Austria for a fun filled weekend of skiing and nightlife. In addition to traveling, the AK Erasmus also organized events in Karlsruhe such as their weekly Stammtisch where the international students gathered together to enjoy the nightlife in Karlsruhe.

To sum everything up, I had a fantastic time in Germany learning about a new culture and a language. This experience is something that I will never forget. It is something that job recruiters always like to talk about when I go to career fairs, and it looks great on a resume. I personally enjoyed it so much that I am planning to return after graduation to further my studies. If you’re interested in Germany or learning German, I highly recommend checking this program out.
SENIOR SYMPOSIUM DESIGN AWARDS
Class of 2012

Performance Impact
Company Name: University of Richmond Intellectual Property and Transactional Law Clinic
Advisor: Dr. Jaime Camello
Project Title: “Attorney Response Time Improvement System”
Team: Cynthia Ramirez, Sutton DeCrane, Alice Dula, and Chelsea Jensen

Application of ISE Methods
Company Name: Lewis Gale Hospital Alleghany
Advisor: Dr. Eileen Van Aken
Project Title: “Process and Supply Improvement in the Operating Room”
Team: Jessica Crisp, William Gibson, Betsy Nash, and Jenn Choi

Communication/ Presentation Skills
Company Name: Phoenix Integration, Inc.
Advisor: Dr. Hazhir Rahmandad
Project Title: “Visualization of Software Maintenance Attrition”
Team: Christine Newman, Rebecca Shaw, and John Eckstein

Project Management/ Leadership
Company Name: Solutia, Inc.—2
Advisor: Dr. John Shewchuk
Project Title: “Material Flow and Routing”
Team: Ricky Hoggard, Dominic Breuer, Michael Davis, and Tyler Schmick

Innovation and Creativity
Company Name: Center for Excellence in Logistics and Distribution (CELDi)
Advisor: Dr. Kimberly Ellis
Project Title: “Distribution Centers in the Physical Internet”
Team: Chris Olsen, Erin Folly, Dan Mashack, and Alex Lyddane

Other Outstanding Awards and Recognitions

The Outstanding Junior and Senior Awards are based on applications completed by nominated students. The criteria include scholarship and service to the Department, College, and University.

Robert P. Davis Outstanding Junior Award - Ali Reedy & Colton Wenger
Robert D. Dryden Outstanding Senior Award and ISE Advisory Board Senior Leadership Award - Alex Lyddane

Outstanding GTA Awards - Mike Stylianos (L) and Kevin Grove (R)

Paul E. Torgersen Outstanding Teaching Award - Dr. Paul E. Torgersen
John W. Hancock, Jr Chair in Engineering & President Emeritus

Congratulations to the Class of 2012
Celebrate with ISE

Congratulations Mr. and Mrs. Gibbons

Pictured from left to right:
Andrew Elmore ('08 ISE/VT)
Groom: Daniel Gibbons ('08 ISE/VT)
Bride: Jennifer Gibbons
Kelly White Freno ('08 HNFE/VT)
John Freno ('08 ISE/VT)
Catherine Winstead
Travis Winstead ('08 ISE/VT)

Congratulations Mr. and Mrs. Stewart

Maggie Morrison Stewart ('11 ISE/VT) and Trey Stewart ('11 Biochemistry/VT)

Congratulations Mr. and Mrs. Wenger

Alecia Wenger and Colton Wenger ('13 ISE/VT)

Relay for Change

Do you now, or have you ever known someone with cancer? It is expected that cancer will affect 1,228,600 new people this year, and nearly 564,800 Americans are expected to lose the cancer battle, according to the Thomara Latimer Cancer Foundation.

One of the most successful ways to combat cancer is by participating in Relay for Life. The money donated to the American Cancer Society through Relay goes to the Hope Lodge, Road to Recovery, Look Good...Feel Better, Reach to Recovery and College Scholarships. These programs are all geared to making life with cancer a little bit easier. The Hope Lodge is a place where patients and their families can stay when they travel out of town for the patient to receive treatment. Many of the students, staff, and faculty within the ISE department have felt the hurt of cancer themselves or through someone they know. Because of the pain felt from cancer, we as a department relay.

ISE’s own Dr. Torgersen has been affected by cancer more than once, and it is in his name that we relay. Last year, Torgy’s ISE was composed of three teams totaling roughly 60 team members and raised just over $6,000. This year, our goals include fielding the largest team we have ever had with nearly 90 members and raising over $10,000. These goals will take effort, but with the family atmosphere encompassing the ISE department, they are not only achievable but surpassable.

Katie Antonacci

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Creating a Culture of Giving

At the Grado Department of Industrial and Systems Engineering, our vision is to be leaders in research, education, professional outreach and leaders in our communities and society. Funds from the Commonwealth of Virginia to Virginia Tech do not cover our annual budget or needs. Private giving is critical if we are to maintain, let alone improve, the high quality of our processes. Giving to ISE at Virginia Tech can provide student scholarships, maximize students’ learning, help us attract and retain the world’s best faculty, assist with day-to-day operations, and help maintain state-of-the-art research and teaching facilities. If we are to be competitive with other top 10 departments, giving is vital.

To aid us in soliciting funds for this endowment, we recently commissioned a sculpture, which has been installed on the wall in Durham Hall right outside the departmental main office. The names of our benefactors appear prominently on the large brass plaques above the sculpture and the names of our Patrons appear on the brass plaques on either side of the sculpture. Our Sponsors names appear on the bronze plaques surrounding the sculpture.

Our Most Vital Need - The Excellence Fund

A Special Thanks And Recognition To Our Excellence Fund Contributors

Adams, Michael & Brenda
Adkins, Roger & Mary
Arnold, Dick & Sally
Arnold, Joseph
Askew, Tom
Bailey, Fred
Birk, Lydia
Blackwood, Morgan
Blanchard, Ben & Dot
Burzacchi, Sebastian & Kelly
Canada, John & Wanda
Casali, John
Chachra, Vinod & Ranjana
Cullinan, Thomas & Katherine
Davis, Darrell & Michelle
Deisenroth, Mike & Marilia
Dick, Dan & Lynn
Doughty, Gary & Eleanor
Easterly, Mary Chris
Fitzgerald, William & Vicki
Forbes, Charles & Patricia
Fulton, Steven
Gingrich, Pete
Grado, John & Corrie
Guynn, Jack & Becky
Harmon, Ken
Hepler, Clint & Nita
Jones, John & Lillian
Klein, Dave & Christine
Laman, Denise
Leclaire, Kevin & Jessica Oi
Leslie, Charles
Mayo, Trevor
McClelland, Robert & Mary
McKnight, John
Memmer, Peter
Miller, Matthew & Holly
Monroe, Ellis
Montague, John & Jean
Montgomery, Doug & Cheryl
Norris, Jack
O’Brien, Charley & Betsy
Overby, Tom & Carolyn
Pannell, Rob
Polk, John & Marty
Porterfield, Robert & Nancy
Powers, Styron
Ring, Bill & Sara
Rockwell, Chris & Sharon
Rusak, Jennifer & Mark
Sage, Don & Mary Etta
Sauer, Nancy & Ron
Smith, Jaime & Erika
Smith, Michael & Elizabeth
Snelling, Steve
Spitzer, Kirk & Leila
Stewart, Mona & Kevin
Szabos, Brian & Kurstein
Taylor, Bob & Connie
Taylor, Don & Jo Ellen
Torgersen, Paul & Dot
Van Aken, Eileen & Steve
van Luyn, Dutch & Trudy
Worley, Hal & Thornie
Sneak peak at our next issue….

Meet Manasi Mehta!
Manasi Mehta of Manassas Park, Va., a senior majoring in industrial and systems engineering, was persuaded to apply to the university because of the Corp of Cadets and the College of Engineering, but she has found plenty of ways to distinguish herself through other academic and personal pursuits.
Read all about Manasi’s journey to and experiences at Virginia Tech in our next issue!

WE WOULD LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Companies Hiring Hokies
Starting with our next issue, we will be featuring a “Companies Hiring Hokies” section! If you would like to nominate your employer for this section, please send the name of the company and a short description (including what ISEs do at the company) by email to Joyce Vest at vestjs@vt.edu or by mail to the Department, address listed below. A group picture of the Hokies working at the company would be great, too!
Please be sure to include all relevant information including your name, address, phone number, and email address.

Celebrate with ISE
Please send in any updates and announcements such as (but not limited to) marriage, births, career accomplishments, retirement, community projects, and awards and recognitions by email to Joyce Vest at vestjs@vt.edu or by mail to the Department, address listed below.
Please be sure to include all relevant information including your name, address, phone number, and email address.

Address Updates
Mailing and email address updates should also be sent in to Joyce Vest at vestjs@vt.edu.