Parsons Project Managers Earn Master’s Degrees

The Department of Industrial and Systems Engineering, in cooperation with Parsons Corporation, has created a master’s degree program focused on project management. Tailored towards practicing engineers and project managers who are seeking to further their education and accelerate their careers, this degree can be pursued as a Master of Science in Engineering Systems Management or a Master of Engineering in Industrial and Systems Engineering, both available through distance learning delivery.

The first three students from Parsons Corporation to graduate with M.S.degrees were Glenn Goddard, a project engineer in Houston; David Perry, an engineering project manager in Boston; and Allan Usaraga, a senior planning manager in Abu Dhabi. Goddard, in addition to being employed by Parsons Corporation, is the Commander of the 445th Civil Affairs Battalion, and returned to the United States in March from a year long mobilization to Iraq. He was able to finish the remaining three courses of his degree even though he was working 90+ hours a week. Goddard stated that this was one of the greatest goals he has ever accomplished, and he expects to apply this knowledge in his new position as the quality manager on the $1.4B Houston Metro Rail Program.

Perry has already used some of the skills he acquired to improve his management techniques. He has applied statistical analyses to data collection with a focus on identifying trends and data outliers, and he has applied more rigorous financial analysis to certain aspects of his projects. He can also be a better judge of data presented by others. Perry states that although it was difficult juggling work, school, and family life, he is glad that he took on the challenge of returning to school. Perry says he is glad to be an Aggie.

Usaraga stated that the completion of the program has made him more confident in his capabilities. He has gained respect among his peers and supervisors. He has more appreciation for teamwork and feels that the technical knowledge he gained is immeasurable. Usaraga looks forward to the opportunities that lie ahead. He feels that his network of friends and colleagues has grown exponentially since he started the program.

This degree plan has been tailored to meet the needs of Parsons, but the program is open to all interested companies and can be customized as desired.

Photo and article courtesy of Marsha Takao.
Editor’s Notes

The Texas A&M student chapter of Alpha Pi Mu, the industrial engineering honor society, passed a major milestone in 2008 – the 50th anniversary of its founding. In honor of that accomplishment, several of the charter members of the chapter are working with Dr. Brett Peters to endow the 50th Anniversary Alpha Pi Mu Scholarship in Industrial and Systems Engineering.

It takes a minimum of $25,000 to permanently endow a scholarship. I encourage all former Alpha Pi Mu members to support this endeavor. Send your contributions to the Texas A&M Foundation, 401 George Bush Drive, College Station, TX 77840, with a note explaining what your gift is for. If you have questions you can contact Andy Acker, Engineering Development Officer, at 979-458-4493 or Department Head Brett Peters at 979-845-5535.

Many things have changed at A&M since 1958, but the chapter remains an important part of the department and a source of pride for the students who are inducted into the organization. With your gift you will have not only a part in the department’s past, but also in its future.

Katherine

White House to Honor ISE Former Student

Lesia Crumpton-Young, the first African-American woman to graduate with a Ph.D. from the College of Engineering at Texas A&M University, earned her B.S., M.S. and Ph.D. degrees from the Department of Industrial Engineering in 1988, 1990, and 1993, respectively. This fall the White House and the National Science Foundation will recognize the University of Central Florida professor for her success in mentoring women and minorities who are studying engineering. Crumpton-Young, a faculty member and former chair of the Department of Industrial Engineering & Management Systems at UCF, will receive the Presidential Award for Excellence in Science, Mathematics and Engineering Mentoring during a ceremony at the White House. Crumpton-Young holds leadership roles with the Society for Women Engineers and the National Society of Black Engineers. She has mentored more than 280 graduate and undergraduate students and 35 faculty members throughout the country during her career. She also participates in outreach efforts that introduce engineering to minority students in K-12 schools.

Courtesy of Chad Binette, the University of Central Florida Newsroom.

Parsaei, Barnes and Peters

ise-mail is published for the friends and former students of the Department of Industrial and Systems Engineering, Dwight Look College of Engineering, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX 77843-3131. Phone 979-845-5535, Fax 979-847-9005.
Heath and Liollio Outstanding Alumni

The Department of Industrial and Systems Engineering honored Darryl Heath ’84 and Dean Liollio ’83 at the department’s annual awards banquet April 2.

Heath is a managing partner of Accenture, a leading global management and technology consulting and outsourcing firm. He has been with Accenture nearly 24 years and his current role involves leading all of Accenture’s global activities with the PepsiCo Corporation and its divisions of Pepsi Cola, Frito Lay, Quaker Oats, Gatorade, and Tropicana. While at A&M, Heath was chairman of MSC Town Hall, a Fish Camp chairman, and a Buck Weirus award winner. He previously served on the department’s Industrial Advisory Council and now serves as a member of the College of Engineering’s Advisory Board. He is a director for the 12th Man Foundation, participates in the MSC Spencer Leadership Conference, is the founding member of the Accenture sponsored Leadershape program within Student Affairs, and is the Accenture campus recruiting lead for Texas A&M.

Liollio began his career with Entex, a natural gas utility headquartered in Houston. After the company went through numerous mergers and Liollio went through a career path that included six relocations, he joined CenterPoint Energy to become the president & COO of its largest natural gas utility business unit, serving 2.3 million customers across 5 states with 3000 employees. In 2006 he became president and chief executive officer of EnergySouth, Inc., a publicly traded company with both natural gas storage and utility businesses headquartered in Mobile, Alabama. This past November he relocated back to Houston and brought his nearly 30 years of experience in the energy industry to Plains All American, where he became president of PAA Natural Gas Storage LLC., a joint venture between Plains All American and Vulcan Capital. Liollio currently serves on the Board of Directors of the Southern Gas Association; the Board of Directors of Providence Hospital in Mobile, Alabama; Board of Trustees, St. Paul’s Episcopal School; and is a former director of the American Gas Association, United Way of Southwest Alabama, Mobile Area Council Boy Scouts of America and Camp-Rap-A-Hope. He graduated from the Louisiana State University Executive Education Program in 1997, and is a 2008 graduate of Leadership Alabama. Liollio has served on the Industrial and Systems Engineering Advisory Council since 1998.

Barnes Receives Lifetime Achievement Award

William Michael Barnes ’64 is the inaugural recipient of the Texas Council of Industrial Engineering Academic Department Heads Lifetime Achievement Award, which was presented to him April 2 at the Department of Industrial and Systems Engineering awards banquet. Presenters were Brett Peters, Head of the ISEN Department at Texas A&M and Hamid Parsaei, Chair of the Department of Industrial Engineering at the University of Houston and Chair of the Texas CIEADH. Barnes earned his bachelor’s and master’s degrees in industrial engineering and a Ph.D. in operations research at Texas A&M.

Early in his career, Barnes served as expert consultant to the Assistant Postmaster in Washington, D. C. He was also an instructor of maintainability engineering for Texas A&M at the U.S. Army Logistics Training Center, and a visiting professor of computer science at Southern Methodist University. In 1968, Barnes joined Collins Radio, which was acquired by Rockwell in 1971. In 1972 Barnes was named director of finance for the Rockwell MOS/ Components Division. In 1973, he was promoted to vice president and general manager of Rockwell Collins Communications Switching Systems Division. From 1991 until his retirement in 2001, Barnes served as senior vice president and CFO of Rockwell International.

Barnes serves on numerous boards and councils. He was named an outstanding alumnus by the Look College of Engineering in 1992 and by the Department of Industrial and Systems Engineering in 2002. Barnes is a member of the Chancellor’s Century Council and serves on the College’s Engineering Advisory Council.
Phillips Manages NCBSI Initiatives

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Center of Excellence Program for Border Security and Immigration (NCBSI) is a consortium of universities co-led by the University of Texas El Paso and the University of Arizona. This center will be funded for around $18 million over a six year period, and will address research and education issues important to the DHS. The new center will conduct research and develop technologies, tools, and advanced methods to balance immigration and commerce with effective border security. The focus will be to assess threats and vulnerabilities, improve surveillance and screening, analyze immigration trends, and help enhance policy and law enforcement efforts.

The Texas A&M University System (TAMUS) Engineering Program, including the Dwight Look College of Engineering, the Texas Transportation Institute (TTI), and the Texas Engineering Experiment Station (TEES), is a participant in the consortium and will play a key role in the center’s educational and research initiatives. A&M’s efforts will be managed by Don Phillips, a professor in the Department of Industrial and Systems Engineering and coordinator of homeland security research for engineering at Texas A&M.

The Department of Homeland Security has directed A&M to conduct research investigations in the areas of screening, scanning and inspection processes (Juan Villa, P.I. and Bill Stockton of TTI); advanced security procedures at border crossing points of entry (Melissa Tooley, P.I. and Bill Stockton of TTI); and surveillance and tracking technologies (Joe Morgan, P.I. of the Department of Engineering Technology and Jay Porter of TEES).

Texas A&M has also been asked to provide key leadership in designing and developing an (continued on page 5)

Sila Çetinkaya has been promoted to professor and Sergiy Butenko has been promoted to associate professor with tenure effective September 1, 2009.

Dr. Çetinkaya joined the department as an assistant professor in 1997. Her Ph.D. is in management science from McMaster University in Canada.

Dr. Butenko came to Texas A&M as an assistant professor in 2003. His Ph.D. is in operations research from the University of Florida.

Yates Joins Faculty

Assistant Professor Justin Yates is the newest member of the ISEN faculty. He received his Ph.D. from the State University of New York at Buffalo. Dr. Yates’ research interests are rooted in homeland security and defense applications (critical infrastructure protection, network interdiction) which utilize discrete and stochastic OR methodology in combination with Geographic Information Systems (GIS) tools. He is also interested in OR applications within the arena of asymmetric warfare as well as modeling the dependence of commuter behavior on transportation network properties.
Drs. Sila Cetinkaya and Halit Uster along with their former students Burcu Keskin and Gopal Easwaran, won the 2008 Daniel Wagner Prize in Operations Research Practice from INFORMS. This award was for collaborative research, “An Integrated Outbound Logistics Model for Frito-Lay: Coordinating Aggregate Level Production and Distribution Decisions.” The prize emphasizes the quality and coherence of the analysis used in practice for strong mathematics applied to practical problems, supported by clear and intelligible writing.

Associate Professor Andy Banerjee received the Charles W. Crawford Service Award which is presented to individuals who have made significant contributions to the Dwight Look College of Engineering and Texas A&M. In addition, he was named the 2008-2009 William O. and Montine P. Head Faculty Fellow - for continued excellence in teaching, research, and service.

Associate Professor Yu Ding received the 2008-2009 Brockett Professorship Award from the Dwight Look College of Engineering. This prestigious award is presented to faculty members who have displayed continued excellence in both teaching and research.

Associate Professor Sara McComb has been selected to participate in the National Academy of Engineering’s 15th Annual Frontiers of Engineering Symposium in September. This three day event brings together the brightest young engineers in the country who are doing cutting-edge research and technical work in a variety of disciplines. The symposium will examine engineering tools for scientific discovery, engineering the health care delivery system, nano/micro photonics, and resilient and sustainable infrastructures.

(continued from page 4) educational agenda to support the DHS mission. A critical need exists for college level courses to train professionals in the unique requirements of homeland security. The Department of Industrial and Systems Engineer-
Student Achievements

Former student INFORMS president Homarjun Agrahari is currently a senior operations research analyst for BNSF Railway. He was awarded the 2008 Judith Liebman Award from the Institute for Operations Research and Management Science. This award recognizes outstanding student volunteers who have been “moving spirits” for their student chapters.

Chiwoo Park received the Best Student Paper Award from the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers at the 2008 Conference on Automation Science and Engineering. His paper is entitled “Collaborative data reduction for energy efficient sensor networks.” Park’s committee chair is Yu Ding.

Abhishek Shrivastava received the Best Student Paper Award from the Quality, Statistics, and Reliability Section of INFORMS at the 2008 Annual Meeting. His paper is entitled, “Graph based isomorph-free generation of two-level fractional factorial designs.” Shrivastava’s committee chair is Yu Ding.

Recent graduate Matt Tanner, who is now working for the Department of Energy as an operations research analyst, was awarded the prestigious Graduate Student Excellence in Teaching Award from the Texas A&M Association of Former Students and the Office of Graduate Studies. In addition, he was awarded a Senator Phil Gramm Doctoral Fellowship. This fellowship is awarded to graduate students whose command of their disciplines exemplifies the meaning of scholar and mentor in the highest sense. Tanner’s chair was Lewis Ntaimo.

Hiram Moya has been invited to be a participant in the 2009 INFORMS Future Academician Colloquium in San Diego. The colloquium is held in conjunction with the INFORMS Annual Meeting in October. Moya was nominated for the honor by Professor Don Phillips, a member of his committee.
Brandon Pope and Arupa Mohapatra were recognized by the ISEN Graduate Committee as the students with the most outstanding performance on the Ph.D. Qualifying Exam in 2008 and 2009. This new departmental award was presented at the annual awards banquet in the spring.

Undergraduates Jeff Selby and Kevin White were recipients of Chevron Corporation Project Management Fellowships. Selby, a senior from Cypress, graduated in May and White, a senior from Phoenix, will graduate in December. Both enrolled in the Project Management Certificate Program and conducted undergraduate research projects. The Dwight Look College of Engineering offers this certificate program to add value to engineering degrees. Graduates enter the job market with the technical knowledge to deliver projects on time, on target and on budget.

The Jack P. CoVan Award was awarded to two young men this spring. Luke Bickston was a President’s Endowed Scholar and a member of Alpha Pi Mu and IIE. He served as treasurer of International Christian Fellowship and was active in International Student Outreach and A&M Christian Fellowship. He worked as a network modeler for ExxonMobil and a supply chain analyst for Celanese Chemicals, where his recommendations for the global supply chain optimization model were implemented for a projected savings of over $100,000. David Williamson interned at L’Oreal USA where he designed and implemented an original metering system to monitor and conserve electricity and compressed air usage of production equipment. His research of the plant’s energy usage led him to determine that the plant could save $5000 a year by raising temperature set points 4 degrees. He served as Student Engineers Council representative, treasurer, and vice president of Alpha Pi Mu, undergraduate student representative on the department’s computer committee, and president of IIE.

INFORMS Chapter Wins Another National Award

The Texas A&M Student Chapter of INFORMS (Institute for Operations Research and the Management Sciences) received the Student Chapter Magna Cum Laude Award presented at the INFORMS 2008 Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C. This distinction recognizes outstanding participation, performance, and achievements by the chapter. The previous year, the chapter received the inaugural Summa Cum Laude Award. Associate Professor Sila Cetinkaya, faculty advisor for the chapter, was named the New Advisor of the Year for 2008-2009 by the Department of Student Activities at Texas A&M. Chapter president is Brandon Pope.
Wayne Talmadge Harris lives in Dallas.

John (Jack) Scott, president and chief operating officer of Parsons Corporation, received an honorary doctor of science degree from Youngstown State University. Scott, who lives in Arcadia, California, earned a bachelor’s degree in mechanical engineering from YSU in 1971 and a master’s degree in industrial engineering from Texas A&M University in 1973.

Robert Glenn Jones has been appointed vice president of research and development at E2open. Jones will be responsible for developing the E2open product portfolio, including the B2B integration hub, multi-enterprise demand and supply chain applications, and vertical solutions.

John Cachat, after 20 years in the enterprise quality and compliance management software business, is starting a new company to apply these best practices in the healthcare market. John is also working on a patent pending business process for creating definitive advanced medical directives to be part of the new Personal Health Record (PHR) trend for consumers. He lives in Avon, Ohio.

Rene Gonzales reports that he is still working at Lackland Air Force Base in the retail business.

Ana Rebeca Chantis Young is new projects director for Aceti-Oxigeno S.A. Panama. She lives in Panama City.

Juan Lamparero and his company, Industrial Solutions de Mexico, were selected for an Aggie 100 Award. This award, presented by the Mays Business School’s Center for New Ventures and Entrepreneurship, highlights the achievements of the 100 fastest-growing Aggie-owned businesses. To be considered, these businesses must operate in a manner consistent with the Aggie Code of Honor and have been in business for at least 5 years.

George Stone retired in 2007 as a colonel after 30 years in the U.S. Army. He is currently living in northern Virginia and employed as vice president and modeling and simulation senior scientist with Alion Science and Technology.

Kyle Carnahan writes, “I have been with Exxon Mobile since graduation and for the last two years I have been working as a technical manager in Doha, Qatar. My family and I really enjoy living in Doha and have been to several of the Texas A&M - Qatar (TAMUQ) functions. I am also pursuing a Ph.D. in reliability engineering from the University of Maryland via their distance program.”

Arvindh Balakrishnan is a vice president with Oracle. He lives in Cary, North Carolina.

Avi Avula lives in Santa Clara, California where he is the assistant to the CEO of Applied Materials.

Jorge Javier Cavazos lives in Cypress, Texas.

Alfred Sanchez works for the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission. He has been promoted to senior resident inspector at Arkansas Nuclear One.

Eduardo Gomez is currently living in Phoenix, Arizona and is vice president of labor management for Abrazos Healthcare, which consists of 5 hospitals in the Phoenix area.

Junjae Chae is assistant professor at the School of Air Transport, Transportation, and Logistics at Korea Aerospace University.

Cassandra Johnson reports that when she graduated she took a job working as a consultant with FM Global in Dallas. After two years, she resigned and entered graduate school. She is enrolled in the Master’s of Public Health program at the School of Rural and Public Health, a component of the TAMU Health Science Center in College Station. Her focus of studies is in social and behavioral health.

Srihari Vempati has been working in the automotive and aerospace industry, consulting for processes and planning, employing lean and six sigma techniques. Most recently, her focus has been mainly in the supply/demand chain arena. Srihari lives in Dallas, Texas.

Dallas Hall was elected class president of his first year M.B.A. class at the University of Georgia.

Alvaro Materon lives in Cali, Colombia where he is sales manager of undercar and diagnostics equipment for Coexitio S.A.
AFS Names Weinbaum Distinguished Alumnus

Charles H. Weinbaum, Jr. ’47, who earned a B.S. in industrial engineering, received a 2008 Distinguished Alumnus Award from the Association of Former Students. While at A&M, Weinbaum was a member of the Corps of Cadets and lettered in basketball. He attended graduate school at New York University, then began his career at Weinbaum Insurance Agency in Beaumont where he is a partner. He has worked in commercial real estate development, been president of two oil and gas companies, and is a partner of Weinbaum Family Investments. He is a Paul Harris Fellow of Rotary International.

Weinbaum has stayed involved with A&M, serving on the Board of Directors of the Association of Former Students and as president of the Beaumont A&M Club. He is a co-founder of the Texas A&M Letterman’s Association and a member of the 12th Man Foundation Champions Circle. Weinbaum has funded a President’s Endowed Scholarship, in addition to supporting many other campus organizations and activities. In 1982 he and his late wife, Gloria, were named Texas A&M Parents of the Year.

(Photocourtesy The Texas Aggie)

Hopcus Wins President’s Award

Mark Hopcus, computer systems manager for the Department of Industrial and Systems Engineering, was awarded the TAMU President’s Meritorious Service Award at a reception in December. Hopcus was nominated by Department Head Brett Peters who said, “This department depends heavily on Mark’s expertise, professionalism, and good nature.” In addition to his duties as computer systems manager, Hopcus provides technical support for the department’s distance learning program, serves as the property officer for the department, serves as the safety officer, and has recently taken on the duties of facilities coordinator. Recently, Hopcus has acted as departmental liaison for the construction of the new Emerging Technologies and Economic Development building. While much of what Mark does contributes to the successful mission of the department on a daily basis, in this case, the quality of his work will have a lasting impact on the department for many years to come.

(continued from page 8)

’08

Marcello Dicunta is the manager of Hotel Marsol in Tela, Nicaragua.

’09

Rory Cannaday lives in Houston where he is a cost analyst for Tenaris.
Major Gifts to the Department

Accenture has provided $1200 in matching funds in the last year.

An anonymous donor has established a faculty fellowship in industrial and systems engineering in the amount of $100,000 to provide an annual award recognizing outstanding teaching, research, service, and professional development activities of junior faculty members in the department.

The Caterpillar Foundation has made a gift of $10,000 in support of the senior capstone design course.

Exxon Mobile has given $2000 in unrestricted funds to the Industrial and Systems Engineering Improvement Fund to be used at the discretion of the department head.

Flextronics has given $2500 in support of the senior capstone design course.

Mr. Howard Homeyer of Houston, with matching funds from Spectra Energy, has donated $1000 in unrestricted funds to the Industrial and Systems Engineering Improvement Fund to be used at the discretion of the department head.

Intel Corporation has provided $9262 in matching funds in the last year.

Mr. and Mrs. Constantine “Dean” Liollio ’83 of Houston have established the Liollio Family Faculty Fellowship in the amount of $100,000. This fellowship will be a valuable tool for attracting, rewarding, and retaining the department’s most outstanding junior faculty.

National Oilwell Varco has given $2600 in unrestricted funds to the Industrial and Systems Engineering Improvement Fund to be used at the discretion of the department head.

Parsons Corporation, represented on the Industrial and Systems Engineering Advisory Council by John Scott, has underwritten the Parsons Seminar Series and the Industrial and Systems Engineering Honors and Awards Banquet for the seventh year in a row with a gift of $10,000. In addition, Parsons has given $20,000 to be used to fund two career development professorships in project management at the associate professor level.

Mr. James Porter ’58 of Abilene has donated $2500 to the Alpha Pi Mu 50th Anniversary Scholarship Fund.

Thermo Electric Corporation has given $2500 to the Industrial and Systems Engineering Department in support of the senior capstone design course.

UPS, represented on the Industrial and Systems Engineering Advisory Council by Greg Loppatto, gave $2000 in support of the senior capstone design course.

Mr. Allen Williford ’58 of Houston has donated $1000 to the Alpha Pi Mu 50th Anniversary Scholarship Fund.

ETED Groundbreaking Held

The Texas A&M Engineering Program broke ground on December 5 for what will be the new home of the Department of Industrial and Systems Engineering. The Emerging Technologies and Economic Development Building will stand at the corner of Bizzell Street and University Drive, across from the Zachry Engineering Center, and will also house the Department of Biomedical Engineering, Coastal Deepwater Program laboratories, Visualization Program laboratories, and other interdisciplinary research initiatives. The 212,000 square foot building is expected to be completed in 2011.
The Department of Industrial and Systems Engineering in Texas A&M University’s Dwight Look College of Engineering has been consistently ranked in the top ten departments in the United States over the past 10 years by the Gourman Report, the National Research Council, and *US News and World Report*.

We provide education, research and professional expertise that contribute to the economic and technological advancement of the state, the nation and the world through improved productivity and quality in industry - especially important in the current environment of international trade and global competition.

Our outstanding faculty is nationally and internationally recognized for its research and teaching, and its leadership in the profession.

Our graduates are highly sought after for their comprehensive backgrounds and systems perspectives. They have a competitive edge in today’s interdisciplinary job market because of their holistic approach to complex problems, their ability to solve issues in an integrative manner using analytical tools, and their understanding of the interface between management, engineering and public policy.

However, many of our educational, research and leadership initiatives would not be possible without the support of our former students and friends of the department. The Department of Industrial and Systems Engineering needs your help to continue its history of excellence and service.

At one time, you may have been a part of that history. Now you can be a part of the department’s future as well as its past. Are you ready to make a difference? Make a donation to the Industrial and Systems Engineering Department through the Texas A&M Foundation. You can direct your gift to an area of your choosing.

Contact Andy Acker, Industrial and Systems Engineering Development  
979-458-4493 or a-acker@tamu.edu or visit www.giving.tamu.edu
Former Student News

The Department of Industrial and Systems Engineering and your classmates want to hear from you. Please share your news with us! Information and comments will be printed in the next newsletter.

Name

Graduation date

Degree

Address

City

State

Zip

Phone (h)                (w)

E-mail

News or comments:

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