Fortune features ISE alumnus

If you happened to pick up the Nov. 24 issue of Fortune magazine, you probably saw 1982 Auburn ISE alumnus Tim Cook on the cover. He was the subject of the issue’s cover story, “Apple – The genius behind Steve.” Yes, Cook, founding ISE Alumni Council chair, was hailed as the genius behind Steve Jobs and Apple Inc. Cook has been a long-time supporter of the department, having founded an endowed Fund for Excellence (see article in this issue).

Forehand recognized with IIE award

Joe Forehand, industrial and systems engineering alumnus and former chairman and CEO of Accenture, was recognized by the Institute of Industrial Engineers (IIE) at ceremonies in Vancouver, British Columbia, by receiving the Captains of Industry award, one of the organization’s most prestigious honors, for his significant career accomplishments. The award recognizes leaders in business, industry and government who have achieved significant success in their company at the international level. “I would have never guessed during my developmental days in the industrial engineering program at Auburn University that such an honor would ever be bestowed on me,” said Forehand, addressing the IIE conference. “I think the industrial engineering degree gave me the fundamentals of a disciplined, analytical approach that helped me immensely throughout my career.”

Forehand joined Accenture after earning his bachelor’s degree from Auburn in 1971 and master’s degree in industrial administration from Purdue University in 1972. He ran many different areas of the company prior to serving as Accenture’s chief executive officer from November 1999 until August 2004. He served as chairman from 2001 until he retired in 2006.

“Joe is most deserving of such an honor, and we offer him our congratulations for this recognition,” said Alice Smith, chair of the Department of Industrial and Systems Engineering. “As an alumnus, he continues to support us, and we thank him for his generosity in helping to offer scholarship and fellowship opportunities which further develop the goals and mission of the department and college.”
Message from the department chair

To the right, my husband Randy and I stand in Europe with Asia in the background. We were in Istanbul, Turkey, the only city in the world built on two continents. This trip was to host the Workshop on Women in Industrial Engineering Academia, an event sponsored by the National Science Foundation, Auburn University and Baskent University in Turkey. I was extremely proud to organize this event, which attracted academics from around the U.S. and the Mediterranean. It is just one example of what Auburn ISE faculty, students and alumni are doing to impact the world at large.

This newsletter is full of other equally impressive examples: two students who were involved with the 2008 Summer Olympics in very different ways; two alumni achieving international recognition – one from IIE and one from Fortune magazine; Auburn ISE faculty engaging colleagues with visits to Korea, Germany, Italy and Hungary; and a student who shows her Auburn spirit through cheerleading. I am also pleased to note an addition to our scholarship offerings: the Brig. Gen. Robert L. Davis and Barbara Davis Scholarship. This scholarship will be awarded to a student with prior military service or who is currently enrolled in ROTC. Our first Davis scholar fulfills both criteria.

On another note of firsts, our enrollment is hitting a record level. We now stand at 185 undergraduate students and 122 graduate students. We must acknowledge the role our new building and its wonderful facilities play in attracting students to Auburn ISE. If you have not seen the Shelby Center, please make sure to do so the next time you are on the Plains. If I sound upbeat in this challenging time, I am. Our department is well on its way to being the best it can be. Due to efforts and support by students, faculty, staff, alumni and corporate friends, we have achieved much over the past decade and believe we are still on an upward trajectory. Look around you – it is likely you will see evidence of Auburn ISE's positive contributions to technology and society.

Alice E. Smith

New computing class includes VBA

This academic year, a new computing class has replaced JAVA programming. The course, COMP 3010: Spreadsheet-Based Applications with Visual Basic, is designed to better suit the needs of our students and prepare them for professional careers. Students are introduced to the fundamental concepts of Object Oriented Programming using Visual Basic. They also develop the ability to design and implement software applications using technologies that include programmable spreadsheets and databases using Visual Basic Applicators, Excel and Access.

While the class still focuses on the fundamentals of programming, the specific programming environment is Visual Basic inside of Excel. Coupling Visual Basic with Excel reduces the programming overhead required to develop, test and implement the small programs that our students will likely encounter during their academic and professional careers. In addition, many of the other

ISE sees growth in students

Ten year growth in undergraduate students (now at 185)

Ten year growth in graduate students (now at 122)
Auburn leads workshop on women in industrial engineering academia

A workshop held in July, entitled “Women in Industrial Engineering Academia,” was sponsored by Auburn University, the U.S. National Science Foundation (NSF) and Baskent University of Ankara, Turkey. The workshop was the culmination of a partnership between ISE department chair Alice Smith and Berna Dengiz, dean of engineering at Baskent University, and 14 years spent studying the topic of women in engineering in both the U.S. and Turkey. It was developed to provide a forum for a diverse and highly qualified set of academics to focus on the important issues surrounding women in industrial engineering academia, as well as to stimulate positive interactions between the U.S. and the Middle East. The workshop also focused on increasing the number of qualified women who choose to pursue advanced industrial engineering degrees, enter academia and work to improve the retention and advancement of current female academics in the field.

The agenda included three days in Ankara, hosted by Baskent University. The opening keynote address was given by the former president of Turkey, Suleyman Demirel, who is known for his progressive views and commitment to women’s equality. Following his speech, Jane Ammons, incoming IIE president and Georgia Tech faculty member, gave a keynote address on the field of industrial engineering and its impact on emerging technical challenges facing the world.

The workshop attracted more than 50 participants from universities in the U.S. and the Middle East, including Georgia Tech, North Carolina State University, Penn State University, Montana State University, University of Michigan, Mississippi State University, Wichita State University, Virginia Tech, Ohio State University, Tennessee Tech and North Carolina A&T University, among others. From Turkey, universities included Middle East Technical University, Uludag University, Gazi University, Marmara University, Bilkent University, Dokuz Eylul University, Cukurova University and Maltepe University, among others. Women from Tel Aviv University (Israel), Lebanese American University and American University of Lebanon and the Albania Academy of Sciences also attended. Outcomes of the workshop include reports from the roundtable and panel discussions, a program booklet, including the poster abstracts and participant biographies, and many photographs. They can be found at the workshop Web site at www.wiea2008.auburn.edu.

Auburn University is collaborator in premier DoD research center

Auburn University’s Samuel Ginn College of Engineering has been chosen to serve as a designated research collaborator in the Systems Engineering Research Center (SERC), the first Department of Defense (DoD) funded University Affiliated Research Center (UARC) to focus on challenging systems engineering issues facing defense industries.

“We are pleased to be named a collaborator and have the opportunity to take part in the defense-related research projects to be conducted through the Systems Engineering Research Center (SERC),” said Dr. Alice Smith, chair of the Industrial and Systems Engineering (ISE) department. “Auburn University has a proud tradition of conducting research that is at the cutting edge of the latest advances in technology and science. As a member of the SERC, we will have the opportunity to contribute to the advancement of systems engineering and to work with other leading institutions.”

Auburn University’s participation in the SERC will enable the university to engage in collaborative research with other universities and defense contractors, as well as to provide training and education opportunities for students and faculty in the field of systems engineering. This partnership will allow Auburn University to contribute to the development of cutting-edge technologies and to provide solutions to complex systems engineering problems that are of national importance.

“Auburn University’s selection to the SERC underscores the university’s commitment to excellence in research and education,” said Dr. Robert N. Breisch, dean of the Samuel Ginn College of Engineering. “We are proud to be a part of this prestigious research center and look forward to the opportunities it will provide for our faculty, students and the broader community.”

Participants of the Women in Industrial Engineering Academia workshop held in Ankara, Turkey, in July
Center,” said Alice Smith, chair of Auburn’s Department of Industrial and Systems Engineering. “It is a noteworthy recognition of our department’s leadership in conducting prominent systems engineering research.”

Auburn will participate in a consortium of 18 leading universities and research centers throughout the United States, led by Stevens Institute of Technology, with the University of Southern California serving as principal collaborator. Auburn researchers working with the SERC will be responsible for systems engineering research that supports the development, integration, testing and sustainability of complex defense systems, enterprises and services. The center will serve as a research engine and offer systems engineering programs and workshops for DoD and its contractors.

“Auburn is pleased to work with these distinguished universities in addressing defense priorities for our country,” said College of Engineering Dean Larry Benefield. “Our industrial and systems engineering faculty have proven themselves as leading-edge researchers and their inclusion confirms their dedication to the field.”

Additional SERC collaborators include Air Force Institute of Technology, Carnegie Mellon University, Fraunhofer Center at the University of Maryland, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Missouri University of Science and Technology, Pennsylvania State University, Southern Methodist University, Texas A&M University, Texas Tech University, University of Alabama at Huntsville, University of California at San Diego, University of Maryland, University of Massachusetts at Amherst, University of Virginia and Wayne State University.

Additional information regarding the SERC and DoD is available on their respective Web sites, www.sercuarc.org and www.defenselink.mil.

ISE students stay engaged outside the classroom

ISE senior studies in Italy

Brandon Deihl, from Atlanta, never realized the impact of Roman engineers until he spent his summer in Italy.

“This past summer I spent six weeks studying abroad in Italy. I, along with 15 other Auburn University students, spent three weeks in Rome touring the Colosseum, where gladiators held their deadly battles; walked through the Roman Forum, now only ruins; and trekked to the top of the Vatican to see the most spectacular view of the city. We then moved on to Florence for two weeks where we became avid museum goers, art historians and Renaissance men. Our last week was spent soaking up more Italian culture in Castiglioncello, a small town northwest of Rome. Our travels were also supplemented with day trips to Venice, Pisa, Pompeii and many other amazing places.

The ancient Romans were known for their engineering skills, and the Renaissance witnessed the revival of creative and inventive thought. So while my courses focused on history, art and culture, I gained valuable insight into my area of study as well as an experience I will never forget. This trip was a fantastic way to fulfill some core university requirements while simultaneously getting a once-in-a-lifetime chance to experience a rich and diverse culture. After earning countless credit hours in labs and lectures, it was hard to imagine that I was receiving a semester’s worth of credits for my adventures abroad. From an engineering perspective, it was inspiring to see ancient marvels like the aqueducts and Pantheon. We also visited the town of Vinci, the birthplace of the famed Leonardo da Vinci, where we toured the museum dedicated to his avant-garde inventions and engineering feats.

These experiences helped me recognize that I have the opportunity to do things as an engineer that can help shape the course of history. There will never be a better time than now, so I highly recommend that every student study abroad at some point in his or her college career. Ciao!”

Student shows Auburn pride through cheerleading

Sequoyah Patrick, from Athens, Ala., is an Auburn University cheerleader.

“While obtaining my undergraduate degree in industrial engineering, I am also an Auburn University cheerleader. Nothing
makes me happier than wearing my school colors and cheering on the team when it is game day. Knowing that I am cheering in front of thousands of people for a school and a team that I love is such an amazing experience. Not only do we cheer at football games, but we also have appearances where we interact with our community in a number of different ways. It is just one other reason why I am happy being a part of this squad, because I really enjoy giving back to the community. We go to Storybook Farm, a therapeutic horseback riding farm in Auburn, to play with the kids, as well as to nursing homes to give the elderly some company. Although cheerleading is a demanding activity, I still stay focused in my schoolwork and study hard to reach my goal of graduating with an undergraduate degree in industrial engineering and a minor in business administration. I always knew I wanted to study engineering, and when I learned about industrial engineers’ careers, I knew that it was the right path for me."

Senior helps Chicage make its bid for the 2016 Olympic Games

Ian Slagel, an ISE senior from Hayesville, NC., is helping to bring the 2016 Olympics to Chicago. "This past summer I had the opportunity to work as a junior financial analyst for Chicago 2016, an organization that is working to help Chicago bring the 2016 summer Olympic games to its people. While in Chicago, I worked with the financial team and the Boston Consulting Group to develop a revenue model and budget, which were presented to the financial advisory council.

In addition, I worked with the director of finance on expense reports and payroll and volunteered for several events that raised awareness and money for Chicago 2016. The organization has reached the candidature phase, which is the last round of the bid process. After completing the final bid book, Chicago 2016 will submit it to the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and is hoping to be awarded the games on Oct. 2."

ISE student wins award at 2008 Winter Simulation Conference in Miami

Volkan Ustun, recent ISE graduate, won the I-Sim/ACM-SIGSIM Best Student Paper Award for the best computer science-focused paper at the 2008 Winter Simulation Conference held in Miami. He received a certificate and $200 cash prize. His paper was entitled “Mental Simulation for Creating Realistic Behavior in Physical Security Systems Simulation.” His advisor was ISE faculty member Jeff Smith. Ustun is currently a postdoctoral researcher at Georgia Tech.
Faculty Updates

Undergraduate research experiences

For the second year, Auburn ISE hosted a Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU) in automotive manufacturing systems, funded by the National Science Foundation (NSF). The program, directed by faculty members Jorge Valenzuela and Jerry Davis, provides an eight-week summer research experience to undergraduate engineering students. Students from Virginia Tech, Louisiana Tech, Jacksonville State University, Rice University, University of Oklahoma, University of Arkansas-Fayetteville, University of Michigan, Milwaukee School of Engineering and Auburn University participated in the program. Faculty members, graduate students and academic adviser Lu Ann Sims were involved as advisers and mentors.

Students worked on automotive research projects relating to manufacturing systems such as operations research, computer simulation, occupational safety, ergonomic safety and supply chain management. They had the opportunity to observe the local growing automotive industry by visiting two automobile plants, Hyundai and Honda, and a tier one supplier, Mando Inc. This fall, Sean Salvas, one of the first-year REU students, started his master’s degree in the department.

Yilmaz joins ISE as joint appointment with CSSE

Faculty member Levent Yilmaz now holds a joint appointment with the Department of Computer Science and Software Engineering and Department of Industrial and Systems Engineering. His research focus includes modeling, computer simulation and complex adaptive socio-technical, cognitive and cultural systems. Yilmaz’s joint appointment will extend his ongoing collaborations with ISE faculty through new research, teaching and outreach possibilities. In addition, the joint appointment will facilitate interaction between CSSE and ISE students and participation in research projects conducted in the CSSE simulation and systems engineering lab. At the same time, CSSE students that are active in simulation research will benefit from those classes being offered by ISE before taking other advanced courses.

Prior to joining the Auburn faculty in 2003, Yilmaz was a principal engineer in the simulation and software division of Trident Systems Inc. in Fairfax, Va. He earned his master’s and doctoral degrees from Virginia Tech. Yilmaz holds editorial appointments with various journals in computer simulation and engineering education and serves as the editor-in-chief of Simulation: Transactions of the Society for Modeling and Simulation International (SCS). As a member of the board of directors of SCS and adviser to the Workforce Development Committee of the Alabama Modeling and Simulation Council, he actively contributes to the modeling and simulation field. For more information on Yilmaz’s work, please visit www.eng.auburn.edu/~yilmaz.

REU students had the opportunity to visit a Hyundai plant
**Gue recognized with CICMHE research award**

Kevin Gue, faculty member in Auburn University’s Department of Industrial and Systems Engineering, and colleague Russell Meller of the University of Arkansas have received the first place 2008 Outstanding Material Handling and Facility Logistics Research Paper award for their paper, “Improving the Unit-Load Warehouse,” from the College Industry Council on Material Handling Education (CICMHE).

Papers submitted for CICMHE awards are judged on the significant contributions they provide to the industrial and systems engineering field. Gue and Meller’s paper was published in *Progress in Material Handling Research* in 2006.

**Lodree selected for conference**

This past summer, faculty member Emmett Lodree Jr. attended the conference, “Humanitarian Logistics: Networks for Africa,” which was sponsored by the Rockefeller Foundation and held at the Bellagio Conference Center on Lake Como, Italy. His presentation was entitled “Inventory Planning for Hurricane Events,” and included information on hurricanes and their characteristics, problem descriptions and research questions, as well as model development, solution methodology and extensions. Lodree’s expertise and interests lie in humanitarian logistics and disaster emergency preparedness, topics about which he has received several honors and awards.

**Auburn faculty participate in German colloquium**

The 10th International Material Handling Research Colloquium (IMHRC) was held May 28 – June 2 in Dortmund, Germany. Auburn ISE faculty members Kevin Gue, Emmett Lodree Jr. and Jeff Smith attended the conference to exchange ideas and build...
a sense of community with other engineers and professors. The colloquium, a biannual event sponsored by CIC-MHE, the Material Handling Institute, a local corporate host and many of the industry’s leading suppliers, shares research accomplishments in the field of material handling and facility logistics. This year, the corporate host was the Fraunhofer Institute for Material Flow and Logistics (IML). “It’s an amazing opportunity for the professional side of the industry to see what people on the academic side are doing,” said Gue. “It’s also a chance to exchange topics with other researchers and make connections with other countries and colleagues. It’s a way to start some fruitful collaboration for the future.”

Valenzuela attends conference in Hungary

Faculty member Jorge Valenzuela presented the paper “Undergraduate Research in Automotive Manufacturing Systems at Auburn University” at the ICEE 2008 International Conference on Engineering Education, held July 27-31. The theme of the conference was “New Challenges in Engineering Education and Research in the 21st Century.” It was held at the University of Pécs in Pécs, Hungary, and the Budapest University of Technology and Economics in Budapest.

ISE investigates Korean collaborations for undergraduate research

Faculty members Jorge Valenzuela and Lu Ann Sims spent two weeks in South Korea in May. Their trip was funded by the National Science Foundation (NSF) through the program of International Research and Education. During their visit, Valenzuela and Sims gathered data and formulated a plan to add an international component to Auburn’s REU site program for summer 2009.

They met with faculty and staff of Korea University in Seoul and Pukyong National University (PNU) in Busan and made arrangements for housing, meals, transportation, company visits, visa requirements and health insurance for visiting students in 2009. Valenzuela and Sims familiarized themselves with cultural aspects of the Korean society in areas such as meal customs, campus housing idiosyncrasies, business attire and basic language to successfully prepare U.S. students for travel to Korea. PNU is considering sending several Korean students to Auburn to participate in the REU program. It is possible that such a program will foster international collaboration between Auburn University and these Korean universities, as well as leverage an opportunity to forge closer relationships with Korean automotive manufacturers and suppliers in the Southeastern U.S.

Engineering faculty member joins editorial board of newest industry journal

Jorge Valenzuela, associate professor in the Department of Industrial and Systems Engineering, has joined the editorial board of Energy Systems: Optimization, Modeling, Simulation and Economic Aspect, the newest publication from Springer for optimization and modeling professionals worldwide. The journal’s content will focus on economic approaches toward energy systems-related topics, including power systems optimization, unit commitment, power generation, power trading, electricity risk management, competition in electricity markets, bidding strategies and market power issues. The first issue will appear in 2010.
Student Highlights

Students earn OSHA General Industry Safety Cards
This fall, 56 students earned 30-hour OSHA general industry training cards while participating in the Safety Engineering (I) undergraduate and graduate courses. The Deep South Center for Occupational Safety and Health provided funding for faculty member Jerry Davis to attend a week-long OSHA trainer course at Georgia Tech over the summer and renew his authorized trainer status. The OSHA cards benefit ISE graduates seeking employment in the occupational safety and ergonomics field and benefit all engineers who become much more aware of how safety and health topics interact with the professional practice of industrial engineering.

ISE student makes it to the Olympic tryouts
ISE junior Karen Scavotto qualified for the Olympic tryouts in archery earlier this year. A former Olympian at the 2000 games held in Sydney, Scavotto hoped to compete in Beijing this summer. After making it to the Olympic tryouts, Scavotto went on to come in third overall at the tryouts. Unfortunately, the U.S. only earned two spots, causing her to be one place away from making the Olympic team.

Her father, an avid bow hunter, introduced Scavotto to archery before she could walk. At first, she started with target equipment; it eventually became a regular activity. She started shooting at the local level and then progressed to the state and national levels, where she became first in the nation in women’s archery.

Scavotto began college at Arizona State in 2001 studying industrial design. She later decided to go back to the Olympic training center in San Diego. In 2004, she returned to school. After exploring different majors, she realized that engineering would be the best fit. She also wanted to live in another area of the country. “I literally spent five minutes on the Auburn campus and made my decision,” said Scavotto. “I knew I wanted to come to Auburn.” She will complete her junior courses in the spring, with only three semesters left until graduation.

ISE boasts two LSAMP scholars in bridge program
This summer, two ISE graduate students, Brittany Green and Jarrett Chapman, were accepted into the Alabama Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation (LSAMP) Bridge to the Doctorate Program, which provides financial support to eligible students for two years of graduate study in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) disciplines.

Green received her undergraduate degree in mathematics with a minor in computer science from Birmingham-Southern College and is only a few months into her graduate degree. “It provided a package that, along with the prestige of the industrial engineering program, made the decision of graduate school easy for me,” said Green. Chapman is a doctoral student working with faculty member Emmett Lodree Jr. He earned his bachelor’s and master’s degrees from North Carolina A & T University. Fellows of this program receive a $30,000 annual stipend, cost-of-educational allowance for tuition and fees, health insurance and a mentoring program.

To be eligible for the program, a student must have a bachelor’s degree in a STEM program from an LSAMP institution, a minimum of a 3.0 GPA, be accepted into the Auburn University Graduate School, meet the requirements of a STEM graduate department or program at Auburn, show commitment to pursuing a doctoral degree in a STEM discipline and be a U.S. citizen or permanent resident.

ISE alumni council adds members, fills chair position
Auburn University’s Department of Industrial and Systems Engineering has added two members to its alumni council and has filled the council’s chair position. Adam Farmer and Elon Maddox will serve on the 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. Andy Fischer, a 1993 and 1994 alumnus of the department has assumed the council’s chair position, succeeding Coby Frampton, a 1970 alumnus, who chaired the council for four years. Fischer works for Hager Company.
Farmer obtained his bachelor’s degree in 2002 and completed his master’s degree in 2004. Since 2007, Farmer has been a manager of logistics engineering at Simmons Bedding Company. He oversees two senior logistics engineers and a co-op student, manages projects for all logistics analytics and logistics budget development and supports the operations team in improving day-to-day logistics processes. Farmer and his wife, Jessica, live in Atlanta.

Maddox has 34 years of service in the telecommunications industry. He completed his postgraduate work at Auburn University, receiving his bachelor’s degree in 1973 and master’s in 1974. He started his career with South Central Bell in the company’s engineering operations department. Following his tenure in engineering, building construction and real estate planning, Maddox held positions of increasing responsibility in the company’s management assessment, college employment, management training and operations research groups in Birmingham. As BellSouth completed its merger with AT&T in 2007, Maddox began leading claims operations for AT&T Southeast in Birmingham. He and his wife Pam, a 1974 graduate of Auburn University, have two children, Wes and Meredith. Maddox serves on the board of the Greater Birmingham Auburn Club. He is a life member of the Auburn Alumni Association and the American Institute of Industrial Engineering.

More information about the ISE alumni council and its structure, duties and members can be found at www.eng.auburn.edu/programs/insy/alumni/.

ISE students named Cook Leadership Scholars

ISE undergraduate students Mark Glassford and Gentry Snider have been named Tim Cook Leadership Scholars for the 2008-2009 academic year. The scholarship, founded by Auburn ISE alumnus Tim Cook, chief operating officer of Apple Inc., recognizes ISE students with significant academic achievements, strong evidence of non-academic university involvement and leadership and strong evidence of community involvement and commitment.

Glassford, a junior and Birmingham native, is a co-op student with Tubular Products Company in Birmingham. While there, he is responsible for plant improvement processes, including creating, revamping and organizing plant-wide training courses. Glassford is involved with the Auburn University IMPACT program and received the Fall 2005 Outstanding IMPACT Member of the Semester Award. He was recently inducted to Tau Beta Pi, Auburn’s elite engineering honor society and to Alpha Pi Mu, the industrial engineering honor society. “Through leadership, knowledge and determination, I aspire to accomplish and carry out the goals of industrial engineering to the best of my abilities,” said Glassford. “With the support from the Auburn Department of Industrial and Systems Engineering and my family and the generosity from Mr. Tim Cook, I will continue to develop and sharpen my skills and aim to do my best, wherever life takes me.”

Snider, a junior from Columbiana, Ala., has completed two co-op terms in the quality department with Freudenberg-NOK, an elastomeric seals company. Her duties there include lean systems, document control and improvement of quality controls, employee training, product testing and correspondence. Snider is the publicity chair for Tau Beta Pi engineering honor society, treasurer for Alpha Pi Mu and webmaster for Delta Epsilon Iota honor society. She is a member of the National Society of Collegiate Scholars. “I believe that service is important for the continued growth and well-being of a community and the people within that community,” said Snider. “Working for Freudenberg has taught me how to work with a team and be led by managers and others around me,” said Snider. “I am hopeful that developing my leadership skills today will better prepare me for leadership opportunities in the future.”

Forehand Leadership Scholars named

Nicholas Cox and Philip Martin, undergraduate students in the department, have been named Forehand Leadership Scholars for the 2008-2009 academic year. Founded by Joe W. Forehand, Auburn ISE alumnus and former CEO and chairman of Accenture, the scholarship recognizes ISE undergraduate students who have demonstrated academic excellence along with strong evidence of leadership accomplishments and potential.

Cox, a Birmingham native, is a member of the Auburn University Drumline and recently participated in a drum camp for high school students. He is involved with Auburn’s University Program Council and Institute of Industrial Engineers. “Each of these ex-
experiences has provided me with mental and physical challenges that cultivate my leadership skills and help me to achieve success throughout life,” said Cox. He is a co-op student with Pratt & Whitney in Columbus, Ga.

Martin, a Mobile native, is a senior ISE student and is pursuing a minor in business. Martin spent his summer interning at Aflac Worldwide Headquarters in Columbus, Ga., in the account implementation management (AIM) department. He founded Auburn Students for Life and is currently working towards making Ultimate Frisbee an official club sport at Auburn. Martin is also a member of the Catholic Student Organization. “I am very honored, blessed and thankful to be an industrial and systems engineering student and to have the opportunity to pursue my education at Auburn,” said Martin. “I know that engineering was meant for me, and never have I fit so perfectly into any academic classes or subjects than I do to those of ISE.”

**ISE names Ross as first Davis scholar**

ISE senior Joshua Ross has been named the first Brig. Gen. Robert L. and Barbara Davis scholar in Auburn University’s Department of Industrial and Systems Engineering. The scholarship was established for students who have served in the U.S. military or participate in an ROTC program. A native of Santa Cruz, Calif., Ross completed high school in Kingsport, Tenn., in 1993. Soon after, he enlisted in the U.S. Navy.

For the next 15 years, he held a variety of jobs, including deck seaman and carpenter, and worked on underwater construction and experimental diving efforts. In 2006, Ross came to Auburn as a Navy-sponsored engineering student. He is actively involved with the Auburn Naval ROTC program and mentors freshman students on tactics for success in an increasingly demanding academic environment.

Davis and his wife, Barbara, who recently established the scholarship, met and married at Auburn while she was pursuing a degree in education and he completed his degree in industrial engineering. Following graduation, Davis was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. During the next 31 years, they raised two children and served the Army throughout the U.S. and overseas. In 2005, Davis retired from the Army and joined a private engineering firm. They currently live in Huntington Beach, Calif.

**Engineering students win NEDA scholarship award**

Undergraduate students Michael Dupre, Ntam Baharany, Kathleen Walker, Kevin Moen and Morgan Tang have received the National Electronic Distributors Association (NEDA) Education Foundation case study award, which includes a $2,500 scholarship prize. Participants were required to select a business model used by an electronics distribution company in North America and evaluate it against a business model being used by an electronics company in Asia or Europe.

“This is an accomplishment for these students and the department,” said Marc Schleyer, team adviser and visiting professor. “They produced a competitive and detailed analysis of two electronics distribution businesses while applying the knowledge and skills they’ve gained from their classes. It is a worthy recognition from industry experts.”

The Auburn students chose Motion Industries, an American company that supplies thousands of parts to over 100,000 companies located throughout the United States, and Brammer, a British company operating across Europe. In their case study, the students identified that Motion should continue to further automate their processes and explained how the use of RFID (radio frequency identification) technology could improve the business of both companies.

The winners will be presented at the 2009 Electronics Distribution Show in Las Vegas in May and will have possession of the traveling trophy for the remainder of the year.

The National Electronic Distributors Association (NEDA) is a not-for-profit trade association representing supplier-authorized distributors of electronic components and their manufacturer-suppliers. Dedicated to enhancing the authorized distributor-manufacturer relationship, NEDA represents companies involved in the distribution of electronic components, computers and computer peripheral components and test, measurement and control equipment parts.
Building an Exceptional Faculty

As the Samuel Ginn College of Engineering positions itself to become one of the nation's top engineering programs, we must recruit and retain the most outstanding faculty members. There is considerable competition among colleges and universities to attract quality faculty members who have demonstrated academic achievement and established themselves as experts in their field. To maintain the caliber of its faculty and to successfully recruit additional superior faculty, the Department of Industrial and Systems Engineering is working to increase its professorship endowments to enhance faculty salaries and provide operational support.

Auburn University has undertaken a unique professorship program that will create 81 new endowed professorships across campus. The university has agreed to add $7,500 annually to each endowment's earnings, in perpetuity, of any new professorship endowment established by Sept. 30. This means an investment of $150,000 – half the amount normally required – will create the equivalent of a named endowed professorship.

We invite you to join the department's efforts to bring the finest educators to Auburn Engineering by investing in this initiative. For more information, please contact the Office of Engineering Development at 334-844-2736.