Industrial Engineering leads Agreement between Auburn University and Pukyong University, Korea

In January 2006 Auburn University and Pukyong University (Pusan, South Korea) signed an agreement of collaboration and exchange which provides for future interactions in teaching and research. Students at all levels and in all academics programs from one institution could study at the other including specific short term programs. There are opportunities for faculty exchanges as well.

This agreement was led by the faculties of industrial engineering at both universities. Three of the Pukyong University IE faculty members, Dr. Woon-Seek Lee, Dr. Shie-Gheun Koh and Dr. Pyung-Hoi Koo, have been visiting scholars at the industrial and systems engineering department at Auburn University. Dr. Lee and Dr. Koo visited with Pukyong University’s President Dr. Yun Soo Mok and several other academic officers. They met with Interim President Dr. Ed Richardson, Dr. James Ellis, Director of Auburn University’s International Office, Dr. Joe Morgan, Associate Dean of the College of Engineering and ISE faculty members, Alice Smith and Chan Park. Below are Dr. Koo (second from left), Dr. Park (fourth from left), Dr. Mok and Dr. Richardson (in the middle), Dr. Lee (third from right) and Dr. Smith (second from right).

Pukyong National University (PKNU) is located at the largest port city in Korea. PKNU is one of ten large national universities. About 26,000 students and about 1,000 staff members reside at two campuses of Daeyeon and Yongdang. Pukyong National University was established in 1996 after the amalgamation of two national universities, National Fisheries University of Pusan and Pusan National University of Technology, which are now called Daeyeon Campus and
Yongdang campus, respectively. This was the first case of amalgamation of two national universities in Korean history.

Pukyong National University offers programs for B.S., M.S., and Ph.D. degrees in Industrial Engineering that prepare students for careers in an increasingly diverse, dynamic, and technological world. The department of Industrial Engineering at PKNU, established in 1985, currently has 9 faculty members and 250 undergraduate students. The key emphasis of the department is to realize system efficiency and productivity by optimizing the design and planning procedures in complex industrial systems which include people, facility, information, technology, materials and money. Students are expected to obtain a strong academic and practical basis through courses in operations research, production and quality management, system integration and optimization, and information systems technology. The graduates of the department are employed in industry as production engineers, quality specialists, management consultants, systems analysts and information system specialists.

This agreement is just another step forward in the relationship between Auburn University and South Korea. The ISE department in particular has been enriched through faculty and graduate students from South Korea.