The ISE Ambassadors have recently started working with St. Michael Lutheran Church in Blacksburg, contributing to a community ministry titled “Micah’s Backpack.” Micah’s Backpack is a ministry program dedicated to promoting the nourishment of children, over the weekend, working with local schools to assist students who qualify for the free lunch program. Every Friday afternoon, backpacks filled with healthy food and snacks are given to local elementary school eligible students, assuring that they have food to eat over the weekend, and the students return the backpacks on Monday morning.

The ministry originated at St. Michael Lutheran Church in 2008, and continues to provide food to students from all five Blacksburg elementary schools, Blacksburg Middle School and the Blacksburg Head Start Preschool through the efforts of over 30 community partners. Micah’s Backpack is one of many grassroots organizations all around the country working to fight child hunger.

In November, several ISE Ambassadors met with Pastor John Wertz to address the program’s system for keeping records of the schools to which backpacks are distributed, as well as the food and money donations made to the ministry. The current system inadequately meets the needs of Micah’s Backpack, making it difficult to keep accurate records of the ministry’s success. The ISE Ambassadors have been working with St. Michael Lutheran Church to create a much more efficient system using Microsoft Excel with Visual Basic Integration (VBA). This new system is projected to be implemented no later than February of 2011. In addition, not only will it greatly assist the sector at St. Michael Lutheran Church, it is anticipated that the system will be added to the Micah’s Backpack webpage to be shared with ministry partners around the nation.

We are very proud of our Ambassadors for stepping up to use their talents and skills for the betterment of the local community and beyond. You can find more information about Micah’s Backpack on the web at: www.micahsbackpack.org
Senior Design Teams Go to France

This year four senior design groups had the opportunity to work collaboratively on international projects with the Ecole de Mines de Nantes in France. This program, organized by ISE professor Dr. Joel Nachlas, has been in place for many years. Every other year VT students travel to France to work intensively on the projects for a week and in alternating years the French students come to Blacksburg for a week for the projects. The Virginia Tech teams were paired with French students and a French company for which they are working throughout the year. At the end of September, the VT teams traveled to Nantes to work with the French students and advisors on their projects. They were accompanied by Dr. Nachlas and fellow ISE professor Dr. Michael Agnew. The teams completed their client visits, conducted their initial research and presented their solution proposals at the end of the week-long stay. The teams received feedback from both the French and American advisors in addition to their clients and continue to work on their design solutions. The students remained in contact through January to complete their projects.

Torgy's ISE in dedication to Dr. Paul Torgersen who is a cancer survivor. Between the fundraisers and personal donations the team as a whole has raised $2,280. They are looking forward to setting new records this Spring semester! There are several fundraisers, bake sales, and other events in the planning for this semester including a big pancake breakfast coordinated by the Ambassadors, Institute of Industrial Engineers, and Alpha Pi Mu.

Overall Relay for Life at Virginia Tech had a great first semester raising over $70,000.

The ISE Department started off the Relay for Life fundraising early this year! They had their first fundraising activity November 5, 2010, which was a bake sale in front of Moe's Southwest Grill right in downtown Blacksburg! It was very cold, but the students took shifts and had a great attitude, which paid off because they raised $300 dollars. Their next event was a share night at Log Cabin BBQ in Blacksburg VA, located by the Math Emporium.

The ISE department boasts two teams so far, with the goal of organizing more. The team names are Torgy's ISE in dedication to Dr. Paul Torgersen who is a cancer survivor. Between the fundraisers and personal donations the team as a whole has raised $2,280. They are looking forward to setting new records this Spring semester! There are several fundraisers, bake sales, and other events in the planning for this semester including a big pancake breakfast coordinated by the Ambassadors, Institute of Industrial Engineers, and Alpha Pi Mu.

If you would like to donate to our cause please visit: http://tinyurl.com/VTISEDonate

Come join our team!
When most people hear of Virginia Tech, two things come to mind: Engineering and football. When the Chegin triplets, Matt, Mike and Chris, were contemplating lab ideas for their Work Measurement and Methods Engineering lab, the brothers came up with a unique and creative lab that combined their passion for football and their engineering knowledge. They wanted to analyze a Virginia Tech football team practice.

After the rest of the lab section voted to perform the Chegins' lab as a class, they faced one obstacle: getting permission from Coach Beamer and the football team. After emailing the athletic department and talking to Dr. John Ballein, the Associate Director of Athletics for Football Operations, the Chegins and the rest of their lab section got to live one of every Hokie’s dreams: being on the field for one of legendary head coach Frank Beamer’s practices. The project team broke down into groups to study each of the football position groups at the practice. They performed two studies while on the field. The first, a work sampling study, was done to determine how long or how much of the practice was spent on pre-determined tasks for each position at a specific time interval. The second, a time study, was done to analyze productive time and non-productive time and compare it for the duration of the period.

The lab results showed that a Virginia Tech football practice is highly efficient. The wide receiver group was found to be the most productive position group. With a legend like head coach Frank Beamer, Virginia Tech's continued success in football can now be directly correlated to the efficiency of its practices due to the efforts of these ambitious ISE students.

"I say it all the time, ‘We’re all in this together.’ When I found out that this was a legitimate assignment, that they wanted to study the effectiveness and productivity of our practice, I was happy to assist. To be honest, I’m anxious to hear their results. I know this university produces top quality engineers and if they come up with ways that we can better manage our time, or ways that make us more productive, I’d welcome that feedback."

-Coach Beamer

To watch the interview done by WDBJ7, Roanoke’s CBS-affiliated news channel, visit: http://tinyurl.com/dbj7Interview

Find the Beamerball.com blog about this on October 21, 2010 at: http://www.beamerball.com/free/beamerblog.asp
Paul Torgersen received the ISE Distinguished Alumni Award in Academia from Lehigh University, along with Lee Iacocca who won the Distinguished Alumni Award for Industry on April 29, 2010. Since Paul Torgersen’s father was an electrical engineer, he started out studying electrical engineering at Lehigh University, which did not “fit,” so Torgersen switched his major to Industrial and Systems Engineering and graduated in 1953 with a BS in ISE from Lehigh. He continued his education and received his MS and PhD degrees in Industrial Engineering from Ohio State University. Dr. Torgersen began his teaching career at Oklahoma State University and then came to Virginia Tech as head of the Industrial Engineering Department. After a few years, Dr. Torgersen became Dean of Engineering at Virginia Tech. Dr. Torgersen’s career continued as he became acting president and then president of Virginia Tech from 1993 to 2000. After retirement in 2000, Paul Torgersen returned to his beloved department of Industrial and Systems Engineering and continues to teach Theory of Organization each semester.
Alumni Wedding Announcement

A warm congratulations to the new Mr. and Mrs. John Freno! Their wedding was held October 16, 2010. Attending and participating in the wedding were fellow ISE alums. From left to right in the above picture: Andrew Elmore (ISE '08), Kelly White Freno (HNFE '08), John Freno (ISE '08), Travis Winstead (ISE '08), and Daniel Gibbons (ISE '08).

ISE Student Highlight
Ashley Faucher

Ashley started participating in pageants about two years ago because she wanted to ride on top of a fire truck in a parade, but then she learned about the program and the potential she had to leave a legacy. Miss America’s platform is Children’s Miracle Network, and Ashley is aiming to become a “Miracle Maker” this year by becoming one of the top fundraisers. So far she has collected $640 for the CMN Hospital in Roanoke, Virginia and $200 for the Children’s Miracle Network/Miss America Organization Scholarship Fund. Since Ashley started collecting for CMN/Miss America scholarship fund she has collected $1,300 total. Ashley’s contributions can be tracked at http://ow.ly/3lU1X.

Ashley’s personal platform is Feeding America; she teaches people how close to home hunger is for America, and is aiming to collect the equivalent of 20,000 pounds this year! She always updates what she has been up to on her website www.Ashleyfeedsalot.com.

Her favorite part of competition is the interview portion, and she won the preliminary award for that on the same night she won Miss Smith Mountain Lake 2011. All together she has won about $2,000 in scholarship money. Ashley will compete for Miss Virginia 2011 on June 25th which will be broadcasted globally on the internet and statewide in Virginia. She will keep everyone updated on her website!

ISE Professor Highlight
Professor Joel Nachlas

C. J. Babb, one of the team captains of the Virginia Tech Lacrosse Team, says that Coach Nachlas is intelligent with gameplay and knows what to do to reach team goals of going to the National Tournament every year. He knows how to manage and direct a team and he is a keystone feature of the program. Without Coach Nachlas, the team wouldn’t have organized practices, a bus to travel on, or a place to stay when the team travels, much less teams to play. Basically, he does all the logistics of the team. He is a bright individual and knows what he wants to do to reach each specific goal.
Meet the Grado Department of Industrial and Systems Engineering Advisory Board

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name and Title</th>
<th>Position</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Steven E. Anderson</td>
<td>President &amp; COO, Integrated Textile Solutions, Inc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Richard (Dick) M. Arnold</td>
<td>Consultant, Gen. Brd. of Global Ministries of the UMC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Thomas (Tom) E. Bailey</td>
<td>Executive Vice President, Balzer &amp; Associates, Inc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Thomas (Tommy) R. Balzer</td>
<td>President, AMI Safety, Inc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. William E. Biles, P.E.</td>
<td>Edward R. Clark Professor of Computer Aided Engineering, Department of Industrial Engineering, University of Louisville</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms. Lydia A. Birk</td>
<td>Project Manager, Bechtel Jacobs Company, LLC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms. Teresa J. Carter</td>
<td>Engineering Productivity Tools Leader, GE Energy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. John Grado</td>
<td>Retired Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Technographics Inc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. John McKnight</td>
<td>Vice President &amp; General Manager, Kollmorgen Motors &amp; Drives</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Matthew J. Mulherin</td>
<td>Sector Vice President &amp; General Manager, Northrop Grumman Corporation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Charles (Jack) J. Norris, Jr.</td>
<td>Chief Operating Officer, NuVox Communications</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Robert (Rob) F. Pannell II</td>
<td>Strategic Space Planning Manager, Altria Client Services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Styrion N. Powers</td>
<td>Director, Health, Safety, Security and Environmental at BP Refining and Marketing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Christopher (Chris) J. Rockwell</td>
<td>President, Lextant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Jaime A. Smith</td>
<td>Advisory Board Chair, Vice President Sales, Sun Edison</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Kirk E. Spitzer</td>
<td>Retired President &amp; CEO, Alfa Laval, Inc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms. Mona B. Stewart</td>
<td>Location Lead-Boston/Pittsburgh/Reston/DC, Accenture Technology Solutions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Gary L. Whicker</td>
<td>Sr. Vice President of Engineering Services, J. B. Hunt Transport, Inc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Don A. Wittke</td>
<td>Region Engineering Manager for UPS Corporate Industrial Engineering</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms. Alyson J. Zehner</td>
<td>Shared Services Director of Application Development, Revenue Analysis and Education HCA Healthcare Corporation</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

What is their purpose?

The purpose of the Grado Department of Industrial and Systems Engineering Department Advisory Board is to provide the department with guidance in regard to undergraduate and graduate curricula, the research needs of industry, and overall direction. At their meetings members of the board regularly interact with both the students and faculty through formal briefings and informal social gatherings. The Advisory Board has been instrumental in assisting the department in obtaining named professorships, endowed undergraduate scholarships, graduate fellowships, and critically needed equipment. They have also had a major impact on the department’s development and curricula. Members of the Advisory Board are distributed between alumni and non-alumni, and Virginia based industry and other industry from around the country. Some of our board members represent major recruiters of Grado ISE students. New board members are selected by the current board for five year terms. The board elects a chairman every two years. Four members of the Grado ISE faculty serve as ad hoc members.

The ISE Advisory Board Gets Involved with Students!

On Thursday, October 7, the ISE Advisory Board gathered in Blacksburg for their Fall meeting. They graciously reserved that night to spend with ISE students for a question and answer session. The night started with a pizza dinner meet-and-greet with the students followed by the sit-down session. The students attending had been able to provide up to two questions each in a survey sent out before the event, and asked questions ranging from work/life balance to how to apply what is learned in school to the real world. The Advisory Board not only answered student questions but spoke on topics they thought were important to share. The board members offered great advice on how to succeed with life after college and gave some great quotes such as, “Money will only make your miseries comfortable.” The event was a memorable night for both the advisory board and students.

Brain Strain

Welcome to the ISE Brain Strain! In every Newsletter, there will be a competition for all readers. Submit answers to our chief editor, Alexia Ioannou at [lexi007@vt.edu] and the winner’s response will be featured in the next edition!

Challenge: Can you tell us where on the Virginia Tech Campus this is located?

How To Win: The first person to submit a correct answer will be the winner!

Good luck!
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 "Hokie Bird" sculpture, which has been installed on the wall in Durham Hall right outside the departmental office suite. The names of our Benefactors will appear prominently on the large brass plaques above the Hokie bird and the names of our Patrons will appear on the brass plaques on either side of the sculpture. Our Sponsors names will appear on the bronze plaques surrounding the Hokie bird. Listed below are the names of our generous contributors thus far.

To learn more about this special project and how you can be a part of it, visit: http://www.ise.vt.edu/support/vitalgiving.php

Our Most Vital Need
- The Hokie Bird Project.

A Special Thanks And Recognition To Our Hokie Bird Excellence Fund Contributors

Adams, Michael & Brenda
Arnold, Dick & Sally
Arnold, Joseph
Askew, Tom
Bailey, Fred
Birk, Lydia
Blanchard, Ben & Dot
Canada, John & Wanda
Casai, 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
Grado, John & Corrie
Guynn, Jack & Becky
Harmon, Ken **
Hepler, Clint & Nita
Jones, John & Lillian
Klein, Dave & Christine
Laman, Denise
Ledaire, Kevin & Jessica
Leslie, Charles
Mayo, Trevor
Memmer, Peter
Miller, Matthew & Holly
Montague, John & Jean
Montgomery, Doug & Cheryl
Norris, Jack
O'Brien, Charley & Betsy
Pannell, Rob
Polk, John & Marty
Powers, Styrone **
Ring, Bill & Sara
Rusak, Jennifer & Mark
Sage, Don & Mary Etta
Sauer, Nancy & Ron
Smith, Jaime & Erika
Smith, Michael & Elizabeth
Snelling, Steve
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

** Indicates a new contributor
WE WOULD LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU!

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.

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