

Message from Department Head

Season's Greetings from the faculty and staff of ISE. Many alumni remember Larry Brown, the beloved ISE Department Head for 20 years. Due to the financial support of many alumni an endowed professorship created in his honor has been awarded (see page 2).

We welcomed two new faculty to the department this fall. A short biography of each appears on page 3. The faculty continue to be heavily involved in a variety of research projects in collaboration with each other, as well as with faculty members in other MSU departments. These efforts have resulted in the department being ranked 14th by the National Science Foundation in terms of research expenditures.

This semester the department received two new endowments, one dedicated to student travel and another for student scholarships (see page 4). Due to scholarships endowments like this, we were able to offer scholarships to nearly 25% of our students this year. As well, this past year we had 22 students travel to the IISE Southeast Regional Student Conference and another 15 graduate students travel to research conferences to present their research results. Travel endowments provide support for these activities. Your gifts make it possible for us to provide continued support for students and faculty that enhance our program's reputation and excellence. Thank you!

Hail State!
John



Summer and Fall 2017 Graduates

Doctoral:

- **Marc Banghart** - "Bayesian network analysis for diagnostics and prognostics of engineering systems." Advisor: Linkan Bian
- **Shuchisnigdha Deb** - "Pedestrians' receptivity toward fully autonomous vehicles." Advisor: Lesley Strawderman

Master's Thesis:

- **Leif Jensen** - "Evaluating the validity of latency effects in robotics simulation." Advisor: Daniel Carruth

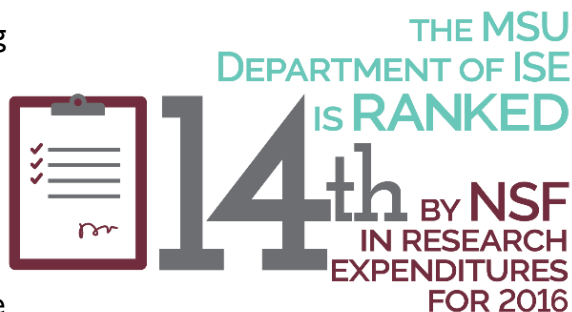
Master's Non-Thesis: David Burford, Clarence Harmon, Dustin Herr, Joseph Kerlin, Vipulkumar Meghat, John Parrish, Derrick Stanley, and Etienne Thro.

Undergraduates:

- **Summer** - Rachel Creely, Daniel Dunaway, Alexa Green, Brittney Gunnels, Mary Hopkins, Robert Hughey, Traylor Jackson, Dianna Kariuki, Erin Stirgus, and Benjamin Wilbanks.
- **Fall** - Weston Abshire, David Awtrey, Roshelman Breakfield, Kennedy Brown, Alex Calhoun, Samuel Funderburk, Joshua Gibson, James Harstvedt, Dominique Land, Lauren Morgan, Maxwell Moseley, Edwin Steele, Marquita Stutts, Wade Terrell, Tyler Whitehead, and Joshua Wynja.

Research

- Of all the industrial and manufacturing engineering departments in the nation, **NSF** has ranked the MSU-ISE department **14th** in terms of 2016 research expenditures. The \$4.4M in research expenditures for 2016 is representative of the high-level of scholarly activity of the faculty in the department. They have consistently maintained annual research expenditures above \$3.6M for the last 5 years.



Faculty News

- Associate Professor **Lesley Strawderman** was selected to participate in the **2017-18 Dean Wallace Colvard Class** of the **Faculty Leadership Program**. This program is sponsored by the university's offices of Research and Economic Development and of the Provost and Executive Vice President, seeking to develop the next generation of academic leaders. During the nine-month program, participants will be part of various presentations and discussions with lead administrators within MSU covering such topics as leadership styles, organizational change, diversity, building winning research teams, and organizational evaluation and assessment.



- Associate Dean and Professor **Kari Babski-Reeves** is one of four new Fellows of the Southeastern Conference Academic Leadership Development Program. The program is now in its 10th year and was created to help prepare and advance academic administrators within the SEC's 14 member universities. This 9-month program will include the opportunity to visit two other SEC schools to learn about their administrative operations.

- **John M. Usher**, Head of the ISE department was recently named as the recipient of the **Larry G. Brown Endowed Professorship** in Industrial and System Engineering. The endowed professorship was established in 2011 by several Bagley alumni and the Industrial Engineering Advisory Board. It honors longtime industrial engineering department head **Larry Brown** (pictured at right), who joined the Mississippi State faculty in 1970. He served as department head from 1986 until his retirement in 2006.



Faculty News (continued)

Lesley Strawderman, Associate Professor, recently completed the **Maroon Institute for Writing Excellence** program. The three-week intensive institute trains teachers from a variety of university departments to modify course syllabi to incorporate more writing-to-learn strategies into class assignments. Dr. Strawderman incorporated a number of writing activities into her fall **Industrial Ergonomics** course. Students wrote persuasive memos and technical reports that communicated the importance of ergonomics to management-level readers. The writing activities helped to deepen students' understanding of the course content, and helped prepare them for writing tasks they may undertake in industry.

New Faculty

Wenmeng 'Meg' Tian

The ISE Department welcomes Wenmeng 'Meg' Tian to the faculty as a new **Assistant Professor**. Dr. Tian received her Ph.D. degree in Industrial and Systems Engineering from Virginia Tech in 2017. She also holds an M.S. degree in Statistics from Virginia Tech, an M.S. and a B.S. degree in Industrial Engineering from Tianjin University, China. Meg's research efforts focus on system informatics in data-rich environments. She is particularly interested in advanced sensing and analytics for system modeling, monitoring, and diagnosis. Applications of her research include manufacturing and healthcare systems. Her teaching interests include engineering statistics, statistical quality control, production control systems, and systems simulation.



Glenda Young

The department also welcomes Glenda D. Young as a **Visiting Assistant Professor**. Dr. Young holds a Ph.D. in Engineering Education as well as graduate certificates in Higher Education Administration and Educational Research from Virginia Tech. She earned her Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Industrial and Systems Engineering from **MSU** and Auburn University, respectively. Glenda's research interest include 1) Investigating organizational and educational contexts to bridge university and industry efforts to develop a diverse STEM workforce 2) Exploring how experiential education influences student career decisions. Her most recent research explores how university-industry partnerships shape student career expectations and pathways to industry following cooperative education work experiences. In addition to her professional activities, Glenda enjoys watching SEC football, traveling to new places, and participating in church ministry.



Alumni News

- The MSU Institute for Systems Engineering Research appointed **Michael A. Hamilton** as the associate director of data science. Dr. Hamilton is an MSU-ISE alumnus that earned his BS (2005), MS (2007), and PhD (2011) in ISE. Michael also holds a graduate certificate in modeling, simulation, and visualization engineering from Old Dominion University, as well as one certification in big data analytics from the University of California, San Diego and another in data science from John Hopkins University.

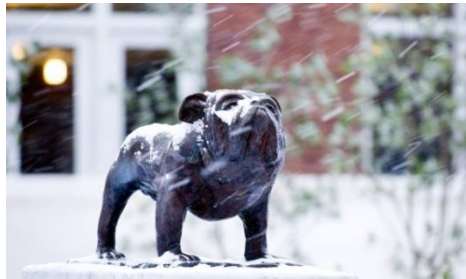


- **Fred Buie** has established a \$50,000 Student Travel Endowment in the ISE department. Fred is a 1978 Industrial Engineering graduate who went on to earn a Master's in Industrial Engineering from MSU as well. Mr. Buie was recognized as a Distinguished Fellow of the Bagley College of Engineering in 2008. Fred is currently President and Owner of Keystone Electrical Manufacturing Company located in Des Moines, Iowa. Earnings from this endowment will be used to pay travel expenses for both undergraduate and graduate students to attend conferences to present their research papers.
- **Todd and Amy Gandy** have established a \$25,000 **Ted Gandy Endowed Scholarship** for future ISE students. This scholarship is in honor of Todd's father, Ted Gandy, who graduated in 1961 from Industrial Engineering at MSU. Like his father, Todd also earned a BS degree in Industrial Engineering in 1989 and his wife, Amy, earned a Bachelors in English Education from MSU as well. Todd currently serves on the ISE Advisory Board and is an active supporter of the department.

New Staff

Danette Barrier

Danette Barrier joined ISE this fall as the new **Business Manager** in the department. Danette is an alumna of MSU with a B.S. in Public Accountancy (cum laude) and a M.S. in Public Policy and Administration. As a graduate student, the Department of Political Science and Public Administration presented her the Outstanding Graduate Student award. An employee at MSU for 27 years, she was the recipient of a Zacharias Distinguished Staff award in 2012. Danette and her husband have two daughters and two son-in laws, all alumni of MSU, a son, a member of the U.S. Air Force Reserve, and two grandsons. Danette enjoys gardening, photography, crafting books and canvases of her photography, and reading.



Tammy Carroll

Tammy Carroll also joined the department this semester as our new Administrative Assistant, replacing Bonnie Ladner who retired in October after 27 years with the department. Tammy comes to MSU with more than seventeen years of experience as an Administrative Assistant in church administration. Tammy and her husband have five children, one son will begin his academic career at MSU in Fall 2018, one son-in-law and two (almost three) grandchildren. Tammy enjoys reading, being outdoors and farming with her small Nubian dairy goat herd.



Student Highlights

- **Kennedy Brown** was selected from a highly competitive group of students across the entire engineering college to receive the 2017 **Harry Charles Simrall Award for Engineering Excellence**. The college makes the selection for this award, but it is presented by the MSU Association of Retired Faculty (ARF) in honor and memory of long-time dean of the College of Engineering, Harry Simrall. The ARF established this annual award to recognize a student who best exhibited the qualities Dean Simrall valued: Academics, Professional Leadership, and Community Service.
- **Tyler Abshire** tied for 2nd place in the MSU Writing Center's "For Those Who Serve" writing contest. His submission was entitled "From Those Who Serve to Those Who Haven't." His essay is on display in the G.V. "Sonny" Montgomery Center for America's Veterans.



- **Abdul Quddus** was awarded the 2017 Student Best Paper Award of the Energy, Natural Resources, and Environment (ENRE) section of INFORMS. His paper is entitled "Optimizing Electric Vehicle Charging Station Expansion with an Integration of Renewable Energy and Vehicle-to-Grid Sources." He received the award at the INFORMS conference that was held this past November in Houston, TX.



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Your support makes a difference...

When giving to the University, it is possible for you to make gifts directly to the ISE Department through the MSU Development Foundation. 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 left who made a difference with their support to the department in the last four years.

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