Alumnus Cook honored as guest speaker at spring commencement

Auburn University awarded nearly 3,000 degrees in May. Tim Cook, COO of Apple and Robertsdale, Ala., native, delivered the keynote address at both ceremonies of Auburn’s spring commencement.

“It is a tremendous honor and pleasure for me to be Auburn’s commencement speaker this year,” said Cook. “I love Auburn and the unique spirit that pervades the university and look forward to playing a small role in a big day for the class of 2010.”

Cook, a 1982 ISE alumnus, is responsible for Apple’s sales and operations, including worldwide management of supply chain, sales, service and support for all its products. He also runs the corporation’s Macintosh division. At Auburn, Cook has served as chair of the ISE Alumni Council. He also established an endowed fund for excellence, the Cook Leadership Scholarship and an ISE professorship.

Message from the department chair

The department is more active than ever, and we have good news to share about students, faculty and alumni. The picture, at right, was taken this spring when I attended a reception for one of my favorite groups—the Golden Eagles. They are Auburn engineering alumni who graduated more than 50 years ago. As I spoke to alumni at the event, I realized two things: First, the Golden Eagles become more vibrant and engaged each year. Second, our mission and core education have not changed throughout the years. Our nearly 350 students carry on the same traditions as those who graduated decades ago and can be described in the same way—well-rounded, hardworking and dedicated to making a difference.

The department hosted the inaugural ISE alumni tailgate on Saturday, Oct. 2, prior to the football game against University of Louisiana–Monroe. The event was held in the Shelby Center’s Kingsley Courtyard, just off Magnolia Avenue. Alumni and their families stopped to reconnect, as well as visit our new home in the Shelby Center.

We are in need of new alumni council members this year. If you are interested in serving the department, please e-mail me with a brief statement of your background and interests. We are fortunate to have active and supportive alumni serving on the council throughout the past 10 years. If you ask them, I know each would agree that the experience was both rewarding and enjoyable. To learn more about the council, visit http://eng.auburn.edu/programs/insy/alumni/

Finally, the number three seems to be a theme in ISE news this year. It is the number of new professors joining us (see more on page 9), new professorships endowed this year (see the story on page 9) and consecutive generations of departmental graduates in the Chandler family (see the story on page 2). This last achievement is one that few engineering departments can claim. We send a big ‘War Eagle!’ to the Chandler family and await the fourth generation in another 20 years or so.
Three generations of Auburn ISE

Auburn ISE is accustomed to having generations of family members graduate from the program. We have had a few father and son graduates, at least one mother and daughter pair and a number of siblings, including a set of identical twins. For the first time, the department has graduated three generations within one family. Eugene Chandler graduated in 1954, followed by his son Thomas in 1980 and grandson Tyler in 2010. Congratulations to the Chandler family and War Eagle!

Honor society inducts new members

Thirteen members were inducted into the industrial engineering honor society Alpha Pi Mu in April. The ceremony took place at the Auburn Chapel, followed by a reception dinner at the Shelby Center’s McCartney hospitality suite. Undergraduate inductees included Marcus Farris, Joshua Hale, Jeffrey Hendrix, Andrew Johnson, Siobhan O’Reilly, Sequoyah Patrick, Tianyu Pu, Emily Reynolds and Lindsay White. Graduate inductees included Brittany Green, Balaji Kannan, Yucel Ozturkoglu and Ruoliang Tang. Kevin Gue serves as the organization’s faculty adviser.
General Davis and his wife met and married at Auburn. He was later commissioned as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Throughout the next 31 years, they raised two children while living the life of an Army family serving throughout the United States and overseas. In 2005, Davis retired from the Army and joined a private engineering firm. They currently reside in Huntington Beach, Calif.

Faculty recognized at IIE conference

At the annual Institute of Industrial Engineers (IIE) conference in June, faculty member Jeff Smith was named IIE fellow, the highest membership level of IIE, which recognizes outstanding leaders of the profession. Faculty member Kevin Gue received the best applied paper prize in design and manufacturing at the conference for his paper, “Aisle Configurations for Unit-load Warehouses.” IIE is dedicated to supporting the industrial engineering profession by improving quality and productivity.

Undergrads named Davis Scholars

Marcus Farris and Shawn O’Brien, undergraduate students in the department, have been named 2010 Brig. Gen. Robert L. Davis and Barbara Davis scholars. The scholarship, established by General Davis and his wife, supports students who have served in the U.S. military or are serving in an ROTC program.

Farris, who has lived around the globe, is a contracted cadet in Auburn’s Army ROTC program. He graduated from Grissom High School in Huntsville, where he was a member of the Army JROTC program. Farris plans to spend his required four years as an Army officer before exploring job opportunities in the automotive industry as an industrial engineer.

O’Brien, a senior in Auburn’s Air Force ROTC program, is a native of Niceville, Fla., and the son of an active duty Air Force officer. He graduated in May 2006 from Evangel Christian Academy, where he was class valedictorian.

O’Brien has held several cadet corps positions, from training instructor to physical fitness officer, and currently manages the cadet group involved with pregame ceremonies for Auburn home football games. After graduation and commissioning, O’Brien hopes to receive an assignment to pilot training.

Herring, friend and colleague, passes

Bruce Herring, retired professor in the department, passed away in June. He taught at Auburn for 30 years before retiring to travel, spend time with his family and enjoy his many pastimes, such as working with cars, especially his Isettas, and in his workshop in Opelika. He enjoyed a lifelong association with the Boy Scouts of America and served as a member of Auburn’s city council from 1972–1976. Herring was a member and volunteer at Trinity Lutheran Church, as well as a volunteer at the Food Bank of East Alabama. His daughter, Melanie Herring Smith, is a 1984 ISE alumna.

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Outstanding doctoral student named

Hyunho Kim was recently selected as the department’s outstanding doctoral student of the year. He is an officer on active service from the Republic of Korea army and has served in the infantry as a battalion platoon leader and company commander. Before beginning his doctorate at Auburn in 2005, he was a full time instructor of business and administration at the Korean Military Academy. Kim holds a bachelor’s degree from the Korean Military Academy and a Master of Business Administration degree from Yonsei University.

During his time at Auburn, Kim has been involved with a research project from the U.S. Office of Naval Research for dynamic worker allocation strategies. His dissertation focuses on the development of service performance modeling and dynamic worker allocation policy to maximize customer satisfaction.

Advised by faculty member Kevin Gue, Kim is also a member of Alpha Pi Mu honor society and has served as a teaching assistant in the department.

2010 outstanding student of the year

Senior Kimberly Krietemeyer, a native of Dothan, was selected as the 2010 ISE outstanding student of the year. She is a member of Alpha Pi Mu, Tau Beta Pi and Phi Eta Sigma honor societies, as well as the Cupola Engineering Ambassadors. This past year, Krietemeyer served as the president of her sorority and received the Forehand leadership scholarship. She has interned in the IT project management office at Aflac’s global headquarters in Columbus, Ga., for the past two summers.

Haacks show support for department

Alums Robert O. Haack Jr. and his wife Margaret Fuller Haack continue to show their support for the department. In recognition of their contributions to Auburn and their support of engineering education, the department conference room, located on the third floor of the Shelby Center, has been named the Robert O. and Margaret Fuller Haack Conference Room.

Robert graduated in 1983 with a bachelor’s degree in electrical engineering and later earned his master’s degree in management from the Florida Institute of Technology. He began his career as an electronics engineer with the Missile Intelligence Agency and then moved on to the U.S. Army Missile Command. In 1989, he joined SPARTA as a senior engineer and currently manages the company’s missile technology directorate.

Margaret graduated in 1983 with a bachelor’s in industrial engineering, going on to work for the U.S. Army Missile Command in Huntsville. Throughout nearly 26 years of service, she has worked on numerous national defense projects, including the Javelin missile system, the line-of-sight anti-tank missile system and the ground-based midcourse defense system. She currently serves as the deputy chief engineer for the terminal high-altitude area defense system.

The Haacks’ daughter Allison is a recent ISE graduate. They are the only known mother and daughter pair of Auburn industrial engineering graduates.

Alumnus of the year named

Auburn alumnus Hal Pennington ’59 was recently selected as the department’s alumnus of the year. An industrial management graduate, Pennington is chairman of
Godfrey, an '86 industrial engineering graduate, is vice president of marketing and product development for Southwire's energy division. She previously worked for Hubbell, Alcan Aluminum, Ralston Purina Company and Tampa Electric. A native of Louisville, Ky., Carol and her husband Gary, who is also an '86 industrial engineering graduate, live in Atlanta.

Hopper, a '90 industrial engineering graduate, is an application implementation manager for Turner Broadcasting Company in Atlanta. His past employers include Westinghouse Savannah River Site, TheraTx and ING Investment Management. Born in Warner Robins, Ga., he and his wife Frankie, an Auburn alumna, live in Sandy Springs, Ga., with their two children, Kevin and Jessica.

ISE alumni council adds members

Carol Godfrey and Mike Hopper are the newest members to serve the department's alumni council, which acts in an advisory capacity to the department and as the primary source for alumni and industry input for departmental activities and plans.
The department is honored and grateful to have received a generous gift from the Haack family. In recognition of this donation, the department’s primary conference room in Shelby Center has been named the Robert O. and Margaret Fuller Haack Conference Room (story on page 4). The following gifts were made throughout the 2009 calendar year.

**Departmental Donation Summary**

The department is honored and grateful to have received a generous gift from the Haack family. In recognition of this donation, the department’s primary conference room in Shelby Center has been named the Robert O. and Margaret Fuller Haack Conference Room (story on page 4). The following gifts were made throughout the 2009 calendar year.

### Donations up to $99

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Number of ISE graduates continues to grow

Seventy-two ISE students graduated this past year, the largest number in some time. As with each graduation, the department hosts a reception at the Shelby Center’s McCartney hospitality suite.

**Fall 2009 undergraduate students**
- James Christakos
- Allison Haack
- Robert L. (Beau) Meador
- Michael Porter

**Fall 2009 graduate students**
- Sarah Canterbury
- Younchol Cho (Ph.D.)
- Michael Gray (Ph.D.)
- Sakthivael Kandaswamy
- Byung Soo Kim (Ph.D.)
- Hyun Ho Kim (Ph.D.)
- Nathaniel Nance
- Erdal Sahin
- Dumakas Snipes
- Renee Thiesing
- Omar Whitfield
- Tao Zhang

**Spring 2010 undergraduate students**
- Jason W. Daniel
- Bradly J. Easterwood
- Mark W. Glassford
- Daniel C. Gutierrez
- John Price Hamlet
- Stephen Edward Hamm
- Jacob N. Harcrow
- Brad Elliot Harkey
- Albert Blake Heard
- Thomas Luther Hill
- Jillian Blair Hodges
- Catherine Hoffman
- Justin D. Hope
- John Drew Marshall
- Philip James Martin
- Sarah Elizabeth Mason
- Megan Glenn McCravy
- John Wilburn McLean
- Siobhan M. O’Reilly
- Franklin H. Pierce
- Joshua Adam Rountree
- John P. Scruggs

**Fall 2010 graduate students**
- Adam Bradford Smith
- Audra L. Snider
- Gentry Suzanne Snider
- Steven K. Stokes
- Shannon A. Stump
- Brian L. Summerhill
- Marcus Todd
- James Ricardo White
- Ashley E. Wild
- Andrew J. Zapatka
- Phillip G. Allen
- Tami A. Blackwell
- Patrick Busbee
- Jeffery H. Cobb
- James A. Cox
- Sathvanaravanan Karuvelibalasubramanian
- Sumit Katekar
- Hwansik Lee (Ph.D.)
- Neelakantan Nambeesan

**Spring 2010 graduate students**
- Jeff A. Hendrix
- Terrel Wayne Ard
- Shane Allan Bledsoe
- John T. Bradford
- Griffin Daniel Bruns
- Steven A. Bunnell
- Blair R. Carter
- Tyler C. Chandler
- Sydney Caroline Clark
- Keith O. Conway
- Keela Marie Cottrell

**Professor emeritus JT. Black, center, and graduate Brad Easterwood with his father Larry Easterwood, a 1983 IE graduate**

**Siobhan O’Reilly, left, with her father Patrick**

**Andrew Zapatka, left, and John Price Hamlet**

**Graduate James White, right, with his father**
Outstanding master's student chosen

Graduate student Dumakas Snipes, an Opelika native, has been selected as the 2009 ISE outstanding master's student of the year. He completed his degree in December under the advisement of Emmett Lodree, affiliate professor from the University of Alabama, after completing his bachelor's degree in 2007. Snipes is a member of the Institute of Industrial Engineers, the National Society of Black Engineers and Alpha Pi Mu. He also participated in the provost leadership undergraduate scholarship program as a mentor and tutor. He is currently interning with the utilities board of Tuskegee as an electrical distribution engineer.

ISE seniors help local organizations

Eleven teams of students enrolled in the capstone senior design course this past spring. During the concluding poster forum, students shared their projects with other students, faculty and representatives from industry. Partners this year include AFLAC, Briggs & Stratton, CoachComm, CV Holdings, Fort Benning, CKN, Hager Hinge, Jo-Ann Stores, Neptune, Salvation Army and St. Francis Hospital. All projects addressed substantial challenges using industrial engineering approaches and techniques that students learned during in their coursework. Faculty member Kevin Gue organized the course.

Doctoral student earns promotion

This past spring, doctoral student Richard Bell was promoted from major to lieutenant colonel in the U.S. Army. The promotion ceremony took place in the Shelby Center and was conducted by Lt. Col. Lamar Adams, a fellow doctoral student and veteran of the Iraq war. Sponsored by the U.S. Army, both students hold bachelor's degrees from the U.S. Military Academy and master's degrees from Georgia Tech.

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New faculty members join department

This past year, ISE welcomed three new assistant professors: Richard Sesek, Woojin Park and Chase Murray, who will help to fill the shoes of recent faculty retirees Rob Thomas and Bob Bulfin.

Sesek, formerly of the University of Utah’s Department of Mechanical Engineering, will be administering the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health occupational injury prevention research training grant. He holds a doctorate in mechanical engineering with emphases in ergonomics and safety, as well as degrees in public health and engineering psychology. His research interests include industrial ergonomics and ergonomic modeling, ergonomic epidemiology, industrial safety interventions and human factors engineering and usability. Sesek and his wife have two children, Tony, 12, and Anabel, 8.

Park joined the Auburn faculty in January. He has taught at the University of Cincinnati and POSTECH in South Korea, holding undergraduate and master’s degrees from POSTECH and a doctoral degree from the University of Michigan. His research interests include developing smart digital human models for virtual ergonomic design and ideation methods that support innovative design for satisfying human needs. Park’s research draws from fields such as ergonomics, biomechanics, computer-aided design and design innovation.

Murray, an Opelika native, spent five years in the semiconductor industry as an employee of Intel and Dallas Semiconductor. He received bachelor’s and master’s degrees in industrial engineering from Texas A&M University and a doctorate in ISE from the University of Buffalo. His research interests include operations research with a focus on military applications related to dynamic vehicle routing problems. He also conducts research on pricing and revenue management.

Three departmental professorships

Three of ISE’s most distinguished alumni, Daniel Breeden, Tim Cook and Joe Forehand, have established endowed professorships in the department.

Breeden, ’57, who is retired CEO of Rees Inc., established the Daniel F. and Josephine Breeden Professorship to recognize professors who demonstrate a strong commitment to students through high quality instruction, research and service.

Cook, ’82, who is COO of Apple, established the Tim Cook Professorship in Industrial and Systems Engineering to support faculty members in the department who demonstrate exemplary instruction, research and mentorship.

Forehand, ’71, who is retired CEO of Accenture, established the Joe W. Forehand Jr. Professorship to reward professors who display exceptional commitment to students and excellence as instructors and researchers. (continued)


There is considerable competition among colleges and universities to attract quality faculty members who have established themselves as experts in their field," says Dean Larry Benefield.

"These professorships will help the college attract and retain premier faculty members as the College of Engineering positions itself to become one of the nation's top engineering programs."

**Safety, human factors organizations**

Graduate student **Angela Setera** has begun organizing a student chapter of the American Society of Safety Engineers. **Greer Eubanks**, an ISE and M.B.A. dual-master's student, is organizing a student chapter of the Human Factors and Ergonomics Society. Faculty member **Richard Sesek** will advise both chapters.

**Alumni inducted into State of Alabama Engineering Hall of Fame**

ISE alums **Richard Amos** and **Susan Story** were inducted into the State of Alabama Engineering Hall of Fame in February. Both serve on the Auburn Alumni Engineering Council and have been recognized as ISE alumni of the year and Auburn distinguished engineers.

Amos, '82, attended Auburn on a ROTC scholarship. In his 25-year career with the U.S. Army he rose to deputy to the commanding general of the U.S. Army aviation and missile life cycle management command. He currently works in a private sector leadership position at COLSA Corporation.

Story, '81, is president and CEO of Gulf Power, a Southern Company affiliate in Pensacola. She is the first woman and youngest executive to lead a Southern Company operating company. At the helm of Gulf Power, Story has pushed for new ways to generate eco-friendly and affordable power. She was the keynote speaker at the 2009 Institute of Industrial Engineering conference.

**Department says farewell to old friends, cherished faculty members**

This past academic year, we saw the retirement of two of our most cherished professors, **Rob Thomas** and **Bob Bulfin**. Previously a faculty member at the University of Arizona, Bulfin was hired as an associate professor in the department in 1980 and promoted to professor in 1994. He has also served as a technology management professor within the college's Business, Engineering and Technology program and as the department's graduate program officer. Bulfin served as the major professor for 14 doctoral students and recently served as the department's representative to the university senate.

Thomas, hired as an assistant professor in 1988, was promoted to associate professor in 1994 and tenured as a full professor in 2004. He has been honored with the Walker Teaching award, the Birdsong Merit Teaching award and the Fred H. Pumphrey Teaching award. Thomas earned the Student Government Association's outstanding faculty member award in 1992, 1996 and 2004. Thomas continues his service to the department by teaching undergraduate and graduate courses on a part-time basis as professor emeritus.
Department news briefs

Graduate student **Kandace Ballard** has received the best graduate paper award for “Stock Control Policies for Emergency Hurricane Supplies,” at the University of Southern Mississippi’s October conference, “Preparing for the Next Katrina: Putting Community Resilience Research into Action,” which focused on community resilience and preparation for a major Gulf Coast hurricane. Former faculty member **Emmett Lodree** collaborated with Ballard on the winning paper.

Faculty member **Kevin Gue** and his Oklahoma State University colleague Bryan Edwards recently received a $54,000 grant to initiate a broad-based study of the material handling industry from the Material Handling Industry of America and the College-Industry Council on Material Handling Education. Gue and Edwards will examine factors that affect turnover, satisfaction, commitment and performance, as well as acceptance or resistance to technology adoption. The award will fund research conducted by two graduate students.

Professor emeritus **Rob Thomas** has been selected to serve on the American Society of Safety Engineers foundation research committee, which supports research grants to advance the prevention of injury and illness. The committee is responsible for developing, selecting, evaluating and promoting research proposals that address key safety and health issues while maintaining a program for soliciting research grants, evaluating research topics and recommending research projects to trustees.

Faculty member **Levent Yilmaz** recently co-authored a book, *Agent-Directed Simulation and Systems Engineering*, with T.I. Ören, professor at the University of Ottawa. The text provides insights into aspects of intelligent agent software as they relate to modeling, simulation and systems engineering. A part of the Wiley Series in Systems Engineering and Management, the work is being used as a textbook at Auburn, Virginia Polytechnic Institute, Old Dominion University and the Virginia Modeling, Analysis and Simulation Center.

Faculty members **Jerry Davis** and **Jeff Smith** were recently invited to join the editorial boards of two leading journals. Davis is serving on the American Society of Safety Engineers’ editorial review board for the society’s main journal, *Professional Safety*. Smith is serving on the editorial board of *Simulation: Transactions of the Society for Modeling and Simulation International* as an associate editor.

Faculty member **John Evans** and graduate student **George Li** were recently recognized by the Surface Mount Technology Association (SMTA). Evans was recognized as a luminary in “25 Highlights of SMTA History,” a list compiled by the anniversary committee that highlights SMTA history and gives credit to those who helped make the organization a leading resource for technical information in the electronics assembly and advanced packaging industry. Li, who is advised by Evans, recently received the Hutchins grant for his project, “Design, Processing and Reliability Characterizations of 3-D Wafer Level Chip Scale Packaging Technology,” at the SMTA International conference in October. He also earned the best student paper award at the International Conference and Exhibition on Device Packaging for “No Flow Underfill Process Development for Fine Pitch Flip Chip Silicon to Silicon Wafer Level Integration.”

Faculty member **Kevin Gue** was chosen as the ISE faculty member of the year at the college’s spring awards reception held in April. This is the second time he has received this recognition, which is an honor given to a faculty member by student votes.

Doctoral student **Omer Ozturkoglu** was recently awarded the Material Handling Industry of America automatic guided vehicle systems honor scholarship for 2010–2011, a $2,000 award sponsored by the Material Handling Education Foundation. Ozturkoglu is advised by faculty member **Kevin Gue**.

Undergraduate student **Tami Blackwell** was recently awarded a $500 scholarship from the American Society of Safety Engineers Alabama chapter.

Recent graduates **Shaman Ahuja** and **Adam Piper** have earned Certified Safety Professional status.
Director of Automotive Manufacturing Initiatives

Tom Devall has joined the department as director of ISE’s automotive manufacturing initiatives. He will teach a course in professional practices and coordinate senior design next spring. By incorporating elements of his professional experience into the curriculum, he will offer students the tools and insights to help them become successful in the workplace.

As part of the automotive manufacturing systems program, the department has developed a manufacturing simulation lab on the ground floor of Shelby Center that will produce Lego vehicles with 263 parts. The lab will include lean cells, robotics, vision inspection, material delivery systems incorporating Kanban, radio frequency identification and automated storage retrieval. Also included in the lab is a quality and testing area for conducting value-added analysis for industry partners, including members of Auburn’s Center for Advanced Vehicle and Extreme Environment Electronics.

Devall previously served as the director and vice president of manufacturing for Teledyne Continental Motors, as well as process reliability manager, lean and launch manager and area manufacturing manager for Chrysler Group’s Sterling Heights assembly plant. He is a certified Lead ISO auditor and Lean Six Sigma black belt. He earned a bachelor’s degree in business administration from Eastern Michigan University and a master’s degree in administrative science from the University of Alabama-Huntsville.