Message from the Department Chair

After 12 years of service to the department, Alice Smith ended her term as the department chair for ISE. Through her leadership, the department has grown steadily in terms of research funding and student enrollment in both the undergraduate and graduate programs. The faculty elected me to serve as the new chair for the next five-year term, which started on Aug. 15, 2011. I will do my best to grow the reputation and excellence of the department with the help of our faculty and staff.

I would like to welcome our newest associate professor, Sean Gallagher, who brings 28 years of experience in occupational safety and health to the department. Prior to arriving at Auburn, Gallagher was with the Bureau of Mines and the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH).

Spring semester marked the first time that the new course INSY 3800: Manufacturing Systems I was taught with the benefit of the department’s new Lego-based lab in the Shelby Center. The class size was 94 students, and we expect a similar number of students for spring 2013. The lab is a 4,000 square-foot, high-volume assembly plant. A true manufacturing environment, from material receipt to product delivery, the lab encompasses 15 interdependent workstations. It can build three different Lego vehicle models with more than 200 components per vehicle while incorporating manufacturing best practices. The lab was recently featured on WTVM Channel 9 News and in several local newspapers.

I would also like to congratulate and thank Auburn’s student chapter of the Institute of Industrial Engineers (IIE) for hosting the 2012 IIE Southeast regional conference in February. More than 140 engineering students from 11 colleges and universities participated in the four-day event.

Because of globalization an international experience for our students is becoming a necessity. In March, I visited two Chilean universities to sign an agreement for the exchange of students and faculty. I will start a pilot exchange program for our ISE students at the end of the fall of 2013.

Our department’s Facebook page currently has 234 members, including students, faculty, staff and alumni. We would like to invite you to join us by clicking the “like” button to receive the latest information about our department.

Thank you and War Eagle! I look forward to meeting many of you this fall.

Jorge Valenzuela

DEPARTMENT UPDATES

ISE earns ABET accreditation

The department’s undergraduate program achieved full accreditation for the next six years from the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (ABET). LuAnn Sims, an instructor in the department, coordinated the development of a self-study and ABET conducted a site visit in fall 2010. Some concern was raised about the lack of technical support in the department. The next accreditation visit is scheduled for fall 2016.

IIE student conference held at Auburn

Auburn University’s Institute of Industrial Engineers (IIE) student chapter hosted the IIE Southeast regional student conference,
The department’s Cooper Industries seminar series is sponsored by Cooper Industries and provides an opportunity for the department’s graduate students to learn about industrial engineering topics relevant to their studies and careers. The seminar series, held each semester, features speakers that include graduate students, Auburn professors and industrial engineering faculty members from other universities, as well as practicing engineers and consultants.

Spring 2012 seminar speakers included:

*Jeonghan Ko*, University of Nebraska-Lincoln

*Fadel Megahed*, Virginia Tech University

*Xiao Liu*, Rutgers University

*Sean Gallagher*, Auburn’s newest faculty member in ISE

*Drew Hamilton*, Auburn University Department of Computer Science and Software Engineering

*Thomas E. Chandler*, Chandler and Associates, a coaching and consulting firm specializing in crisis intervention and turnarounds

*Ariela Sofer*, George Mason University

*David Porter*, Oregon State University

*Lamar Adams*, Auburn ISE doctoral candidate

We are always looking for interesting speakers who are willing to share their industrial engineering experience with graduate students. If you would like to be a speaker in the series, please send an email to Jorge Valenzuela, valenjo@auburn.edu.
Senior design teams work with industry

Each spring, student teams are matched with local companies for an experiential closure to classroom learning. All senior design teams used the Define, Measure, Analyze, Improve and Control (DMAIC) Six Sigma structure as a guide for their projects. The department’s student teams received accolades from their industry partners and gained valuable experience in teamwork, as well as hands-on application of the techniques learned in their ISE courses.

Candidates conducting MRI research

Celel Gungor and Ruoliang “Rio” Tang, doctoral candidates in the department, are working under the direction of faculty member Richard Sesek to use MRI scanners to relate lower back geometry to a subject’s gross anthropometry, such as height, weight, gender, age and other easily collected characteristics, in order to improve ergonomic modeling. These relationships can be used to improve values for the size and position of low back structures. The research team is also investigating measures, such as the intervertebral disc cross-sectional area, as further means to improve ergonomic modeling. Their work is funded by two grants from the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH). Both Gungor and Tang plan to continue this line of research in academic positions when they complete their respective dissertations.

Chilean partnership formed

Department chair Jorge Valenzuela, along with Auburn University President Jay Gogue, Auburn University Provost Timothy Boosinger, Auburn Graduate School Dean George Flowers and Haroldo Toro, professor of avian diseases in the College of Veterinary Medicine, visited two Chilean universities this spring, Universidad Tecnica Federico Santa Maria and Universidad Austral de Chile, to develop academic and cultural exchanges through mutual assistance in education and research. Chile has an emerging and stable economy and is one of the most prosperous countries in South America.
ISE hosts fall alumni tailgate

The department’s fall 2011 alumni tailgate brought together alumni, faculty and students prior to the Auburn football game versus Ole Miss on Oct. 29. Held outside on the Shelby Center’s Kingsley Courtyard, guests played games and mingled; there was plenty to eat and drink for all! The fall 2012 tailgate will take place before the football game versus Alabama A&M on Nov. 17. Please stop by and visit with students, alumni and faculty.

Gallagher joins faculty

The department welcomed Sean Gallagher to the ISE faculty in January as an associate professor in human factors and ergonomics. His recent research with the Bureau of Mines and the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) focused on innovations in cap lighting, equipment proximity devices and knee padding to improve worker safety in the underground coal mine environment. Gallagher received his doctorate in industrial and systems engineering at Ohio State in 2003, and from 1984–2011 worked on numerous projects related to physical demands associated with work in underground coal mines.

New members join ISE honor society

Auburn’s chapter of Alpha Pi Mu, the industrial engineering honor society, installed the following 16 new members on Thursday, March 28, at Auburn’s University Chapel:

- Brian Nguyen, graduate student (president)
- Patrick Almas, graduate student
- George Ruff, ’12
- Zhangfan Lin, graduate student
- Tianyang Wei, ’12
- Sara Chapman, senior
- Lindsey Lester, senior
- Patrick Combs, senior
- Mark Stevenson, senior
- Chelsea Harrison, senior (treasurer)
- Charles Meadows, senior
- Amanda Chu, junior (E-Council representative)
- William McAleer, junior
- Sarah Perry, junior (secretary)
- Charles Fetter, junior
- Rebecca Pope, junior (vice president)

Faculty member Kevin Gue is the chapter’s adviser.

Congratulations to these new members!

LEGO lab becomes a reality

Tom Devall, director of the department’s automotive manufacturing initiatives, and John Evans, ISE’s technology management professor, have turned the college’s automotive manufacturing systems laboratory, located on the ground floor of Shelby Center, into a functional reality.
“It is the only manufacturing lab of its kind in the country,” says Devall. “The lab emulates an automotive assembly plant and is designed to support operations at a high volume, similar to automotive manufacturers such as Toyota and Honda.”

The lab has a virtual area where students learn about programmable logic controllers (PLCs), robotics and modern computer numerical control (CNC) machine tools in small groups with computers. The students then move to the manufacturing floor to see the programming implemented on systems where they are able to build three types of Lego vehicles: a 278-piece speedster, 254-piece SUV and 231-piece Baja car. The process requires 18 students, 15 for assembly operations and three for material delivery. The cars can be produced at a rate of 70 cars per hour.

Spring semester marked the first time that INSY 3800: Manufacturing Systems I was taught with the benefit of the new Lego-based integrated manufacturing lab.

“The experiential learning in the lab gives students the opportunity to simulate real-life manufacturing operations, requiring them to understand the interdependence of all elements, from material receipt to delivery,” says Devall. “We are modeling the Toyota production system, or lean manufacturing, which has transformed the global auto industry. Our students will be well versed in these tools and systems, better preparing them for jobs in the automotive manufacturing industry.”

Devall expects to continue improving the lab through student feedback and industry support.

In February, the university partnered with FFD Inc., a company specializing in software solutions that help manufacturing companies write and deploy visual work instructions. FFD will provide a collaborative, networked installation of its Sequence Enterprise Software to allow students to create, manage and deploy standardized work for the assembly line.

“Standardized work is a foundational lean practice,” says Devall. “We therefore have a need for world-class software that provides the infrastructure to create benchmark standardized work within our operations. We have partnered with Sequence to provide the software that meets this need.”

“This one-of-a-kind laboratory environment is the closest simulation to a real automotive assembly line that I have seen,” says Barry Lucas, president and CEO of FFD Inc. “It will undoubtedly give students who graduate from the program a leg up in the high-tech sectors that are key to America’s manufacturing growth.”
Work Physiology Symposium held at Auburn

The department’s occupational safety and ergonomics program co-hosted the 50th annual Lucien Brouha Work Physiology Symposium at the Auburn University Hotel and Conference Center, April 25–27. This world-class collaboration among industry experts and academia brought together influential ergonomists and companies with high-performing and innovative ergonomics programs to create a research agenda that will shape the future of applied ergonomics.

Department facts and figures from fall 2011

- Undergraduate enrollment (fall): 266
- Graduate enrollment (fall): 135
- Master’s students: 77
- Doctoral students: 58
- Bachelor’s Degrees awarded: 23
- Master’s Degrees awarded: 40
- Doctoral degrees awarded: 5
- ERGO certificates awarded in 2012: 8

FACULTY ACCOLADES

Alice Smith, faculty member and past department chair, has been honored with the Institute of Industrial Engineers’ (IIE) Albert G. Holzman Distinguished Educator Award, which honors educators who have contributed to the profession through teaching, research and leadership. She is the first woman and first Auburn faculty member to receive the award. Smith was also recently selected by the J. William Fulbright scholarship board as a candidate for the organization’s specialist roster through 2016. Her areas of expertise for the candidacy include engineering accreditation, engineering administration and gender issues in engineering.

Jeff Smith was honored with the inaugural Joe W. Forehand professorship in October 2011. Smith’s primary research interests include manufacturing systems design and analysis as well as discrete event simulation. He has served as principal investigator on more than $4 million of sponsored research and is a recipient of the College of Engineering’s 2004 senior research award. Smith was selected as the department’s outstanding faculty member in 2005, 2007 and 2011. Joe Forehand, ’71 graduate in ISE, is the former chairman and CEO of Accenture, the world’s largest consulting company. He is a member of the Alabama Engineering Hall of Fame. In addition to establishing this professorship, Forehand has also funded undergraduate scholarships and served on the Auburn Alumni Association Board. Smith was also recently appointed as deputy director of the Center for Excellence in Logistics and Distribution (CELDi) for an additional year. This applied research and education consortium consists of eight major research universities, more than 30 member organizations from commercial, military and government sectors and the National Science Foundation (NSF I/UCRC).
Jorge Valenzuela has been promoted to professor and was recently elected the department’s chair.

JT. Black, professor emeritus in the department, was invited to present the Founder’s Lecture at the 40th SME North American Manufacturing Research Conference (NAMRC) at Notre Dame, June 4–8.

John L. Evans, Thomas Walter professor of technology management, has been named the department’s outstanding faculty member this year. He has been at Auburn since 2001. Evans, along with Tom Devall, was instrumental in furnishing the automotive manufacturing systems lab and is responsible for developing the new INSY 3800 course. He is also the associate director of Auburn’s National Science Foundation Center for Advanced Vehicle and Extreme Environment Electronics (CAVE). In addition to this award, Evans was named the Business-Engineering-Technology (BET) teacher of the year for 2011.

Richard Sesek, faculty member in ISE, has taken over the College of Engineering’s safety project, which ensures the safety of engineering student project teams, such as Formula SAE, Baja SAE, Hovercraft and concrete canoe, by providing safety training and resources. The team includes graduate research assistants and safety program volunteer students. The project was created in 2002 by faculty member Jerry Davis and uses a series of training modules, online and in-person, to deliver safety content to student team members and faculty. The team regularly tours team labs and design spaces to ensure that safe working conditions are maintained. ISE students learn valuable safety skills, gain experience in solving safety-related issues and help keep Auburn’s student teams focused on safety. Sesek also recently received the 20 year service award from the American Society of Safety Engineers (ASSE) from Bob Fitzgerald, president of the Alabama chapter.

Woojin Park resigned as assistant professor in the department citing family-related reasons. He recently returned to South Korea where he is an assistant professor at Seoul National University.

ASSE chapter recognized

The Auburn Student Chapter of the American Society of Safety Engineers (ASSE) became an official chapter recognized by the organization on April 4. ASSE provided generous scholarships to students totaling $2,000 and a $500 gift to help with travel expenses to the Applied Ergonomics Conference recently held in Nashville.
Grants in the department

Grant funding is crucial to the success of the department, providing income to support graduate education as well as departmental research. During the 2011–2012 academic year, the department was granted $946,561 in new research awards and had research expenditures of $1,286,685 from various granting institutions. Below is a sampling of faculty grants received in the past year:

Jorge Valenzuela was funded by Argonne National Laboratory to develop a methodology for real-time intrusion detection in power system operations.

Chase Murray’s doctoral student Clarissa Williams was awarded a grant from the NASA Graduate Student Researchers Program to develop mathematical models to predict flight traffic in national air space.

Kevin Gue and Alice Smith have been chosen as lead investigators for a three-year, $255,000 National Science Foundation grant along with University of Arkansas faculty member Russ Meller. Their project, “Collaborative Research: Non-Traditional Designs for Order Picking Warehouses,” researches the development of new methods to design warehouses that support order picking operations.

Tom Devall, director of automotive manufacturing initiatives, was funded by CoachComm to develop a pull system for material delivery. Devall was also funded by Benteler International AG to create a process map of the fabrication of proximity sensors utilized for error proofing.

Kevin Gue was awarded a grant from the Acquisition Research Program of the Naval Postgraduate School to investigate the number and timing of order releases in a distribution center, and how those times affect customer service.

Alice Smith, along with collaborators from Missouri University of Science and Technology, was funded by the Army Research ERDC and U.S. Department of Defense to develop a framework for complexity management in virtual forward operating base camps. Smith also secured additional funding from the Department of Defense to develop a course in systems engineering and secure open source technology along with faculty members in Auburn’s Department of Computer Science and Software Engineering.

Jeff Smith and Alice Smith received additional funding from NASA to continue with phase IV of the Academy of Aerospace Quality, which serves as an Internet-based forum for providing quality assurance training to academics involved in aerospace research, technology development and payload design and development.

John Evans will study long-term aging reliability for tin-silver-copper (SAC) alloy solder using electroless nickel immersion gold (ENIG) and ENIGIP substrate plating for printed circuit boards through a grant from the U.S. Army.

ALUMNI NEWS

Alumna Kristin H. Goin, ’05, a consultant at Children’s Healthcare of Atlanta, was recently honored as one of the National Engineers Week Foundation’s New Faces of Engineering. This program highlights the interesting and unique work of young engineers and the resulting impact on society. Collaborating with healthcare professionals, she uses systems thinking to improve healthcare systems. She is an active member of IIE and mentors students in applying engineering skills in the healthcare industry.

Alumna Susan Story, ’81, president and CEO of Southern Company Services, has been awarded the IIE Captain of Industry Award. She received the award at the IIE annual conference in May.

ISE’s alumnus of the year, Daniel Traynor, ’78, has been recognized as a 2012 Premier 100 Honoree by Computerworld. The program spotlights 100 leaders, from both the technology and business sides of companies, for their outstanding technology leadership, effective management of IT strategies and innovative solutions to business challenges. As vice president and chief information officer of Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA), Traynor is responsible for leveraging technology and setting strategies for TVA’s information resources. He has previously served as director of infrastructure services for Southern Company’s information technology organization, where he managed one of the largest corporate computer infrastructure networks in the Southeast.

Brandon Diehl, ’11, recently published an article in IIE magazine, “Sharpening coordinated care processes.” The article focuses on Lean and Six Sigma tools to improve medical authorization processes.
Tim Cook, ’82, became the new CEO of Apple Inc. in August. In his spring 2010 commencement speech to Auburn graduates, Cook said that choosing to work at Apple was “without a doubt the best decision I ever made.” He shared a simple principle for the most important decisions in life saying, “Trust your intuition and then work with everything you have to prove it right.” He gives credit to his intuition for the decision to accept the job at Apple in 1998 and hard work for his subsequent success.

Hal Pennington, ’59, the department’s 2010 alumnus of the year, was named the 2011 laureate of the Nashville Business Hall of Fame for his leadership of Genesco and commitment to the Nashville community.

STUDENT NEWS

Tifanie Dryer, ’12, a Huntsville native, was named the department’s outstanding undergraduate student for 2012. Dryer served as vice president of Alpha Pi Mu, and was a member of both the Mortar Board honor society and Phi Kappa Phi honor fraternity, as well as a member of Sigma Kappa sorority, serving as vice president of finance in 2009. Dryer has been recognized on the Dean’s List each semester at Auburn and was the recipient of several scholarships, including the Accenture Scholarship Endowment in Industrial and Systems Engineering, a SMART scholarship and Samuel Ginn College of Engineering departmental scholarship.

George Ruff has been selected by the ISE faculty as the department’s 2012 outstanding master’s student of the year. He completed his bachelor’s degree in electrical engineering at Auburn. After graduation in May, he moved to Nashville to work for Asurion’s IT department.

Lt. Col. Lamar Adams has been named the department’s outstanding doctoral student for 2012. He has been with the United States Army for 20 years, serving in various leadership positions in the U.S. as well as overseas during a 13-month tour in Iraq before being selected to teach at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. He has a bachelor’s degree in operations research from the academy and a master’s degree in operations research from Georgia Tech. While at Auburn, Adams was selected as a member of Alpha Pi Mu honor society and served as a graduate school senator from the department. He recently returned to the United States Military Academy as an assistant professor in the Department of Mathematical Sciences after completing his doctoral studies.

Ozgur Kabadurmus has been named the department’s 2012 outstanding international graduate student. Kabadurmus received his bachelor’s and master’s degrees in industrial engineering at Istanbul Technical University in Turkey prior to coming to Auburn to attain a doctoral degree.

Mohammad Moshref Javadi, graduate student in the department, won second place in the 2012 Lean student paper competition. The award was presented at the Industrial and Systems Engineering Research conference 2012 in Orlando.

ISE teams take top prizes

This year’s ISE teams, WDErgo and ErgoTastic 5, included graduate students in occupational safety and ergonomics. WDErgo team members included Stephanie Lynch (captain), Tianyang “Joey” Wei, Anzhi “Andrew” Zhang, Mradul “Mr. Adul” Sangal and Michael Porter. The ErgoTastic 5 team included Glenda Young (captain), Nigel Collins, Bryan Nguyen, Audra Snider and Rachel Edgar. Faculty member Richard Sesek advised the teams.

Both teams were trained in eTools, a world-class ergonomics job analysis software developed by Auburn Engineers Inc., an international ergonomics consultancy located in Auburn. Students used eTools, as well as knowledge gained through their academic training, and applied experience to evaluate and create solutions to the ergonomic dilemmas posed in
the competition. This year’s competition included several ergonomic design problems and featured time-pressured projects and subsequent reports related to marching bands and home improvement centers.

The teams placed in the top five in the fifth annual Ergonomics Design Competition for Student Teams, which is sponsored by Auburn Engineers Inc. Auburn became the first school to place two teams in the top five in a competitive field that included a record 29 teams from universities across North America. More than 100 students participated and were evaluated by 22 judges with professional ergonomics expertise.

Brazilian students study at Auburn

As part of the country’s Science Without Borders program, five undergraduate students from Brazil are spending a year studying in the department. The government program places 100,000 science, technology, engineering and math, or STEM, students in outstanding programs abroad. Auburn was chosen as a host school. The opportunity for cultural exchange benefits students in both programs.

Forehand leadership scholars named

Undergraduate students Jessica Belue, Eric Gerrits and Josh Farrington have been named the 2012–2013 Forehand Leadership Scholars. The scholarship recognizes ISE undergraduate students who have demonstrated academic excellence along with strong evidence of leadership accomplishments and potential. Founded by Joe W. Forehand, Auburn ISE alumnus and former CEO and chairman of Accenture, the scholarship has been awarded since the 2007–2008 academic year.

Belue is a second year Forehand scholar. She is a senior from New Market, Ala., and a co-op student at Rheem Manufacturing in Montgomery, where she works with the company’s industrial engineering department.

“I am so very grateful to Mr. Forehand and his family for all he has done for me as well as Auburn University,” says Belue. “His kind actions have impacted my life in such a significant way and for that I cannot thank him enough. It also was such a pleasure to get to meet and talk with him this spring.”

Gerrits, a senior from Green Bay, Wis., and second year Forehand scholar, interned this summer at Northrop Grumman-Undersea Systems in Annapolis, Md. He was a co-op student at GKN Aerospace and worked last summer as an intern at Gulfstream Aerospace in Savannah, Ga. Gerrits is an active member of his social fraternity, Pi Kappa Phi, where he has served as the academic achievement chair and on the Standards Board. After graduation he hopes to work in operations consulting while pursuing an MBA.

“I would like to express my sincere gratitude to Mr. Forehand for his generous support of the ISE department,” says Gerrits. “It allows students such as myself to pursue their dreams of higher education and reduces the financial strain on families in tough economic times.”

Farrington, a junior from Huntsville, is a leader in the Auburn Wesley Foundation. While in Auburn, he has worked in the department’s automotive manufacturing systems lab and will begin working in the electronics manufacturing lab this fall. Farrington was included on the fall 2011 Dean’s List.

“I am extremely grateful for Mr. Forehand’s contribution to my education,” says Farrington. “His generosity will give me a chance to focus my efforts on my studies without having to stress about my finances. I hope to someday be able to do the same for someone else.”

More information about the Forehand Leadership Scholarships can be found at www.eng.auburn.edu/department/ie/forehand
Cook leadership scholars named

Lisa Wethington and Megan Lewis have been named the 2012-2013 Tim Cook Leadership Scholars. The scholarship was founded by Auburn ISE alumnus Tim Cook, ’82, CEO of Apple. The scholarship recognizes ISE students with significant academic achievements, strong university involvement and leadership, as well as community involvement and commitment.

Lisa Wethington, a senior and native of the Woodlands, Texas, is a second year Tim Cook scholar. She is a member of the Society of Women Engineers, Lambda Sigma Honor Society and the Auburn Collegiate Lion’s Club, as well as president-elect of the Auburn chapter of IIE. Wethington participates in community service at her church, Saint Michael’s, and volunteers at Girl’s Ranch. On campus, Wethington is recruiting students to participate in IIE, and she led the development of the 2012 IIE regional conference held at Auburn earlier this year. Wethington is a co-op student with Gulfstream Aerospace Corporation in Savannah, Ga., where she works on Lean and layout design. She is also performing process analysis in the organization’s main research and development labs for the advanced aircraft program. When she’s not co-oping, Wethington is a tutor in Engineering Student Services.

Megan Lewis, a junior from Trussville Ala., has been a member and treasurer of the Society of Women Engineers and a member of Phi Eta Sigma national honor society, National Society of Collegiate Scholars and Auburn’s Learning Communities activity board, as well as a peer instructor for the success strategies course. She volunteers at the Women’s Hope Medical Clinic and has enjoyed the opportunity to reach out to women and families in need. Lewis has completed two co-op rotations at Noramco Inc. in Athens, Ga., working in the quality control department. She has been trained in the 5S and Lean/Six Sigma programs and led the implementation of the Near Infrared (NIR) technology system, as well as the reorganization of the Quality Control laboratories to increase productivity and efficiency.

“While working at Noramco, I learned the importance of reducing human error and the need to increase efficiency in the quality control department,” says Lewis. “It was because of this experience that I realized my interest in pursuing a degree that would allow me to implement these principles in my career.”

More information about the Tim Cook Leadership Scholarships can be found at www.eng.auburn.edu/ise/TCook

Departmental Gifts
November 2011–April 2012

Donations up to $99
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LuAnn Sims Carpenter ’11
Thomas Coy Channell, P.E. ’91
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Alice E. Smith
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We don’t do it alone

Time and time again, we hear from industry leaders, agencies and graduate schools that Auburn engineers are different. They possess a work ethic and understanding of engineering principles that sets them apart. They are simply the kind of engineers that people are looking for. And their common experience is their Auburn Engineering education — an experience that you share.

The Department of Industrial and Systems Engineering is committed to providing an engineering education that prepares students for successful careers; and we do this in large part because of the private support of our alumni and friends. These contributions provide crucial funding for scholarships and fellowships, faculty support and program enhancements. Please consider making a gift for your area of interest to provide future ISE students a college experience that changes their lives.