

Message from Department Head

The semester is officially over and the Maymester courses are currently in session. We had 14 undergraduate students, 4 masters students, and one doctoral student graduate this spring. It was exciting to see that two of the six undergraduate students inducted into the Bagley College of Engineering Student Hall of Fame were ISE students. This is not the first time this has happened and it demonstrates the caliber of students we have in the program. I am always impressed when I see the level of work our students are capable of producing. The Systems Simulation class completed another class project this semester for PACCAR Engine Company where they evaluated equipment design choices. Under the instruction of Ray Purnell, students learned how to employ simulation as a decision-making tool to aid in the evaluation and selection of different capital options related to the launch of PACCAR's new MX-11 diesel engine.



The IIE Southeast Regional Student Conference that we hosted was a big success. The student leadership team led by Dr. Strawderman did a fantastic job at putting on a comprehensive program. I am sure that many students left impressed with MSU and our ISE department.

We successfully completed a faculty search and will have three new faculty join us in the fall. I will share more about each of them in the Fall newsletter. A look at the list of financial supporters on page 5 will show that we had several new persons join the list of those providing financial support for the department in the last 4 years. We are so thankful to our supporters for helping MSU-ISE sustain a successful program.

Go Dawgs!

John

Opening keynote session for the University Transportation Centers (UTC) Conference for the Southeastern Region



Visit us at: <http://www.ise.msstate.edu>

Contact: usher@ise.msstate.edu or 662-325-7624

Linked in Aside from the ISE website, the best way to stay on top of the latest news about ISE students, faculty, and the department is to join the [Mississippi State University Industrial & Systems Engineering](#) LinkedIn group. This is the principal place where we post news on a regular basis. There are over **600** MSU ISE alumni members in that group, so it is a great way to reach out to other ISE Bulldogs. (Link is: <http://bit.ly/msu-ise>)

Department News

- **Kari Babski-Reeves** was elected as a Director to the Board of Certified Professional Engineers (BCPE - <http://www.bcpe.org/>). BCPE provides ergonomics certification to protect the public, the profession, and its professionals by assuring standards of competency and advocating the value of certification. They develop and administer the tests, and certify individuals for the designations of Certified Professional Ergonomist (CPE), Certified Human Factors Professional (CHFP), and Certified User Experience Professional (CUXP). They also oversee the associate designations for these levels as well. Serving a 3-year term, the directors assist the president with forging new directions for BCPE, identifying and testing applications in core competencies, and communicating ergonomics related issues throughout the world using various means.
- With financial support from **International Paper**, the ISE Department hosted a **Six Sigma** training class for all engineering students to gain Yellow Belt certification by IIE. We had 58 students apply for only 40 open class seats. This fall we hope to expand this program, adding both a beginner and advanced class.
- **Charles Cascio** (1979 alumnus) was recognized as one of the 2015 Distinguished Fellow of the James Worth Bagley College of Engineering. Charles is the Manager of Business Development at **Baxter Healthcare** located at in Cleveland, Mississippi.



John Usher and Charles Cascio



- The University of Alabama at Birmingham and **Mississippi State University** hosted the University Transportation Centers (UTC) Conference for the Southeastern Region on March 26-27, 2015, at the Hyatt Regency – Wynfrey Hotel in Birmingham, AL. **John Usher**, NCITEC Director, co-chaired the conference. This event brought together faculty, students, practitioners, and public agencies in the southeast to disseminate information about on-going activities at all partner universities and strengthen collaboration among the academic community and the private and public sector agencies in the region. The Conference Program included 80 presentations showcasing a great variety of on-going transportation research and implementation activities at UTC partner universities in the Southeast. All eight UTCs in Region 4 participated representing 22 Universities. Presentations are available at: <http://www.ncitec.msstate.edu/2015-utc/>

Undergraduate Student Highlights

- An ISE student team composed of graduate student **Mahmud Rahman** and undergraduates **John Robertson**, **Austin Campbell**, and **Ethan Hosea** placed 3rd in the national IIE Society for Health Systems/Flexsim Model Building Competition. The team was recognized for its accomplishment at the Healthcare Systems Process Improvement Conference in Orlando, Florida in February.
- ISE students **Sunny Patel** and **Ryan Weitzel** (shown left and right in picture, respectively) were two of the six undergraduate students from across the College that were inducted into the **BCoE Student Hall of Fame**.
- **Megan Rowland** (BS student) received the **Hoist Manufacturers Institute/ Monorail Manufacturers Association Honor Scholarship** from the Material Handling Education Foundation, Inc.
- Each year a series of J. Ron Walsh Awards are presented to recognize the outstanding students that excel in academics, leadership and service. As well, an award is presented for best student research paper. This year's winners are:
 - Outstanding Senior: **Christian Harden**
 - Outstanding Ph.D. Student: **Apurba Nandi**
 - Outstanding Student Research Paper Award: **Abby Werth** for the paper she coauthored with **Kari Babski-Reeves** entitled: "Effects of Portable Computing Devices on Posture, Muscle Activation Levels, and Efficiency"



Graduate Student Highlights

- **Md. Mahmudur Rahman** (PhD student) was selected as one of only two nationally awarded Liberty Mutual Fellows for 2015. The fellowship provides him the opportunity to work this summer at the Liberty Mutual Research Institute for Safety. Mahmud will conduct research related to transportation safety and driver assistance systems.
- **Paul Babin** (PhD student) and **Dr. Allen Greenwood** received an Honorable mention for their paper "Applying Variance Performance Measures for Variable Service-Rate Queueing Simulation Models," at the Industrial Engineering and Operations Management Society (IEOM) Conference in Dubai, UAE in March.
- **Sushil Poudel** (PhD student, BS alumnus) received the 2015 MSU Student Diversity Award for his significant commitments to enhancing diversity at Mississippi State.

IIE Student Chapter Hosts Southeast Regional Conference

Mississippi State University was proud to host the 2015 IIE Southeast Regional Student Conference this February. The conference brought together over 150 attendees from 13 schools in the Southeastern United States. This year's conference theme was "This is IIE," which was motivated by MSU's "This is Our State" slogan. The student leadership team (pictured) did an outstanding job of showcasing our department, our university, and our town.

Highlights from the conference included a keynote address by Sean Healy, Vice President at FedEx Express (pictured). The student leadership team developed a comprehensive conference schedule, which included four plant tours, nine professional development seminars, technical paper competition, State of IIE address, career fair with eleven companies in attendance, and a variety of social events.

We appreciate the generous support of our conference sponsors: Howard Industries, Ingalls Shipbuilding, Entergy, Thomas H. Walker Consultants, William Botts, Steven Ford, and Daniel Hotard.



IIE Conference Leadership Team



Keynote speaker Sean Healy ringing his new MSU cowbell, presented by Kennedy Brown, ISE Junior

Spring 2015 Graduates

Doctoral:

- **Michael Hester** – "Development of manufacturing systems for nanocrystalline and ultra-fine grain materials employing indexing equal channel angular pressing," Advisor – John M. Usher

Master's Thesis:

- **Scott Langlois** – "The effects of gloves on muscle activation while moving small containerized plants," Advisor – Kari Babski-Reeves

Master's Non-Thesis: Jason Gill and Helvert Obando

Undergraduates: Marckristin Brown, Austin Campbell, Tyler Costley, Nolan Couture, Ryan Henderson, Jordan Koch, Brock Lovelace, Logan Mayo, Tanner Mood, Sunny Patel, Emily Salmon, Matthew Weickert, Ryan Weitzel, and Matthew Wilson

Your support makes a difference...

We wanted to be sure you know that when giving to the University, it is possible for you to make gifts directly to the ISE Department through the MSU Development Foundation. However, this requires that you explicitly specify that your gift is for the Department of Industrial & Systems Engineering.

The gifts that we receive from alumni, corporate sponsors, and other partners directly impact the student, staff, and faculty of the department. The ISE department needs your help with:

- scholarships and fellowships for recruiting and retaining students,
- funding access to state-of-the-art technology through equipment purchases for enhancing classroom and laboratory experiences,
- support for student leadership groups, and
- professorships to attract and retain top-caliber faculty.

These programs are not supported through state appropriations and therefore, are not possible without your help. Such gifts are an investment in the future, helping us to achieve excellence in the classroom and laboratory. You can use the form on the next page to contribute to these programs. You can also contact John Usher (662-325-7624; usher@ise.msstate.edu) or Bennett Evans, Director of Development (662-325-0386; bevans@bagley.msstate.edu) to learn about other ways to support the department.

If you want to make a donation online you can go to msufoundation.com and click on the “Give Now” link at the top right of the screen. When specifying the “**Designation**” select “**College/School/Preferred Area.**” When a new screen comes up, type “**Systems Engineering**” and select “**Industrial & Systems Engineering (310506)**”. The account **310506** should appear as the “Selected Designation.”

Please join those listed at right who made a difference with their support to the department in the last four years.



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