ISE Community Involvement

By Meredith Johnson

Students need experience to find a job, but in order to gain experience, students need a job. This past year, the Industrial and Systems Engineering Ambassador program’s Community Involvement committee worked to break this cycle and focused on providing community partners with ISE solutions through students of the department. The committee finds and implements projects that relate to industrial and systems engineering where ISE students are presented the opportunity to apply their engineering skills to real life challenges within the New River Valley community. Both the community partners and students benefit from this program. The community partner receives engineering expertise to make their operations more efficient and students have the opportunity to lead and participate in projects to add to their portfolio of ISE experiences.

One of the committee’s marquee projects this year was with Micah’s Backpack. Micah’s Backpack provides food to children who qualify for free lunches by packing backpacks with food for the weekend. In February, four ISE students along with an ISE ambassador project manager implemented a 5S methodology (sort, set in order, shine, standardize, and sustain) to organize an inventory room. By interfacing with the client and implementing the skills and tools learned from their ISE classes, the lead by the ISE Ambassadors, the ISE department formed three Virginia Tech Relay for Life teams for the 2012-2013 academic year. The department routinely participates in Relay for Life to honor former University President and Department Head Dr. Paul E. Torgersen who won his battle with throat cancer.

To date, the Ambassadors have raised $7,003.24 through various fundraising efforts. This placed our combined teams as the 4th highest fundraising company of all the Virginia Tech Relay for Life teams, as of 4/19/13.

A cornhole tournament was organized in the fall where registered teams donated to compete in a cornhole bracket. Local companies donated gift cards to be used as prizes for the winning teams. The Relay teams raised funds throughout the fall and spring by hosting several Buffalo Wild Wings percentage nights. In addition, much of the funds were raised through monthly raffles. Raffle items included baked goods, gift baskets, and gift cards and acted as a consistent form of fundraising for the teams. Finally, the ambassadors wrapped up their efforts with an ISE March Madness Bracket where individual students could donate and enter to win gift cards from local businesses.

The university wide event was held on the drillfield on Friday, April 19th. All-night activities included on-site fundraisers, a remembrance ceremony, a luminaria ceremony, and performances by Virginia Tech a cappella groups. It was a great way to end a year of fundraising and honor one of our own, Dr. Torgersen.
Engaged Student: Patrick Acker
Cycling For a Cure

By: Patrick Acker

In December 2011, my grandmother was diagnosed with lung cancer. Inspired by this moment in my life, I decided to confront the issue personally and do the best I could to make the last few months of her life the best she has ever lived. I, along with two other engineering friends from Virginia Tech, Morgan Bissell and Oliver Donkervoet, started an organization called "Cycling4aCure" in July 2012. In October 2012, we (Cycling4aCure) signed our contracts with Cindy’s Hope Chest and will be cycling 3,400+ miles from San Francisco, California to Virginia Beach, Virginia this coming summer 2013 to raise funds for Cindy’s Hope Chest and the American Cancer Society.

Cindy’s Hope Chest is based out of Charlotte, NC and specializes in providing counseling for women with cancer. If an individual going through chemotherapy or radiation treatments needs a babysitter or their yard landscaped, Cindy coordinates these and many other services free of charge. Cindy’s Hope Chest also helps these women by aiding in the purchase of wigs, mastectomy bras, post-surgery camisoles, and many other items. Cindy not only coordinates these services, but also acts as a “shoulder to lean on” throughout the duration of an individual’s chemotherapy and radiation treatments. We are sponsored by DryTac (an international company specializing in vehicle/RV advertising wraps), the second grade class of St. Edward-Epiphany School (Richmond, VA) for their outreach project, and several other small businesses that have been instrumental to our success.

During each day of our 40-45 day journey, we will be cycling for approximately 6-10 hours and covering anywhere from 60-120 miles. We will be live video streaming from the road and updating our blog multiple times throughout each day with video/photography for the duration of the trip to encourage current cancer patients to keep pushing forward through their treatments. We invite you to log onto our website at cycling4acure.org to learn more about our story and how we are fighting for you from the road! If you or someone you know may be interested in sponsoring our organization, please contact us on our website (advertising for business/corporations available for all sponsorship levels)!

About Patrick: Patrick is a sophomore in ISE and he’s currently involved with the human powered sub project and last year, he was involved in FLEX, Big Event-projects committee, and Hokie Day 2012.
The 2013 Regional Conference for Institute of Industrial engineers was held at West Virginia University this past February. A total of 22 Virginia Tech students, both undergrad and graduate, attended the conference. The conference began on February 22nd with a welcome dinner and a speaker. Marci Jackson, from Premier Healthcare, spoke about the challenges of healthcare reform and the emerging need for Industrial Engineers. The following day, the students had a busy day starting with a series of small discussion-based lectures revolving around success after graduation. Students also listened to two technical paper presentations and attended a plant tour at Swanson Industries. The conference concluded with dinner, awards, and a presentation by our very own Dr. Don Taylor. Dr. Taylor talked about professional leadership and the benefits of the IIE organization. During free time, students were given a tour of the West Virginia University campus and were able to ride the personal rapid transit (PRT), which is WVU’s very own monorail system. The conference was overall a great experience for students to network and learn more about careers in industrial engineering. The students are already looking forward to the 2014 regional conference, to be hosted by the Virginia Tech chapter of IIE!

The Multiplier Effect: Tapping the Genius Inside Our Schools

by: Liz D. Wiseman, Lois N Allen, and Elise Foster

Sequel to Liz Wiseman’s best-selling business book, Multipliers: How the Best Leaders Make Everyone Smarter

Elise Foster is a ’99 and ‘00 graduate of the ISE department. She was the outstanding senior in the College of Engineering for the Class of ’99 and also worked extensively with the Center for the Enhancement of Engineering Diversity.

For more information, visit http://MultiplierEffectBook.com
Companies Hiring Hokies

CCS-Inc.

CCS and its subsidiaries in Christiansburg have hired many Hokies over the year, including ISE graduate Marty Muscatello, who is CEO. CCS provides computing solutions for harsh environments and mission-critical applications. CCS serves a wide variety of industries including manufacturing, energy, food and beverage, marine, telecommunications, and defense. A wholly-owned subsidiary of CCS-Inc., FoxGuard provides cyber security and regulatory compliance assistance for critical infrastructure entities.

CCS-Inc. provides computing solutions for harsh environments and mission-critical applications. CCS serves a wide variety of industries including manufacturing, energy, food and beverage, marine, telecommunications, and defense. A wholly-owned subsidiary of CCS-Inc., FoxGuard provides cyber security and regulatory compliance assistance for critical infrastructure entities.

Herren Associates

Herren Associates is a management consulting firm based in Washington D.C. that leverages industrial engineering principles to deliver measurable and sustainable results that improve business operations. Founded in 1989 by Jeff Herren, a VT ISE Advisory Board member, Herren Associates strives to maximize the value of every tax dollar spent. Herren is a one hundred person firm, thirteen of whom are graduates of the VT ISE department. The firm is always looking to add more Hokies. Herren Associates specializes in systems acquisition, engineering management, program analysis, and cost engineering for a wide variety of civilian and government industries. Herren has been industry recognized by several publications, including Washington Business Journal’s FAST 50, INC. 500 Fastest 5000, and SmartCEO magazine’s GovStar Awards: Industry Star. Herren is committed to not only delivering smarter solutions to clients, but also fostering an entrepreneurial environment to attract, develop, and retain the best people.

Ways to Stay Connected

If you and members of your class or your employer would like to sponsor or be a co-sponsor of an event (e.g. ISEats, pizza for information sessions, Relay for Life fundraising events, etc.) contact us and we will coordinate your efforts!
Congratulations to Lexi Ioannou and Dan Pappas!

Lexi and Dan got engaged in November 2012, and the wedding is this July! They both graduated from Virginia Tech in May 2011, and Lexi is an ISE alumni.
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
Cullinane, 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
Guyyn, 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
WE WOULD LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU!

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.

Grado Department of Industrial and Systems Engineering, Virginia Tech
250 Durham Hall, Blacksburg, VA 24061
phone: (540) 231-6656, fax: (540) 231-3322, email: ise@vt.edu

Congratulations 2013 Spring APM Initiates!

Joanna Appugliese
Emily Armentrout
Allie Aroesty
Jonathon Beck
Brian Bohannon
Bomi Choi
Zvonko Cindrich
Will Coleman
Megan Dierolf
Nadejda Doutcheva
Abdel Rahman El Mazny
Taylor Everson

Casey Glinowiecki
Oscar Herrera-Restrepo
Mary-Gallagher Hunter
Meredith Johnson
Michael Kott
Kevin McIntire
Alexander Monahan
Marylee Morrison
Sarah Oertel
Taylor Rains
Matthew Young