SOME OF OUR CLOSEST COLLEAGUES ARE HALF A WORLD AWAY.

Collaboration and cross-pollination between China’s leading university, Tsinghua University in Beijing, and the Edward P. Fitts Department of Industrial and Systems Engineering benefits both parties. And there’s a palpable excitement in the air, as we add academic concentrations, fellowships, research projects, and more.

Keeping you informed of these events, and others like them, is the purpose of inGear.

We hope you enjoy reading this issue and future issues as much as we enjoy the opportunity to spread the good news.

SEE YOU AT THE NEWSSTAND.

Editorial staff at Prevention magazine, preparing an article on topics such as health problems that can be avoided through ergonomic adjustments, common ergonomic mistakes people make, and healthcare tips not often heard from physicians, wanted to talk to recognized ergonomics experts.

Where did they turn? To The Ergonomics Center of North Carolina, an integral part of the Edward P. Fitts Department of Industrial and Systems Engineering. If you would like to learn more about The Ergonomics Center of North Carolina, visit www.theergonomicscenter.com

Roasting and toasting.

On April 12, our department head, Dr. James Wilson, was feted at a dinner and roast in recognition of his many accomplishments within the department and the field. Dr. Wilson will be stepping down as department head at the end of this school year after eight years in the position, but he will remain a critical part of our ISE faculty.

Lunching and lauding.

April 5 was the date for our annual C.A. Anderson Awards Luncheon. Well-deserved recognition was paid to outstanding ISE undergraduate students Jillian Johnson, Kyle Ward, Brent Hawer, James Lavin and David Jones; and teaching assistant Ali Kefeli. The C.A. Anderson Outstanding ISE Faculty award recipient was Thom Hodgson, James T. Ryan Professor of Industrial and Systems Engineering.

Way to go!

The NCSU ISE student simulation team was named a finalist in the Institute of Industrial Engineers’ (IIE) Rockwell Simulation Competition for the eighth time in nine years. The team consists of seniors Kirstin Lanning and Matt Diering and rising senior James Lavin.
ISE VACATES PARK SHOPS AND PUTS DEPARTMENT UNDER SAME ROOF.

The Manufacturing Processes and Systems Laboratory and the Furniture Manufacturing Center – two key parts of the Edward P. Fitts Department of Industrial and Systems Engineering – are moving from Park Shops to their new home in Daniels Hall. The Manufacturing Processes and Systems Laboratory has been located in Park Shops for nearly 60 years, while the Furniture Center has called it home for over 10 years. The department has been in different buildings all across campus for most of its history and this move puts just about everyone under the same roof.

“These new facilities are top of the line and offer our students, faculty and staff a brand new working environment and much more space,” said Debbie Allgood, administrative manager for the department. “This plan has been in the works for several years and is greatly anticipated among all of us.”

The Manufacturing Processes and Systems Laboratory and the Furniture Manufacturing Center will now occupy the bottom floor of Daniels, which has been completely renovated and provides an additional 14,000 square feet of lab space. The move will begin on May 21 when a crew of workers transfers all of the equipment and machines. It will take about four weeks to complete this move, and the new facilities will be in use during the summer. The department will host an open house this fall when students return to campus.

HELLO, DOLLY.

While we don’t actually expect to run into stars with the stature of a Dolly Parton or a Brooks and Dunn, we are nonetheless eagerly anticipating our upcoming visit to Nashville.

From May 19 through May 23, the Institute of Industrial Engineers (IIE), by far the world’s largest and most prestigious professional society devoted to industrial engineering, will hold its annual conference and exhibition in Music City. And the Edward P. Fitts Department of Industrial and Systems Engineering will be there – exhibiting, participating in workshops and special sessions, joining more than 1,300 other leaders from manufacturing and service industries, government and industrial engineering schools. We will also host a breakfast reception at the event.

Making the conference all the more rewarding is that two of our faculty will receive distinguished honors. Professor Yuan-Shin Lee will be formally recognized as a Fellow of IIE – the highest classification of membership in IIE, awarded to outstanding leaders in the profession who have made significant, nationally and internationally recognized contributions to industrial engineering. In addition, current ISE faculty member and Dean of NC State’s School of Engineering Louis Martin-Vega will also be installed as the national IIE president for 2007-2008.

The 2007 conference will be devoted to the critical role of industrial engineering in a world without boundaries. We expect to both learn and contribute while attending this major knowledge-sharing event. And we expect to return to Raleigh whistling a bluegrass tune or two.

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