NC State ISE Vaults into the Top 10 Nationally

Every year, US News & World Report releases a list of top schools in the nation. This year the Edward P. Fitts Department of Industrial and Systems Engineering ranked in the top ten in the nation for both the undergraduate and graduate programs. This ranking is reflective of a department that has fundamentally redefined itself over the course of the past few years while maintaining its core competencies.

This marks the first year that both our graduate and undergraduate programs are placed on the top ten lists. The program is one of the most affordable in the nation, yet the quality of education ranks among the country’s most elite IE programs.

Graduates consistently rate the ISE department with high marks of satisfaction, and why wouldn’t they when over 90% of undergraduate students have found employment by their graduation date (Fall 2011), as well as have an average starting salary above their peers in other engineering fields.

The department celebrated this wonderful achievement on April 12 at the University Club as part of the C.A. Anderson Award Ceremony, which recognized outstanding student, staff and faculty achievement.

The department wants to thank everyone including staff, faculty and students for making this achievement possible and is excited to see how the department moves forward during the coming years as it sets its sights on garnering a ranking in the top five.

Three NC State Industrial Engineers Honored by IIE

The Edward P. Fitts Industrial and System Engineering Department is proud to recognize three NC State industrial engineers for being honored by the Institute of Industrial Engineers (IIE) with some of the most esteemed professional recognitions awarded.

Dr. Louis Martin-Vega, Dean of the College of Engineering, will receive the Frank and Lillian Gilbreth Industrial Engineering Award, one of IIE’s highest honor. Recipients of the Gilbreth Award are acknowledged for their nationally or internationally recognized contributions to the welfare of mankind in the field of industrial engineering.

Dr. Jerome Lavelle, Associate Dean of Academic Affairs and alumnus of the department, will be named a Fellow of the Institute, the highest classification of IIE membership, which recognizes outstanding leaders who have made significant, nationally recognized contributions in management, innovations and service to industrial engineering.

Dr. Ola Harrysson, Associate Professor, will receive the Technical innovation in Industrial Engineering Award, which honors a single innovative technical contribution to the industrial engineering profession for his work in osseointegration using electron beam melting technology.

All three engineers will receive their awards at the IIE’s annual conference in Orlando, FL this May.
Dr. Vila-Parrish Wins National Advising Award

Congratulations to Dr. Anita Vila-Parrish, ISE’s Director of Undergraduate Programs, for winning the Certificate of Merit of the National Outstanding New Advisor Award presented by the National Academic Advising Association. Dr. Vila-Parrish will receive her award at the Annual NACADA Conference held in the fall. To qualify for the Outstanding New Advisor Award, Dr. Vila-Parrish had to first be honored with NC State’s New Faculty Advisor Award, an award presented by the Division of Undergraduate Academic Programs, which she did in February of this year.

Winners of the prestigious National Outstanding New Advisor Award must demonstrate qualities and practices that distinguish them as an outstanding academic advisor. Some of these include: strong interpersonal skills, availability to advisees, faculty or staff, frequency of contact with advisees, evidence of student success rate, by advisor or department, and caring, helpful attitude toward advisees, faculty and staff.

One of her students wrote, “...it was because of that level of trust we had, that she inspired me to try for a new career path--far beyond what I ever would have imagined for myself. She followed through with me every step of the way, pinpointing companies for me to research, and coached me through interviews and salary negotiations.”
Student Chapter of IIE Hosts Mid-Atlantic Conference

Every year, some of the brightest young minds get together to discuss and share information regarding industrial engineering for the Institute of Industrial Engineers Mid-Atlantic Regional Conference. In February, the Edward P. Fitts Department of Industrial and Systems Engineering played host to the conference, which had representation from many universities nearby, including Virginia Tech, Tennessee Tech, University of Tennessee - Knoxville, East Carolina University, West Virginia University, North Carolina A&T and Clemson.

Each year the conference has a theme. This year, the conference focused on finding your passion as an ISE and extending your professional network. The conference kicked off at Natty Greene’s in downtown Raleigh, sponsored by Caterpillar, where students, faculty and industry partners had the chance to network with fellowISEs. This event was a huge hit and enabled participants to create links that set the tone for the remainder of the conference.

The conference had several outstanding speakers. The keynote speaker was Elena "E" Page a former Disney Imagineer and now creative analyst at Durham-based SMT. Other speakers included Dean of the College of Engineering Dr. Martin-Vega and Dr. Nancy Currie (NASA astronaut and visiting scholar). Several NC State ISE alumni attended the conference as well. Thanks to the Army ROTC and Hanes Brands who provided the conference t-shirts. The event could not have been a success without the leadership of our student officers and volunteers.

Faculty research profile: Dr. Julie Ivy

Dr. Julie Ivy, this year’s recipient of the 2012 C.A. Anderson Outstanding ISE Faculty Award, is widely regarded as an inspirational teacher to her students as well as an outstanding researcher in the field of health care engineering.

Dr. Ivy’s primary research interests are in the mathematical modeling of stochastic dynamic systems with emphasis on statistics and decision analysis as applied to health care, manufacturing and service environments. The focus of her current research is decision making under conditions of uncertainty with the objective of improving decision quality in healthcare.

Dr. Ivy is actively involved in INFORMS and is a past president of the Health Applications Section of INFORMS. She has co-authored more than twenty journal articles, working papers, and conference proceedings.

Faculty research profile: Dr. Richard Bernhard

Dr. Richard Bernhard was recently announced as the 2012 ASEE National Engineering Economy Teaching Excellence Award which he will officially receive in mid-June at the ASEE conference in San Antonio, TX.

The ISE Department is proud to announce that Dr. Bernhard will be donating the $10,000 honorarium to NCSU’s Friends of the Library to have a group study room in the new, state-of-the-art Hunt Library on Centennial Campus.

Dr. Richard Bernhard has been a professor of Industrial Engineering at North Carolina State University since 1969; previously he was an Assistant Professor at Cornell University. His areas of interest are engineering economics, financial engineering, cost analysis and control, decision theory, and quantitative modeling.
Adam Newton Wins College of Engineering Leadership Award

Congratulations to Adam Newton, IIE Student Chapter President, for winning the College of Engineering Leadership Award. This award is presented to a senior who has demonstrated leadership skills both within the college and while working with companies outside of the university. Adam’s leadership skills were on display when he chaired the committee responsible for hosting the highly successful IIE Mid-Atlantic Conference in February, 2012. He followed that achievement by leading his senior design group in a project with the Caterpillar Corporation.

As a junior, Adam was treasurer of the Student Chapter of IIE and earned the opportunity to compete in the ImagiNations Design Competition (Sponsored by Walt Disney Imagineering). The competition called for students to think creatively and design additions to an already active attraction, ride or area in one of the Disney parks. Instead, Newton and his team decided to make a completely new ride. That innovative thinking earned Adam and his team 2nd place.

After graduation, Adam will take his talents to Prophet, a company that specializes in brand analysis. As an Innovation Associate, he will be challenged to not only create and optimize branding for products, but maximize work environments as well. The ISE Department thanks Adam for all that he has done and wants to wish him all the success in the world.