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IMPORTANT: To receive this letter in the future, please contact Joyce Vest at [vestjs@vt.edu] so that we may add you to the newsletter listserv.

VT Students Plan 2014 IIE Mid-Atlantic Regional Conference

On the weekend of February 21st, 200 students from across the mid-Atlantic region made their way to Virginia Tech for the annual IIE student conference. The challenge of hosting the conference, which happens about once every six years, was taken on by the excited members this year's Virginia Tech IIE chapter. Led by President, James Malone, and Conference Chair, Zvonko Cindrich, the student membership volunteered a considerable amount of time and effort to plan and facilitate the event with great success.

Before the conference, the majority of the planning responsibilities fell onto the shoulders of a committee of about ten juniors and seniors. These students applied for their positions on the conference committee and worked hard over the 2013-2014 school year to



Virginia Tech student volunteers manning the registration table.

put the event together. Their responsibilities included recruiting the five corporate sponsors: Lowe's, Newport News Shipbuilding, UPS, Deloitte, and PepsiCo to help fund the event and showcase Virginia Tech's strong connections with several companies that hire Industrial Engineers. The committee worked closely with these sponsors to plan information sessions, professional development seminars, and sponsored meals. The committee also planned all the behind the

scenes logistics of conference registration, transportation, and entertainment.

During the conference over forty Virginia Tech students, surprisingly including many sophomores and freshmen, volunteered their time to assist in running the conference. All in all, the conference was a large accomplishment for Virginia Tech and could not have been pulled off without the diligent work of its dynamite student chapter of IIE.



Written by Colin Rubright, Advisory Board and Alumni Relations

"The World is a book,
and those who do not
travel read only a
page." –Saint August-
tine

New Professor Spotlight: Dr. Joe Gabbard

Dr. Gabbard is no stranger to VT, having received his B.S., M.S., and Ph.D. in Computer Science here, as well as a B.A. in Psychology. This semester, he taught two graduate-level courses, Human-Information Processing and Human-Computer Systems.

Dr. Gabbard does research in the fields of Augmented and Virtual Reality, Human-Computer Interaction, and User Experience. Dr. Gabbard came to VT "for the culture, the research, the people, the mountains and the river—not necessarily in that order!"

Dr. Gabbard loves working with new technology and understanding how it impacts the way we live.

Study Abroad for ISE's: The Time is NOW!

ISE students,

Someday in the not-too-distant future, your time as an undergraduate student at Virginia Tech will end. Diploma in hand, you will move on to the next chapter in your life—graduate school, Peace Corps, military service, work in the private or government sector—but to reach that milestone, you need to do more than merely pass your classes.

Fortunately, the University, the College of Engineering, and the ISE department offer a number of opportunities to students to enrich their undergraduate experiences including undergraduate research, Ware Lab and other team projects, summer internships, co-op experiences, externships, and studying/working/volunteering abroad. I'd like to focus on that last item and extol the benefits an experience abroad can bring you.

For many of you, NOW is the best time to travel abroad. Once

you begin your first "real" job or start working on your thesis or dissertation in graduate school, opportunities to live and work in another country for anywhere from 3 weeks to 9 months will be more limited! Studying or working abroad exposes you to a new culture, a new way of life. You'll learn to recognize and appreciate how culture influences values and behaviors. You'll begin to understand what it really means to be an 'American' and what makes life in the United States different from anywhere else in the world.

Learning abroad will not only help you develop new skills, more independence and self-confidence that can't be learned on campus, but it will also set you apart from other job seekers in a very competitive job market. You will be able to highlight your experience abroad in job interviews and on your resume. An opportunity to make lifelong friendships with people you wouldn't have necessarily met otherwise

and an unparalleled opportunity to develop genuine fluency in a foreign language are two additional rewards to be gained from participation in an education abroad program.

Want more information? Visit the VT Education Abroad website at www.educationabroad.vt.edu. Search for programs by major, region and type. Once you've visited the Education Abroad office and met with the full-time advisor or the engineering peer advisor (an engineering student who been abroad and is familiar with the search process), come see me in 241 Durham to discuss how a study or internship abroad can fit into your curriculum!

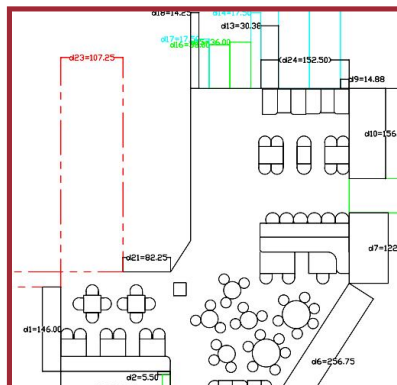


Written by Paula
Van Curen, ISE
Advisor

Students Redesign Fighting Gobbler Layout

The Fighting Gobbler, a section in the West End Market dining hall, was seeking a new seating layout. The Community Involvement committee of the ISE Ambassadors recognized this as an opportunity for students to gain experience using their ISE skills. The project team was led by Megan Dierolf and Emily Basso and consisted of Kyra Vila, William Scherr, Jack Sistare, Matt Semich, and Mark Gibson.

We first took data over four days, periodically recording the number of people sitting at each table and the number watching the projector screens. Analysis of the data determined



that the many six person tables were rarely filled and that certain areas, such as near the cold doors, were unattractive seating areas for customers. After creating several design alternatives and weighing the pros and cons of each, the team drew up a CAD model of a final design that addressed these issues.

Some features of the design included single person bar seating, tables that can be moved and combined to create different sizes, and booth seating near the windy doors that will hopefully decrease the "cold effect." Other things considered were making sure that the projector screens could be seen from almost all areas, as well as maintaining the current seating capacity. These recommended changes to the facility will hopefully be implemented by the Fighting Gobbler in the future. This year long project provided a valuable application of ISE knowledge for everyone involved.



Written by Junior
Em Basso,
Event Planning

New Professor Spotlight: **Zhenyu (James) Kong**

Dr. Kong obtained his Ph.D. in ISE from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and his B.S. and B.S. in Mechanical Engineering from the Harbin Institute of Technology in China.

This semester, Dr. Kong taught Facility Planning and Material Handling, a junior-level course. Dr. Kong's area of research is Manufacturing Systems, and he says he chose to come to VT for our prestigious reputation! "To myself, there is lots of fun in manufacturing due to its interdisciplinary nature. To the nations, manufacturing has been the key to prosperity." **Welcome to VT, Dr. Kong!**

Did you know?!

Virginia Tech's Graduate ISE Program was recently named 7th in the nation!

The Legacy of the Teacher who Happened to be President

Virginia Tech College of Engineering Dean Richard Benson has endorsed the creation of a book and a multimedia archive, "The Legacy of the Professor who was also President." He has commissioned Paul Torgersen's ISE colleague, Dr. Brian Kleiner, to lead this activity as Dr. K. worked with him in the classroom during his eight year tenure as president. Dean Benson said at the ISE banquet, "in these 56 years, Dr. Torgersen's students had to share their professor with a department, a college, a corporate research park, a university, a university, again, and yes, finally, the largest university in the Commonwealth of Virginia as its 14th President. I thought it fitting to commission the "Legacy" project during Dr. Torgersen's final semester of teaching", said Dean Benson. To participate in the Legacy project and share your reflections, please go here:

⇒ Current students: https://viriniatech.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_bqkvFBfaEnHIGe1

⇒ Alumni: https://viriniatech.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_bIX2yrBVBEFYpTf

Professors, any advice for graduating seniors?

Life is short. Break the rules! Forgive quickly, Kiss slowly, love truly, Laugh uncontrollably, and never Regret anything that made you Smile. Mark Twain

- Dr. Paul Torgersen



Be smart, be creative and be helpful. Dream, imagine, then scope and solve. Don't be afraid to go out of the box, but remain true to yourself. Be honest, humble and sincere. Ut Prosim.

- Dr. Joe Gabbard



Travel the world! You will never forget the places and people you will met. Don't let excuses get in the way.

- Dr. Christian Wernz

Remember that quality precedes and transcends substance and form, subject and object, and mind and matter and is the basis for successful living.

- Dr. Joel Nachlas



Do what you love to do, but don't let your job, or your profession, define who you are.

- Dr. Pat Koelling



Your ISE degree is a ticket to the real world, in which homework and exams will be in other types of forms where consequences are more serious than a single number of score.

- Dr. Zhenyu (James) Kong



New Professor

Spotlight: Dr.

Navid Ghaffarzadegan

Dr. Ghaffarzadegan received his Postdoctoral Associate degree from MIT, his Ph.D. in Public Policy/System Dynamics from SUNY at Albany, and his M.A. in Business Administration and B.S. in Mechanical Engineering from Sharif University of Technology. With such a varied educational background, Dr. G comes to us to teach the senior course Global Issues and a graduate course, Management of Change and Innovation in Organizational Systems 1.

Dr. G does his research in system dynamics/thinking, complex socio-technical systems, healthcare, and research policy.

"I believe by developing solutions for complex global challenges, and by contributing to social learning, we can make the world a better place to live for ourselves and our kids."



2014 IIE Mid-Atlantic Regional Conference

Hosted by Virginia Tech

On February 21st, the Mid-Atlantic IIE Conference began, with Virginia Tech as the host college. The conference was a weekend of idea-sharing, networking, and professional development for IEs.

Over 200 students from ten universities on the east coast, sponsors from five companies (Lowe's, PepsiCo, UPS, Deloitte, and Newport News Shipbuilding), and a few of our own VT faculty members attended the conference. The weekend began



Virginia Tech IIE members at the Virginia Tech Smart Road

with a networking reception sponsored by Deloitte followed by dinner at the Inn at Virginia Tech.

The night began with humor by department head Dr. Don Taylor and was followed by the night's keynote speaker, Juan Perez, Vice-President of UPS. Speaking on analytics tools that UPS uses to continuously improve the company's logistics, Mr. Perez established the tone of the conference to be innovation and insight.

Saturday consisted of exciting events focused on IE application in academia and industry. Students from five universities presented in a technical paper competition before a board of IIE judges. Clemson took home 1st place with Virginia Tech earning 2nd. The competition was

followed by breakout sessions led by companies and the IIE. Professional development opportunities were available in the afternoon, including resume-building workshops and mock-interviews led by VT Career Services. Attendees could showcase skills as budding IE's in a case competition, hosted by the VT Consulting Club, or a speed networking session, hosted by company representatives.

To formally conclude the weekend, dinner commenced at the Owens Banquet Hall, at which Dr. Joe Wilck of

the IIE spoke about the benefits of IIE beyond the university level. Dr. Wilck was followed by Marty Muscatello, who delivered a fantastic keynote address on his journey from VT graduation to the CEO-entrepreneur position that he is now at his own burgeoning computer solutions firm, CCS-Inc.

On Sunday morning, attendees went on a tour of the Virginia Tech Transportation Institute and learned about the VT Smart Road. With the weekend capped, students left with a growing professional network and new insights into ways to apply their IE knowledge in a professional setting.



Written by Zander Baylis, Documentation and Marketing Committee



Congratulations to the new Alpha Pi Mu members! Paul Bartholomew, Megan Carper, Evie Doughtie, Conor Gallagher, Yusuke Johnson, Mengyun Li, Kara Love, Kelsey Mericka, Patrick Moody, Shae O'Hara, Gregory Pawlow, Jeremy Phan, Gabriel Pike, John Redlinger, Morgan Sannes, Alexander Talati, Jialing Wei, Victoria White, and Mandy Zeto

Staying Connected

If you, members of your class, or your employer would like to sponsor or co-sponsor an event (e.g., ISEats, information sessions, Relay for Life), contact us and we will coordinate your efforts! Also check out our new website, www.vtise.org!

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What are a bunch of ISE majors doing in the mountains painting a white fence?" a passer-by might have asked on Saturday, April 5th. The answer: being Hokies and doing community service.

This year, VT ISE participated in the Big Event, serving the Blacksburg community and bonding with each other. The team managed to scrape off old paint, de-mildew, and paint white the majority of an old fence in about 4 hours. Led by ISE Ambassador Anne Malbon, the team enjoyed the slightly chilly day and was rewarded with pizza for lunch.



Written by Maggie Dozier, Advisory Board and Alumni Relations Committee



WE WOULD LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Please send in any updates and announcements such as (but not limited to) marriage, births, career accomplishments, retirement, community projects, and awards and recognitions by email to Joyce Vest at vestjs@vt.edu or by mail to the Department, address listed at left.

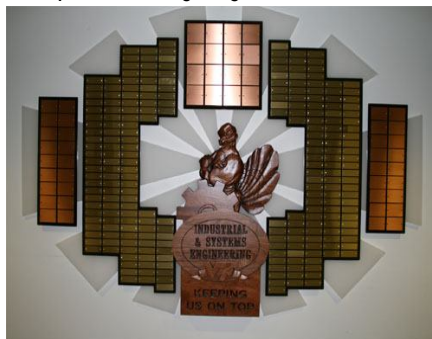
Please be sure to include all relevant information including your name, address, phone number, and email address.

Mailing and email address updates should also be sent in to Joyce Vest at vestjs@vt.edu.

Creating a Culture of Giving

At the Grado Department of Industrial and Systems Engineering, our vision is to be leaders in research, education, and professional outreach as well as in our communities and society. Funds from the Commonwealth of Virginia do not cover our annual budget or needs, and private giving is critical if we are to maintain, let alone improve, the high quality of our processes. Giving to ISE at Virginia Tech can provide student scholarships, maximize students' learning, help us attract and retain the

world's best faculty, assist with day-to-day operations, and help maintain state-of-the-art research and teaching facilities. If we are to be competitive with other top-10 departments, giving is vital.



To aid us in soliciting funds for this endowment, we recently commissioned a sculpture, which has been installed on the wall in Durham Hall right outside the departmental office suite. The names of our Benefactors will appear prominently on the large brass plaques above the sculpture and the names of our Patrons will appear on the brass plaques on either side of the sculpture. Our Sponsors' names will appear on the bronze plaques surrounding the sculpture.

A Special Thanks And Recognition To Our Excellence Fund Contributors

Adams, Michael & Brenda

Adkins, Roger & Mary

Arnold, Dick & Sally

Arnold, Joseph

Askew, Tom

Bailey, Fred

Birk, Lydia

Blackwood, Morgan

Blanchard, Ben & Dot

Brannan, Rory

Burzacchi, Sebastian & Kelly

Canada, John & Wanda

Casali, John

Chachra, Vinod & Ranjana

Cullinane, Thomas & Katherine

Davis, Darrell & Michelle

Deisenroth, Mike & Marilia

Dick, Dan & Lynn

Doughty, Gary & Eleanor

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Norris, Jack

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van Luyn, Dutch & Trudy

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Worley, Hal & Thornie