Dear all ISE family members and fans,

We have started this Newsletter as an effort to keep you connected with the VT Grado Department of Industrial and Systems Engineering! We are going to keep you informed about the people who are shaping the future of ISE. Our goals will be to share our news and accomplishments and also those of ISE alumni and Advisory Board members. If you enjoy our first edition, please let us know, and please feel free to contact us with any creative ideas or interesting news that you might have for future editions. The Newsletter will be distributed approximately every semester as we receive information. We are asking for submissions from our alumni about your promotions, marriages, births, new contact information, or anything else you would like to share. Please send information to Joyce Vest at [vestj@vt.edu] for now. We hope to hear from you and hope that you enjoy our first edition!

Sincerely,
Your ISE Editors

IMPORTANT: To receive this letter in the future, please contact Joyce Vest at [vestj@vt.edu] so that we may add you to the newsletter listserv.

Hot Off The Press: Our First Edition

The Numbers Don't Lie

A warm congratulations to the Virginia Tech Grado Department of Industrial and Systems Engineering, as the Graduate AND Undergraduate Programs now both have rankings of #4 in the country based on the U.S. News & World Report for 2011. The numbers don't lie, and the Department is proud to have gained national recognition for its hard work and many achievements. Way to go Virginia Tech ISE!

ISE is on Facebook!

Attention all ISE friends, followers, and fans! There is a new way to get updates right away on department-wide news! The ISE Facebook Fan Page is up and running and we already have hundreds of fans. Undergraduate student leaders will be updating this page throughout the year so you can receive updates as they happen.

The Facebook site for ISE is designed and maintained by the student Ambassadors. Joyce Vest is the staff contact for the student ambassadors.

Go to the following link to join: http://tinyurl.com/VTISE

Also check out the ISE website for full length stories. Go to: http://www.ise.vt.edu
Notable Quotable

“The ISE department strikes a perfect balance between intimacy and opportunity. Class sizes are small enough to foster the creation of real friendships while the outstanding faculty, staff, and resources available provide a chance for a variety of unique and meaningful experiences.”

-Mitch Daniels

Dr. G. Don Taylor

Dr. G. Don Taylor, the Charles O. Gordon Professor and our ISE Department Head at Virginia Tech, is the new President-Elect of IIE! The ISE faculty, staff, students and alumni warmly congratulate Dr. Taylor on this prestigious honor. Dr. Taylor has been a member of IIE since 1978 and has served as Virginia Tech’s ISE Department Head since 2004.

When we interviewed Dr. Taylor about what it’s like being the new President-Elect of IIE, he responded that it is “hard work, but fun and important work.” He expressed enthusiasm about his new role in the organization that shapes our profession and made sure to mention that he is working with a strong and motivated Board of Trustees to meet his goals. Coming from serving on the Board of Trustees himself and being the Senior VP of Academics to being the President-Elect and Chief Financial Officer, Dr. Taylor said that he is currently setting the tone for his Presidency by encouraging stronger membership and retention in addition to the current emphasis on services. When we asked what his plans and goals were regarding this expanding emphasis, he responded that he is considering ways for recent graduates to stay involved and retain membership by incorporating interests of both industry and academic types while keeping up with provision of online training courses and other member services. For fun, we also asked about interesting travel opportunities and learned that the Board gets to travel to some pretty amazing places for meetings such as Vancouver, BC, Canada and Cancun, Mexico.

It sounds like it is going to be a great year for Dr. Taylor and IIE and we are wishing him the best in his new leadership position!
Virginia Tech was once again the top collegiate fundraiser nationwide! The three ISE teams, under the coordination of Alyssa Tetkoski, collectively raised over $6000 through various fundraiser events (such as Pie Your Professor) and through generous donations. Thank you to everyone who helped, donated to, and participated in this event!

Relay For Life Pie Your Professor Fundraising Event 2010

Relay For Life 2010

IIE and APM hosted the annual Spring Fling, held at Caboose Park on May 1st. Lots of faculty, students, and friends came out to celebrate the end of the semester and the beautiful weather! Each year APM sponsors several awards that are announced at Spring Fling and the ISE Banquet.

Congratulations ISE Relay For Life Teams!

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 (i.e. ISEats, pizza for information sessions, Relay for Life fundraising events) contact us and we will coordinate your efforts!
Words of Wisdom

“Forget the plan, seize the opportunity.”
- Dr. Paul E. Torgersen

Congratulations to the Class of 2010!

What’s New in the Undergraduate Program

Two major initiatives for the ISE Undergraduate Program the past few years have been to increase ISE student participation in UG research and opportunities for study abroad.

The number of students taking ISE 4994 Undergraduate Research for a technical elective has grown from 20 students in 2004-5 to over 50 during 2009-10. This provides a very important complement to formal classroom experience by giving students the opportunity to work more closely with faculty and graduate students and to be exposed to the research process - the critical thinking and analysis skills this experience helps to develop are extremely useful regardless of whether students go on for a graduate degree or not. Also, for the first time in Spring 2010, students were able to showcase their work in the form of posters at the first annual Research Symposium held concurrently with the 2010 Senior Design Symposium.

For the first time in 2009-10, ISE students could study for a semester in another country while taking pre-approved IE courses to transfer back to VT. This study abroad program was launched at the Pontifica Universidade de Catolica de Parana in Curitiba, Brazil. The first ISE student, Ashley Grauman, took four IE courses (in Portuguese) during Spring 2010, and after completing her other junior courses in summer II will still graduate in four years with her class of 2011! Another program has been developed with Karlsruhe Institute of Technology in Germany, where Brian Crowe is studying for one year.

The ISE Department would like to thank all of our alumni and friends who have provided financial support to the Department so that we can offer these additional opportunities to our students.

Performance Impact Award
Mikaya Fieri, Nathan Ranney, Eric Schroeder
Advisor: Dr. Eileen Van Aken
“Reducing Patient Turnaround Time in ER” at Lewis Gale Medical Center

Application of ISE Methods and/or Tools Award
Evanthia Angelo, Irene John, Brian Williams, Stephanie Woo
Advisor: Dr. Ebru Bish
“OB/GYN Clinic Workflow Improvements” at Carilion Clinic

Project Management and Leadership Award
Jaffer Hasnain, Ryan Kuchova, Jamie Smith, Jeremy Sutherland
Advisor: Dr. Hazhir Rahmandad
“Agility Defense Government Services Performance Measurement System” at Agility DGS

Communication/Presentation Skills Award
Max Singer, Lucas Still, Daniel Surber, Alyssa Tektoski
Advisor: Dr. Woodrow Winchester
“Database GUI Enhancement” at Technomics, Inc.

Communication/Presentation Skills Award
Andrew Freedman, Pooja Jani, Andrea Kohler, Rebecca Oley, Sarah Ruggiero
Advisor: Dr. Doug Bish
“UPS Preload Loader Dispatch” at UPS

USMA Project Management Award at West Point
Jaffer Hasnain, Ryan Kuchova, Jamie Smith, Jeremy Sutherland
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 - Brett Anderson and Margaret (Maggie) Morrison

Robert D. Dryden Outstanding Senior Award - Angela Camp, Lucas Still, and Daniel Surber

The Outstanding GTA Awards and the Outstanding Teaching Award recipients this year are:

Outstanding GTA Awards - Fadel Megahed and Susan Hunter

Lucas Still - Phi Kappa Phi Medallion Award for achieving the highest GPA in the College of Engineering, 2010

Angela Camp - Alpha Pi Mu Award of Excellence Scholarship 2009-2010

Paul E. Torgersen Leadership Scholarship Recipients - Pedro Graber and Mike Stylianos

Hokie Bird Reveal

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It’s finally time for the revelation you’ve all been waiting for - the 2009-2010 HOKIE BIRD REVEAL! That’s right – one of our very own students in ISE had the privilege of serving as one of the official Virginia Tech mascots. Mitch Daniels (see photos) served as one of the Hokie Birds for four semesters, acting as the official entertainer for various events such as football and basketball games and even at some of our own ISE functions! As recognition at graduation, he was able to wear the Hokie Bird feet throughout the ceremonies. Join us in congratulating Mitch for a job well done!

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 [lexio007@vt.edu] and the winner’s response will be featured in the next edition!

Challenge: Name the funniest encounter you’ve ever had with a faculty member (even if you are one).

How to win: It must be an actual encounter with a real faculty member, and it has to make us laugh out loud! There will be a panel of judges who take their humor seriously!

Good luck!
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 what we provide, 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, and 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.

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
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
Grado, John & Corrie
Guynn, Jack & Becky
Hepler, Clint & Nita
Jones, John & Lillian
Klein, Dave & Christine
Lamar, Denise
Leclaire, Kevin & Jessica Oi
Leslie, Charles
Mayo, Trevor
Memmer, Peter
Miller, Matthew & Holly
Monroe, Ellis
Montague, John & Jean
Montgomery, Doug & Cheryl
Norris, Jack
O'Brien, Charley & Betsy
Pannell, Rob
Polk, John & Marty
Ring, Bill & Sara
Rusak, Jennifer & Betsy
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

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