NEW LEADERSHIP BEGINS

Patankar appointed vice president of Saint Louis University.
A new leadership begins at Parks College.
Thank you to the Parks community for your support as I battle Leukemia.

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ABOUT PARKS TODAY
Parks College of Engineering, Aviation and Technology is one of the fourteen schools and colleges at Saint Louis University. Issues of Parks Today feature the latest news from Parks College, Parks departmental highlights, as well as articles covering alumni, upcoming events and a section for class notes. It is funded by the Parks Annual Fund and Institute of Technology Annual Fund.

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A MESSAGE FROM THE INTERIM DEAN

Dear Friends:

2009-10 academic year has been very exciting for the sustainable growth of Parks College. A new bachelor’s degree program in Civil Engineering was launched during Fall 2009. This program was developed with input from local industries and Institute of Technology alumni. This program emphasizes smart transportation and smart / green structures. The Civil Engineering program is already off to a great start with a current enrollment of about 30 students. In January 2010, the college hired Dr. John Woolschlager as the chair of Civil Engineering. In turn, John has already hired two faculty members, Drs. Megan Hart and Riyadh Hindi to move the department forward. He is also in the process of setting up Civil engineering laboratory facilities. A lecture series in Civil Engineering has also been established. During Fall 2009, a series of lectures – “Energy Matters” – was held. During Spring 2010, a lecture series – “Water Matters” – was held. Both lecture series were well attended by students, faculty and local industry / government personnel.

Parks faculty also played a key role in the development of a graduate program in engineering and aviation. A master’s program and doctoral degree program are offered. The curriculum is designed to be flexible and accommodates the increasing need for interdisciplinary focus. The graduate program also provides an avenue for faculty to bring in more funded research. The college is offering four graduate research assistantships as part of this graduate program. The graduate program begins in Fall 2010. We have recruited over 15 students into the graduate program. After a national search, Dr. Phillip Ligrani was hired to be the Oliver L. Parks Endowed Chair. Parks College faculty members were also involved in the development of a university-wide master’s degree program in sustainability. Dr. Ligrani will also serve as the director of the graduate program. Funded research by faculty is on the rise in all departments within Parks with over $2 Million at the present time. Parks has also initiated a new summer undergraduate research experience (SURE) beginning summer 2010 for rising juniors and seniors. Fifteen students are engaged in a 10 week long research experience with faculty members.

Parks has appointed two new chairs. Swami Karunamoorthy, Ph.D. is the chair of aerospace and mechanical engineering. Terrence Kelly is the chair of aviation science.

We are increasing our efforts to connect with our alumni via various events on campus as well as focused events across the country. The alumni funds including pledges is at an all-time high. The alumni have also been instrumental in providing assistance with senior design reviews, participation in industrial advisory committees, executive advisory committees, employment and summer internship leads for our students. The Parks Community sincerely appreciates these alumni efforts.

With best wishes,
K. Ravindra

ABOUT THE INTERIM DEAN

K. Ravindra, Ph.D., has been appointed interim dean of Parks College of Engineering, Aviation and Technology. Dr. Ravindra has been with Saint Louis University for about 23 years.

Under the leadership of Dr. Manoj Patankar, Parks College has undertaken strategic planning to strengthen its undergraduate, graduate and research programs while, at the same time, enhancing its relationships with alumni and industry. Dr. Ravindra plans to implement these strategic initiatives to move the college in a trajectory of sustainable excellence. “I am excited for this new opportunity to play a greater role in moving Parks forward,” Ravindra said. “To achieve our vision, we must expand our thinking and planning beyond the college level and work as collaboratively as possible with the entire university community.”

Ravindra joined Saint Louis University in 1987. He has served as the graduate program coordinator and department chair for several years. He also headed efforts to launch the new undergraduate degree program in civil engineering and assisted in the development and implementation of the graduate program in engineering and aviation.

At the University level, he has served on numerous committees during his tenure, including Faculty Senate.

Ravindra is a fellow of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME), an associate fellow of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA), a member of the American Society of Engineering Education, (ASEE) and a registered professional engineer (PE).
What’s happening at Parks? I’ll tell you what is happening at Parks College: everything!

There is so much energy at the Parks College of Engineering, Aviation and Technology campus today. The renewed vigor is clearly evident everywhere; it comes from the top down and the bottom up. Walk the hallways with the students at the McDonnell Douglas building, and you can literally see history – both the origins of aviation and history “in the making.” It starts with the time-line in the hallway, beginning with wooden propellers and wood slide rules and heads right into hyperspace. The walls are covered with famous faces and unique portrayals of aviation. One wall is full of “space patches,” memorializing every space adventure and achievement of the past 50 years. Many of these exhibits are signed by Gene Kranz (Parks ’54), a retired NASA Flight Director who is still very active in Parks affairs. Others pictures include “Lucky Lindy” Lindbergh, pictured with his friend Oliver Parks, Wernher von Braun (another space giant who gave lectures at Parks because of his personal friendship with Oliver), and many leaders in our space program. What stories these men and women could tell about the wonderful history of exploration.

The engineering side of Parks/IT has had its fire rekindled over the past two years. By the direct leadership of Dean Manoj Patankar, Ph.D. (AME ’92) and his staff, engineering is on the move, with dedicated professors who know their fields and their students, a revitalized Alumni Board and the support of Lawrence Biondi, S.J. and the Dean’s Executive Advisory Board. The newest change came last fall, with the re-institution of the civil engineering program. 30 civil engineering students joined nearly 600 others in Aerospace, Aviation, Electrical, Mechanical, Computer, Biomedical and Interdisciplinary Engineering programs. These civil engineering students will shape the future of our society in the areas of smart buildings, infrastructure and other green technologies. With the aging systems of highways, water and sewer facilities, and the need to move and produce energy, goods and information, civil engineers must now find ways of keeping pace with the demands of an expanding world.

Dr. John Wooschlager, Ph.D. is the department chair. He will lead this important effort toward excellence in making our world a better, safer and more sustainable place to be. What an exciting time to be in one of the oldest engineering professions!

Want to know what’s happening at Parks? Come and see!

Don Ferris, ’IT 67
At Saint Louis University, the new and innovative Civil Engineering program is future focused – incorporating the latest trends in the Civil Engineering industry to address the current and future needs of the profession and our society.

Graduates will be well-prepared to enter professional practice and have the comprehensive skill set and leadership background needed to improve society at local, regional, and global scales. The Civil Engineering curriculum emphasizes professional practice preparation using project-based, hands-on learning methods.

The Civil Engineering program includes three primary focus areas:
- Green design and sustainability engineering
- Infrastructure design, evaluation, and restoration
- Transportation planning, analysis, and design

The department holds a civil engineering speaker series to connect with industry and address major civil engineering topics. The series features industry leaders from across the nation discussing global challenges and emerging trends.

In a constantly evolving field, remaining current is essential to both professional success and industry vitality. At each event, professionals in Civil Engineering from throughout the metro area will gather to network, have lunch and learn from subject matter experts.

The seminar series is intended to keep professionals on the cutting edge of industry trends and provide up to 30 hours of professional development hours (PDHs) required every two years for P.E. re-certification in Mo. and Ill. For every event attended each participant will receive 2 PDHs. For every 5 events attended 1 Continuing Education Unit (CEU) will be issued.

Many industry members and alumni were present at the Civil Engineering inauguration in Fall 2009. Their support provides students with top-quality laboratories and equipment, scholarships, internships and career opportunities.

Dr. John Woolschlager is the department chair, and Dr. Megan Hart and Dr. Riyadh Hindi were hired as civil engineering faculty members. The department is continuing to grow and establish itself as a premier civil engineering program.
John Woolschlager, Ph.D. is the founding Chair of a new Department of Civil Engineering. Prior to joining Saint Louis University, Dr. Woolschlager was an Associate Professor at Arizona State University and at the University of North Florida. Dr. Woolschlager has been involved in more than 2.5 million-dollars worth of research and engineering projects. Additionally, he was honored with the Student’s Choice Professor Award in 2003/2004 and nominated for the Outstanding Undergraduate Teaching Award in 2004/2005. His research involves developing computer models for environmental processes and systems. Some examples of his funded projects include the optimization of hydraulics and water quality in a large-scale urban drinking water system, optimization of wastewater treatment plants to achieve nutrient balance, drinking water quality analysis and disinfection chemistry, and sustainability issues in developing nations. Prior to becoming a faculty member, Dr. Woolschlager worked as an engineering consultant in the areas of environmental systems analysis, environmental planning, and water resources engineering for Harza Environmental Services (HES), now part of MWH.
Leading with Vision

A strong foundation established for Parks College.
Manoj S. Patankar, Ph.D. was appointed Vice President of Frost Campus at Saint Louis University on July 1, 2010. Dr. Patankar will lead the Frost Campus academic units, which include the College of Arts and Sciences, the Law School, the John Cook School of Business, the College of Education and Public Service, the School of Professional Studies, Parks College, the Center for Sustainability and the Libraries, plus key business units such as Enrollment Management and the Office of Institutional Research. There are three vice presidents at SLU for each major academic “cluster”—Madrid Campus, Health Sciences and Frost Campus.

Dr. Patankar has served as the Parks College of Engineering, Aviation and Technology dean for the past four years, leading the college to new frontiers and establishing a strong foundation for future success.

As dean, Dr. Patankar lead the college to recover from financial crisis, built an ambitious vision and set the groundwork for sustainable excellence. Dr. Patankar, with the support of an outstanding team of faculty, staff
and department chairs worked to build three strategic priorities – undergraduate infrastructure, graduate and research infrastructure, and alumni/industry relations – strengthening the college’s financial viability.

Dr. Patankar’s leadership team reviewed all academic programs for viability and future potential. His leadership team supported accreditation of four engineering programs and one aviation program, as well as discontinued two programs and redirected resources toward five programs that were central to the mission of the College. Since then, undergraduate enrollment and program offerings have increased. The College added new undergraduate programs in Civil Engineering, Computer Engineering, Engineering Physics, and Interdisciplinary Engineering.

“We have bolstered our undergraduate infrastructure through key faculty hires, streamlining of our academic programs, professional accreditation of engineering as well as aviation programs, and reinvestment in a wide variety of engineering and aviation laboratory equipment,” says Dr. Patankar. In the past four years, the College has hired 14 new faculty members – four with tenure, tenured one faculty member, and promoted two to full professor rank. The College has also hired 11 staff members and built key academic and business services, including academic advising, marketing, continuing education programs, and business and financial services.

Undergraduate enrollment is on a steady increase through sustained and coordinated marketing and recruitment efforts. Integrated marketing efforts, which include the new website, the view book, and the online video, have earned international awards. The College’s continuing education programs are gaining momentum and nationally-recognized speakers are attracting local industry professionals. Three speaker series – Energy Matters, Water Matters and Civil Engineering – have been established to create links to industries, as well as connect with the community on current global issues. Academic advising has evolved from the basics of course selection and scheduling to guidance regarding tutoring support, disability services and career services.

Dr. Patankar reviewed faculty strengths and emerging opportunities to identify four key research areas: aviation safety, sustainability, space exploration, and biomedical engineering. He provided appropriate start-up resources to faculty, as well as aligned faculty and staff evaluation criteria to match the organizational priorities and the associated performance expectations. Under Dr. Patankar’s direction, the College achieved record growth in research funding, including the establishment of the Center for Aviation Safety Research with more than $4 million in funding.

“The Center for Aviation Safety Research not only serves as the nerve center for research among the aviation faculty and students, but it also attracts faculty and students from business and psychology,” says Dr. Patankar. Biomedical engineering research is in the areas of tissue engineering, electro-physiology, and biomechanics/orthopedics. Sustainability research is renowned for Dr. Sridhar Condoor’s “hubless windmill,” which received an international patent and enters production in 2011. Parks faculty also work with the University-wide Center for Sustainability which offers a master’s program in sustainability, supports multi-disciplinary research projects, and hosts energy and sustainability workshops.

Undergraduate and graduate research support programs were created to retain top quality students during summer sessions and to create a pipeline of high-performing students into the College’s graduate programs. The Summer Undergraduate Research Experience (SURE) program began this June with 15 students – some of whom will be selected for graduate research assistantships and go on to seek doctoral degrees. Dr. Patankar and his team championed and launched multidisciplinary graduate programs in engineering and aviation, with the first class of students beginning in the 2010 fall semester. Dr. Philip Ligrani has been hired as the Oliver L. Parks Endowed Chair and Graduate Program Director. Dr. Ligrani will lead further development of both graduate programs.

Parks College team has achieved an exponential increase
in research funding and alumni donations, acquired new capital assets totaling $2 million and renovated buildings. In collaboration with the University Business and Finance Department, the College’s operating budget and management strategy were revised to increase fiscal responsibility. With this new budgeting approach, the College obtained resources for buildings, grounds, laboratories and capital equipment, including nine Diamond DA-20 airplanes, two flight simulators plus full laboratories for the new civil engineering program.

During Dr. Patankar’s tenure as dean, Parks College achieved an unprecedented growth in alumni and corporate donations, registering a cumulative of $3.8 million. “This is a new record. I view alumni and corporate donations/grants as a measure of our relationship with our alumni and industry friends and their confidence in our programs, students, and various initiatives. I am truly grateful to all of you. But more important than this financial success, I am personally proud of how well Parks alumni and the Institute of Technology alumni are working together to build a unified and preeminent college of engineering and aviation,” says Dr. Patankar. The funds raised have enabled the College to fund laboratory equipment and critical scholarships.

“Today, if you visit Parks, you will find an intellectually vibrant environment: a gleaming McDonnell Douglas Hall, flanked by Oliver Hall and the Biomedical Engineering building,” says Dr. Patankar. In McDonnell Douglas Hall, the Ira Inkelas Tribute Timeline, a 370 feet timeline depicting the 80-year history of the College from 1927 through 2007, pays tribute to the rich heritage and the people who made it possible. Parks College boasts a number of labs and state-of-the-art classrooms. The walls are lined with senior design posters, showcasing the latest student research. In Oliver Hall, the subsonic wind tunnel has a modern data acquisition system, and in the Biomedical Engineering building there are active examples of how engineering is improving the quality of life. The Parks hangar at the St. Louis Downtown Airport is home to the state-of-the-art fleet of Diamond DA-20 aircraft, glass-cockpit Piper Arrows and the latest advanced flight training device. “Overall, the Parks facilities are always buzzing with activity—students, faculty, staff, and visitors are often seen talking, mingling, browsing, and even having some fun,” says Dr. Patankar.

Under Dr. Patankar’s direction and vision, Parks College has experienced unparalleled success and is set to make great strides in the future toward excellence in engineering and aviation education.

“I am deeply honored to have been a part of this incredible journey and I thank each one of you from the bottom of my heart for your loyal and passionate support to all of us at Parks. I am equally grateful to my faculty, staff, and administrative team at Parks that supported me through a rainbow of experiences, helped me grow as a person, and helped our students have a more fulfilling experience.”

“I am sad that I will be moving out of my beloved Parks College. I have learned so much from the faculty, staff, and students at Parks and so much of my professional success is built upon my formation at Parks, it is difficult to think that I will not be involved in the day-to-day affairs of the College. Nonetheless, I must pass the baton knowing that I ran as fast as I could and set the College on a path of sustainable success,” says Dr. Patankar.

Krishnaswamy Ravindra, Ph.D., former Associate Dean and Chair of the Aerospace and Mechanical Engineering department, has been appointed Interim Dean of Parks College. A new leadership will begin as the College continues to move forward on the path of success in engineering and aviation education.
Parks and Institute of Technology alumni returned to campus for the 2009 Homecoming festivities. The weekend kicked off at the Parks hangar with a pancake breakfast, sponsored by aviation fraternity Alpha Eta Rho.

Later, alumni, faculty and staff gathered at Il Monastero for the annual Alumni Merit Award Luncheon. This year, Jaros (Jay) Rickmeyer (PK ’60), right, and Paul Wirsching (IT ’57), left, were the recipients of the prestigious awards honoring outstanding alumni.

Rickmeyer retired as a senior civilian engineering manager at the U.S. Army’s Aviation Missile Command, Huntsville, Ala. He graduated from Parks College with a bachelor of science in aeronautics and an aircraft mechanic license. During his career, he worked on some of the most important helicopters in the Army’s weapon systems, including the CH-37A/B and the CH-54A/B Tarhe helicopters. The CH-54 aircraft Rickmeyer engineered holds seven world records for altitude and time to climb.

Rickmeyer was the primary engineer, working with the army to identify characteristics for the Heavy Lift Helicopter XCH-62A, capable of lifting over 45,000 pounds. In his dynamic career, Rickmeyer had critical leadership roles on such aircraft programs as the Special Operations Aircraft and the OH-58 Kiowa Warrior.

After retirement, Rickmeyer turned his passion to Wings of Hope as a volunteer pilot/mechanic. His dedicated efforts led to
his Wings of Hope Servant of Man-
kind award.

Paul Wirsching graduated from the Institute of Technology
with a degree in civil engineer-
ing. He is a professor emeritus
of the aerospace and mechanical
engineering department at the Uni-
versity of Arizona-Tucson.

Wirsch-
ing’s prin-
cipal re-
search

focused on reliability of
marine struc-
tures with

emph\n"on fatigue reliability. Efforts fo-
cused not only on risk assessment of ex-
isting structures, but also development of
probability-based fatigue design criteria.

In 2003, Wirsching was inducted
into the Offshore Energy Center’s Hall
of Fame as a Technology Pioneer in the
Reliability-Based Design of Marine
Structures. Pioneers are individuals who
distinguish themselves and become the
character of the industry through their vi-
sion, drive, innovation and leadership. In
2008, he received the prestigious ASCE
Offshore Technology Conference Hall of
Fame Award.

The MAGIS service awards were also
presented to alumni, faculty and staff at
the luncheon. The MAGIS Service Award
is presented to individuals who demon-
strate the commitment to choose to apply
their talents where they are needed the
most, and to consistently do more because
it needs to be done. Alumni Paul Kutz,
John Cappelupo, Andy Thurmond, Jack
Groenick, Don Ferris, Jim Conway, Lorre
Bannes, Fred Koch and Kevin McGuire
received the award. Associate dean and
chair of aerospace and mechanical engi-
neering, Krishnaswamy Ravindra, Ph.D.,
received the MAGIS award for championing the civil engineering program. Amanda Pope also received the MAGIS award for her award-winning marketing efforts.

A college open house followed the luncheon. Students and faculty showcased their laboratories, latest activities and projects. Guests walked the Ira Inkelas Timeline, which was erected at the college in 2007, highlighting 80 years of college heritage.

This year, the Faculty and Staff Tribute Hallway was unveiled, a dedication to the many faculty, staff and administrators who have played a major role in contributing to the years of success at the college. Chalkboards of formulas and photos from a variety of academic programs over the years show academic progression inside the classroom. Names of each faculty and staff member wrap around the walls, as well as a collage of photos from over the years. A bookcase marks each program at the College since 1927. The Ira Inkelas Tribute Timeline and the Faculty and Staff Tribute Hallway capture the passion in and out of the classroom. If you haven’t seen the new tribute hallway, we invite you to visit us and see it for yourself.

A group of Parks women alumnae were present for a meeting to discuss ways to further engage their fellow female classmates, and connect alumnae with current Parks
female students. Parks College is ranked in the top 10 for graduating female engineering students. Peggy Chabrian, Ph.D., founder of Women in Aviation International (WAI) made a donation to the Parks chapter of WAI at the event. Parks was the first chapter of WAI, started by Chabrian in 1990. Chabrian was the academic dean and associate vice president of Parks in the early 1990s.

Homecoming wrapped up with a reception for Parks College and Institute of Technology alumni, held at McDonnell Douglas Hall.

Dr. Dreifke, former Institute of Technology professor and chair, was in attendance with his wife. A video, “The Institute of Technology: A History,” was shown at the reception. The video featured an interview with Dr. Dreifke and depicted the story of IT through his eyes. Dr. Dreifke passed away on January 12, 2010. Dr. Dreifke’s contributions to the College and industry will remain a large part of IT’s history.

The College looks forward to the 2010 Homecoming celebration another successful reunion of Parks and IT alumni. 2010 Homecoming takes place September 24-26.
PARKS
Many Parks students participate in Billiken athletics, with demanding schedules both on and off the field. From the baseball diamond to the volleyball court, Parks students are making their mark in academics and athletics.

James Dice, a senior in mechanical engineering, is a center back on the soccer team. He knows the difficulties of being successful in the classroom and on the team. “It is hard to get enough sleep and take care of yourself in order to perform at a high level. I’m not willing to sacrifice those things,” says Dice. Managing their time becomes a task. “You get home from practice at 6 p.m. and then have to eat and do homework when you’re so tired. I’ve gotten into a routine to manage my time better.”

Dice has a 3.6 GPA and credits soccer to his success. It has forced him to balance a rigorous schedule.

Sally Warning also knows the demands of being a Billiken athlete and Parks student. “It’s not easy balancing a top-25 program athletic schedule and an engineering degree. Each day, I spend roughly five hours with the team in training. During the other 19 hours of my day, I need to eat, sleep, go to class, complete assignments and study for exams.”

Time management is crucial for a college career and I have quickly learned that my free time is little and must be used wisely,” says Warning.

Warning suffered a knee injury that halted much of her time on the court. “Heartbreaking as it was, the season was pretty remarkable. We played an NCAA tournament and had a final record of 24-8.”

Traveling schedules are difficult for students. They do homework while away and are forced to miss classroom time. “Travelling is hard. I wouldn’t say that my teammates do a lot of studying. It is hard to watch them playing video games when I have to do homework,” says Dice.

“I’d usually be gone for four days, two of those being school days. We’d fly early Thursday morning and return on Sunday,” says Warning.

Missing valuable classroom time makes the students work harder to catch up and stay on track. “My classmates and teachers have been really helpful setting aside handouts and letting me borrow notebooks in or-
der to get the material I missed,” says Warning.

“You sacrifice some things, but it is for the better,” says Dice. Parks students learn valuable lessons in teamwork, building relationships and time management through their experiences as Billiken athletes.

Warning and Dice aren’t the only Parks athletes. Parks students also play on the baseball swim teams.

One Parks student signed on with a Major League baseball team. Senior Daniel Brock, a mechanical engineering student, played on the Atlantic 10 Conference champion Billiken baseball team, a team that went to the NCAA Baseball Championship Louisville Regional this season. Brock recently signed with the San Francisco Giants! He reported to the Giants’ camp in Scottsdale, Ariz. in June 2010, and could be sent to the Salem-Keizer (Ore.) Volcanoes, the Giants’ short-season Class A affiliate.

“He was an engineering student, and that’s a tough, tough major ... he got a little tired at times, and when he told me about some of the math classes he had ... but if we had 18 of him at (SLU), we’d always be in great shape,” says SLU hitting coach Will Bradley. Brock, a transfer student from Northeast Community College (Colo.) spent two years with the Billikens and established himself as one of the top hitters in program history. His .347 career batting average is seventh on the SLU all-time list, and his 156 career hits and 113 career RBIs are first among two-year players in SLU history.

Parks students prove they can make the stats playing the game, or in the classroom. James Brabbins, a biomedical engineering student and member of the men’s swimming and diving team, was honored as one of 53 student athletes to achieve a 4.0 GPA in the 2009-2010 academic year.

Each year, seniors at Parks must work on a senior design project, in which they devote the entire year to research and design of innovative ideas. Many Billiken athletes were a part of these projects.

Dice participated in a senior design project which focused on a water pasteurization system, using only heat from the sun to pasteurize water. “I want to focus on sustainability. Global warming is a big issue and that is what I want to focus my career on when I graduate,” says Dice.

After graduation, Dice will go on to graduate studies at Parks College. Fall 2010 will be the first year for the new engineering and aviation graduate programs.

Warning was part of the CUBESAT team at Parks, a team concentrating on building small satellites which capture images of Earth while mapping the Earth’s magnetic field in outer space. “This past fall, we went through the design phase and researched electronic components. Then, we concentrated on testing and integrating the satellite. It is now ready to launch into space,” says Warning.

From being drafted to professional sports teams and being on some of SLU’s best teams in Billiken history to launching satellites into space and helping solve the
problem of global warming. Parks students are multi-tasking in a big way.

Each year, students at Parks work diligently to become star athletes and students.

MEET THE ATHLETES

James Brabbins
Major: Biomedical engineering
Sport: Swimming

Daniel Brock
Major: Mechanical engineering
Sport: Baseball

Salvador Cruz
Major: Aerospace engineering
Sport: Swimming

Alyssa Deno
Major: Physics
Sport: Volleyball

James Dice
Major: Mechanical engineering
Sport: Soccer

Sally Warning
Major: Aerospace engineering
Sport: Volleyball
Local leaders come together to explore the business of energy.

For six consecutive Wednesday mornings in September and October, Parks College and the John Cook School of Business presented the Energy Matters Series, which explored local solutions to increasing profit while reducing carbon footprints. Nearly 150 individuals from local businesses, academic institutions and non-profit organizations registered for the events to learn about promoting regional sustainability through education, awareness and collaboration.

Local leaders in their fields made presentations each week discussing topics ranging from renewable energy sources to the future of sustainability. Gregg Maryniak from the St. Louis Science Center kicked off the program with “Nuts and Volts: The Basics of Electricity,” providing context for the entire series. This was followed by “Utilities Unplugged,” during which AmerenUE and Cuivre River Electric Cooperative discussed the varying strategies used for increasing the implementation of renewables on commercial and residential levels. AmerenUE also was involved in the third presentation, “Kill-A-Watt,” which revealed the findings of an energy audit performed at Kaldi’s Coffee, providing insights into potential energy saving techniques that audience members could implement in their own businesses.

The following week, Saint Louis University, AmerenUE Pure Power and 3 Degrees suggested ways that businesses could determine their carbon footprint in a session entitled, “A Low Carbon Diet.” AmerenUE and Sustainable St. Louis made the next presentation, “Here Comes the Sun,” exploring possible applications of on-site solar,
wind and geothermal technologies in Missouri and providing analysis of trends in the area of renewables.

Dr. Manoj Patankar closed the series with “A Bright Future: Wrap Up and New Advances,” an interactive discussion with the audience about what they would take away from the series and what they hoped to explore in future sustainability series.

The events were sponsored by numerous organizations including 3 Degrees, 90.7 KWMU, AmerenUE, Cuivre River Electric Cooperative, Energy and Environmental Solutions, Envirotech, Kaldi’s Coffee KHDX, McClure Engineering, Pure Power, the Saint Louis Science Center, Saint Louis University and Sustainable St. Louis.

In response to a continued demand for educational events focused on sustainability, Parks College hosted a line of spin-off series on topics such as water, wind and solar energy. Water Matters, a five-week Wednesday morning program, launched March 17th, 2010.

Water related issues and trends were explored from global, regional, local, metropolitan and business/household levels. Saint Louis University collaborated with St. Louis Community College and the University of Missouri–St. Louis Whitney R. Harris World Ecology Center on the series and featured business leaders, students and community members from throughout the region.

For more information about Energy Matters, Water Matters, Civil Engineering Speaker Series and other sustainability events, visit parks.slu.edu.
A recently released study by the VirginiaTech Transportation Institute found that truck drivers who were texting were 23 times more at risk of a “crash or near crash event” than “nondistracted driving.”

Distracted driving is a blatant problem on American roadways. This past summer, after sitting at an intersection and realizing that the drivers with cell phones outnumbered the drivers without cell phones, Virginia Foster decided to find a solution. That solution is Phone Blox™.

As two electrical engineering students at Saint Louis University, Foster and her classmate Brandon Coventry spent the duration of the summer in a basement designing, testing and building Phone Blox. This new invention has the potential to save thousands of lives because it eliminates driver distraction. A passive device, Phone Blox does not interfere with the signals of passenger cell phones. Yet it successfully blocks the incoming texts and calls of drivers’ cell phones, providing a physical barrier between driver and cell phone for the duration of the trip. With Phone Blox, drivers will keep their eyes on the road and their hands on the wheel.

In 2009, the United States Secretary of Transportation Ray LaHood hosted the Distracted Driving Summit in Washington, D.C., calling for solutions to the problem of distracted driving. Foster and Coventry met with Secretary LaHood, and presented their idea. After implementing Phone Blox in their city-wide bus fleet, the Nashville Metropolitan Transit Authority won the top safety award at the American Public Transportation Association Conference.
Space Systems Research

Students and faculty in the Space Systems Research Laboratory (SSRL) are busy preparing two missions for flight. SLU’s first homegrown spacecraft is being developed by a team of students in AENG 450 (Senior Design), led by Dr. Sanjay Jayaram. The SLU CubeSat is a 1-kg, 10-cm cube conforming to the international CubeSat standard; more than forty CubeSats have flown in this decade. SLU’s CubeSat will test-fly new electrical power and magnetic field sensors and, most importantly, give the students essential experience in the process of designing, building and testing a complete spacecraft in a short time line. The students delivered their CubeSat for environmental testing in May 2010, with the intent to fly the spacecraft in late 2010.

A new inclusion to the SSRL is “EyasSat,” purchased from lab fee funds. EyasSat is a fully functional nanosatellite designed for teaching spacecraft systems engineering in the classroom and laboratory, but is not intended for actual spaceflight. EyasSat demonstrates six traditional satellite subsystems: Structural, Electrical Power Systems (EPS), Data Handling, Communications (Comm), Attitude Determination and Control (ADCS), and Thermal. It also has the capability to integrate student payload (such as a camera) and other subsystems (such as propulsion or GPS). Each subsystem and connected payloads are capable of receiving commands and generating telemetry via the graphical user interface (GUI) developed for EyasSat.

The second project will build on the experiences of the CubeSat mission to perform a more complex scientific mission. Space Situational Awareness is the ability to detect and categorize the thousands of active spacecraft, inactive spacecraft and pieces of space debris currently in orbit. Specifically, the Close-Orbiting Propellant Plume and Element Recognition (COPPER) mission is to understand how infrared sensors can be used to spot thruster plumes in orbit.

The mission consists of several identical spacecraft launched together on a common interface plate. Once on orbit, one spacecraft will be released at a time, firing its thrusters, while the remaining spacecraft take IR pictures (as well as other sensor data).

After that spacecraft drifts out of range, the process repeats until all are released. With this experiment, researchers will be able to better determine the effective range of infrared imagery for detecting nearby spacecraft and for using those images to identify their size and capabilities.

The COPPER mission is competing for an Air Force-sponsored launch with ten other schools through the University Nanosat-6 competition. This program builds on an ongoing satellite project brought to SLU by Dr. Michael Swartwout. Work on COPPER began this summer with a group of interns, including AE seniors Brian Verbus and Alex Shim. The Nanosat-6 winner will be announced in January 2011, with the launch occurring in 2012 or thereafter.
According to the American Heart Association, 2.2 million Americans are affected by arrhythmias, a disorder of the heart rate. Some arrhythmias are life-threatening medical emergencies that can result in cardiac arrest and sudden death. Arrhythmias are one of many cardiovascular diseases that are detectable by Holter monitors, portable ECG recording devices. New technology exists that can improve the way information is obtained from monitors.

Saint Louis University biomedical engineering students have come up with a device to monitor health conditions using mobile technology.

The iPhone and other mobile devices have expanded the boundaries of everyday communication. Many advances are being made with mobile devices and their growing role in the field of medicine. These mobile applications can help save lives by providing a platform that is portable and affordable.

Many people have access to mobile devices, and therefore have the opportunity to receive and send data valuable to a person’s health. Apple’s iPhone, with its high-resolution, large screen and many technical capabilities is an ideal platform for a mobile application.

The mobile health monitoring application, iVital, was created by biomedical engineering students to help the medical industry retrieve ECG information fast and effectively. iVital aims to bridge the gap between the doctor and the patient, by taking advantage of this technology.

“The number of medical applications being made available for the iPhone is certainly impressive and offers individuals the possibility to be very active in managing their own health,” says a representative from Wellescent Health.

The iVital system consists of three major components: the Holter monitor, the iPhone application and the client interface. These components together offer a dynamic solution that can make health monitoring more accessible.
The need for more sustainable and efficient ways of cooking is growing. Insufficient fuel and poor quality of appliances makes it difficult for people in developing countries to cook safely and efficiently.

SLU engineering students in Dr. Condoor’s Introduction to Design and Manufacturing course worked to solve this problem. The 2010 class was tasked with designing, building and testing solar ovens.

Each team conceptualized, crafted and tested their solar ovens, required to boil water and cook food for a family or small group.

The groups created a functional prototype of the oven, drafted plans allowing someone to construct the oven with readily available materials and calculated the solar oven’s carbon footprint.

The teams had two hours to demonstrate their solar oven’s ability to boil water and cook food.

Participants were able to apply their engineering skills to a project that addresses global sustainability issues to improve the quality of life.

“It was a lot of fun. I learned a lot about sustainable design and manufacturing,” says Jessica Rozycki, an aerospace and mechanical engineering student.
Look out your window at your 11 o’clock position at 36,000 feet; that’s me! Pete Kisling (PK PPO ’87) was my next-door neighbor in the dorms at the old Parks College Holloran Hall “C” Block in Cahokia, Illinois. He came from an aviation background, his dad was a TWA pilot and life was good. I was the first from my family to venture into the aviation profession. We were about as different as they come, literally black and white. Nevertheless, over the years we remained in contact and this is how the story plays out.

I, Marc Wilkins (PK PPO ’87) was ahead of Pete in the Professional Pilot Program. Even though we came from entirely different backgrounds, we shared a common goal; we were going to be airline Captains. We didn’t know what airline or how long it would take, but we just knew there was no stopping us. Ironically, Pete was more of a day person and for whatever reason, I enjoyed the night. The schoolwork seemed to come a little easier for Pete and he was always there to lend a hand when needed. I was older and was able to provide guidance off campus, during weekends and after school hours.

Time passed and graduation came quickly. Lessons were learned, friends were made and aviators we became. Pete was awarded an internship with United Airlines in Denver, while I began my career flying cancelled checks for the Federal Reserve and taking odd Part 135 air taxi jobs. Pete’s career took him in one direction, while my path took a much different direction.

We didn’t touch base much for the next several years. Most of our time was spent raising families, building flight time, and keeping the dirty side down. I eventually landed a job with United Parcel Service as a Flight Engineer on the DC-8. Pete started his career with United Airlines also as a Flight Engineer, but on the B-727. I eventually moved to the west coast in California, while Pete found his home on the east coast in Connecticut. I married my college sweetheart Lisa Yamauchi (SLU PT ’88) while Pete married his college sweetheart Shala Kerr (SLU PS ’87). Pete was blessed with three beautiful children and I was blessed with three beautiful children. It only gets better.

Word was out that Pete had realized his dream. After 10 years at United, paying dues and keeping his nose clean, he became a United Airlines Captain flying the B-767/757. Truth be told, I was happy for him and at the same time, a little jealous. He finally realized the dream we all dreamed about. Pete’s achievement made me work that much harder. If I kept up the pace, learned the trade, and committed myself, it would happen. After a decade with UPS, I too realized my dream also on the B-767/757. I joined the ranks of the “Airline Captains Club” and life was good. One of the first people I contacted after my check ride was Captain Pete Kisling. It was at that moment I realized how much we had in common. We started as neighbors in college and ended up airline captains, our dream. Thank you Don A. Boma (my primary flight instructor), thank you Ed Blue (my aviation advisor) and thank you Joe Pleli (PK ’86) my CFII. I made it! I actually made it!

After joining the club, Pete and I would compare notes and stories year after year. Pete told me of one of his first
international flights as Captain. He was in his early 30’s, the first officer in his mid 50’s and the head flight attendant 75.

WOW! I would tell Pete of my adventures flying rubber dog $&%@ over the South China Sea. He would tell of unruly passengers; I would tell that the boxes didn’t complain of my bad landings. Pete’s trips brought him to the west coast where I was stationed. I would pick him up from the hotel and we would go out for dinner. We would continue over the years to compare notes and stories and share our opinions. We built a great friendship over the years from a firm foundation based on mutual respect from day one. As different as our lives and career choices were, we found that they were very much the same, virtually identical.

On this particular day, I was flying a 757 from Fresno, California to Rockford, Illinois with a quick stop in Ontario, California. Pete was flying a 757 from Chicago, Illinois to Orange County, Santa Ana California. This day was not unlike any route trip. After departing Fresno, we made a brief stop in Ontario to drop off packages and pick up other packages destined for Rockford. We departed Ontario heading eastbound. The evening air was smooth as silk and the sun was beginning to set behind us while the moon was rising in front of us. We settled in for the flight at 37,000 feet. Pete had left Chicago and settled in for his flight at 36,000 feet watching the sun set in front of him to the west. My brown and white 757 was indicating 560 miles per hour and not a cloud in the sky. Pete’s blue and gray 757 was indicating 480 miles per hour, a bit slower due to headwinds.

Forty-five minutes into the flight we were handed over from one air traffic controller to the next. My first officer was flying the airplane aided by the autopilot. I checked in with the air traffic controller and told them our altitude. The controller came back to confirm he had us on his radar screen and confirmed our altitude. Shortly after that a voice came over the radio; “Um, Denver Center can you have the UPS flight that just checked in go to frequency 123.45?” The Denver air traffic controller came back and said, “Did you hear that UPS (plus our flight number)?” I keyed the microphone and confirmed that I heard the request and switched to the requested frequency. “This is UPS (plus our flight number), go ahead with your request.” The unknown voice came back, “Marc?” “Pete!” I replied. It was Pete. He had heard my voice on the radio and recognized it. After our initial shock he asked me for my present location. I pulled up our exact location on the onboard computer and told him we were 50 miles west of Tuba City, Arizona. I asked Pete for his current location, he said “standby.” Moments later I heard Pete comeback, “Look out your left window, 11 o’clock (relative position based on the face of a clock) and a thousand feet below you.” Much to my surprise there was Pete flying his United Airlines 757 westbound close enough to see the colors of his plane. Folks, I have to tell you, that doesn’t happen very often at all!

Several years have passed since that event took place. Every time we meet, we wind up talking about that fateful day. We still keep in touch despite our distances and busy lifestyles and still compare notes. This story was made possible through our education and flight training experiences at Parks College. My hats off to the professors, staff and individuals that played a part in a dream come true.
John Lacey Retires from Aerospace Industry

John Lacey, PK ‘59, of Aero Systems Engineering in St. Paul, MN has retired. Lacey’s 50 years of engineering experience include 31 years devoted to wind tunnel technology.

After graduation in August 1959 from Parks College of St Louis University with a BS in Aeronautical Engineering, Lacey’s career began at Arnold Engineering Development Center (AEDC). He worked in the hypervelocity branch of the Von Karman gas dynamics facility using hotshot and shock tube facilities.

During his tenure at AEDC, Lacey earned his MS/ME from the University of Tennessee Space Institute in 1965. After AEDC, he spent 8 years at Rosemount (now Goodrich) and 11 years with Burns Engineering (industrial temperature sensors).

In 1988 he joined Fluidyne Engineering where he was assigned as project leader for the HEG free piston shock tunnel at the DLR in Goettingen, Germany.

In 1993, Fluidyne was purchased by Aero Systems Engineering, Lacey’s most recent employer.

He participated in the improvement of flow quality for the Mach 10 nozzle at JAXA/Chofu, Japan and developed an innovative test section design to avoid pulsations in subsonic open jet wind tunnels and published several papers with AIAA and SAE on the subject.

Lacey’s most recent projects have involved research on the technologies needed for true temperature testing of scramjet engines up to Mach 8.

He frequently sees Larry Pfaff, PK ‘62, and stays in touch with Glenn Merz, PK ‘59.

John P. Kennedy Monumental to Airport Improvement

Stewart International Airport near Newburgh, New York began flying regularly scheduled public flights in 1990. This achievement is, in many ways, due to the hard work of Parks alumnus John P. Kennedy. As the founder and president of Airport Corporation of America, Kennedy gradually inherited the Stewart project from Lockheed and the New York Department of Transportation, with complete responsibility for marketing and development being granted in 1988.

Kennedy has been instrumental in many other major projects including the complete renovation of Republic Airport and was a consultant for the marketing, business development and strategic planning for Mid-America St. Louis Airport, Scott Air Force Base joint use project. He also led the Economic Rent Study for the San Diego Airport Advisory Committee.

His work has gone beyond commercial and consulting work representing such legal clients as the FAA and DOT as far as U.S. District Court.

Kennedy, the father of four and grandfather of three, is a member of the Knights of Columbus and actively involved with his parish.
Martin Whelan Promoted to Brigadier General

Martin Whelan, 1983 graduate in aerospace engineering, was promoted to Brigadier General on June 19, 2009.

During his time at Parks, Whelan was a member of the ROTC program. After graduation, he started working with the Space Shuttle program at Vandenberg AFB, Calif. He has moved numerous times during his career, working on such assignments as Chief Space Systems Operations Evaluations Office, space system field commander, Commander of Detachment 2 of the 18th Surveillance Squadron and missile operations at the Pentagon, Chief of Space Policy at the U.S. Air Force Headquarters in Washington, D.C., Chief of Nuclear Treaties Branch for the Joint Staff at the Pentagon, Chief of Space and Missile Defense Policy Division, Deputy Director of Plans and Policy for the Joint Staff at the Pentagon, Director of Space Forces for the Combined Air Operations Center in Southwest Asia, and most recently Deputy Director of Operations, Global Operations Directorate, USSTRATCOM. During his time as Director of Space Forces in Southwest Asia, he was involved with operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom.

This prestigious list of assignments has been adorned with medals, honors, and promotions. Beginning his career after Parks as a First Lieutenant, he was quickly promoted through the ranks, achieving Colonel in August of 2002, and now Brigadier General in 2009.

A Monumental Tribute to the Wright Brothers

Joseph J. Lusczek, Jr., a Parks College alum, is the current Technical Director of Aerospace Systems Design and Analysis in the Engineering Design & Analysis Division of the Requirements Directorate at the Air Force Aeronautical Systems Center located at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base (WPAFB). He has had a long and impressive career, dating as far back as being involved with the original design of the F-15 in the 1960s. Since then he has been an integral part in the design of many aircraft including the F-16, B-1, C-17, F-22, B-2, and most recently the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter. He has also been a part of the development of airborne laser weapon systems and many missile systems.

Aside from his career, Lusczek has been spending his time in the most interesting way. He is helping with the design of a monument to commemorate the birth of aviation at the location where it all began with the Wright Brother’s first flight just outside of Dayton, Ohio.

Walt S. Hoy, a retired WPAFB officer, is the President and founder of the Wright Image Group, an organization comprised of engineers and professionals in the Dayton area. He explains the significance of this project by stating, “The monument will become the Eiffel Tower of Dayton. It would be an icon similar to the St. Louis Arch or the Space Needle in Seattle.”

One might think this must be an exaggeration, to compare this monument to such structures as the Arch or Eiffel Tower, but think again. The proposed design is a replica of the Wright Flyer with a 120 ft wing span. That is three times larger than the original airplane. This oversized replica will be displayed not on the ground, but atop a 200 foot, eye-catching monument at the intersection of interstates 70 and 75 just outside Dayton. The monument will be able to be seen from two miles away and the highway intersection is estimated to have 57 million cars pass by each year.

The monument will be illuminated at night and the surrounding land will be open to tourists. More information on the monument is available at http://wrightmonument.org.
Dave Duesterhaus Named Site Director

Dave Duesterhaus has been named site director of the Arnold Engineering Development Center’s National Full Scale Aerodynamics Complex, Moffett Field, Calif.

Duesterhaus started working at AEDC in 1972, employed first by Sverdrup Technology, Inc., where he conducted applied research on advanced test techniques for propulsion systems and analysis of domestic and foreign test facility capabilities.

He was a member of the support team during the construction of ASTF, before joining the government side of the house in 1981. After joining the directorate of technology staff, he continued to work the propulsion system test techniques managing projects in turbine engine compressor analysis, free jet testing and diffuser development and new instrumentation techniques such as the use of high energy X-rays for solid rocket motor propellant burn rate measurements.

In 1986, he was selected for a two-year exchange program with the Federal Republic of Germany where he was employed by the German Aerospace Establishment at Lampholdshausen. While there, he conducted research on the design and combustion stability of solid fuel ramjet combustors.

From 1988 to 2005 he was the Air Force test project manager of numerous aeropropulsion projects: the $24 million subsonic free jet test system, National Aerospace Plane, F414, Adour, Trent 800, Trent 900, Trent 1000, JSF CDA Propulsion, PW 6000, PW 4092, and GP7200. Since 2006, he has been assigned to the plans and programs directorate representing AEDC on the AFSO21 program while serving as the quality manager and leading AEDC’s development strategic planning and balanced scoreboard development.

He is an associate fellow of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics, (AIAA) and has been an active member of the AIAA Tennessee Section where he has served in several positions including section chairman.
Edward A. Blue, 80, died Dec. 3, 2009. Blue was one of the founders of Greater St. Louis Flight Instructors Association and the first president. Besides the GSLFIA he was very active in aviation. Blue was the Professional Pilot Program Coordinator/Director from 1985-1992. He was a pilot examiner for the FAA and he helped create the Belleville Area College Flight Program and founded the Vocational Aviation Program for East Saint Louis and Lincoln High Schools.

Gerald E. Dreifke, Ph.D., a retired chairman of the Institute of Technology electrical engineering department, died Jan. 10, 2010. He was 91. Dr. Dreifke joined the faculty as an instructor in 1948 and was named a full professor in 1961. During his more than two decades at SLU, he also helped found the University’s Institute of Technology in 1958. He was awarded the Nancy McNair Ring Outstanding Faculty Award in 1966. He retired from SLU in 1971. Dr. Dreifke was honored at the 2009 homecoming celebration, in which he was present to watch a tribute video to the Institute of Technology.


Robert Heinze died Apr. 27, 2010. He was a 1958 IT grad with a degree in Electrical Engineering. Heinze worked for McDonnell Douglas.

Sherley “Larry” Spear passed away Apr. 28, 2010 at Lakeland Regional Medical Center. Spear was an aeronautical engineering graduate of Parks College, with a master’s degree from the University of Southern California. Spear was a Navy Aviator and did three combat tours in Viet Nam and SE Asia, flying off the carriers of USS Oriskany and USS Ticonderoga. He was awarded several meritorious medals and commendations for his service. He was a graduate of the Navy’s test pilot school and was an instructor for several airplanes used in the service. He taught the master’s program at Embry-Riddle in Miami, Fla. The family would appreciate a donation in Spears’ honor to Saint Louis University, attention: Susan Bloomfield, 3450 Lindell Blvd., Room 2006, St. Louis, MO 63103.

Ben Sullivan, 23, died Nov. 8, 2009 in Houston, Texas. Sullivan graduated from Parks in 2008 from the aerospace engineering program. He worked for the United Space Alliance in Houston.

Thomas M. Walsh, Ph.D., associate professor of English, died, Oct. 19, 2009. He was 66. Dr. Walsh joined the Saint Louis University faculty in the late 1970s and spent most of his entire career at SLU, first at Parks College and then in the English department. Most recently, Walsh was teaching courses in Shakespeare and Renaissance literature. Dr. Walsh received his undergraduate degree from John Carroll University in 1965 and his master’s from the University of Dayton in 1967. A student of the late Walter J. Ong, S.J., he earned his doctorate in Renaissance English literature at SLU in 1978.

Dr. Walsh recently completed Walter J. Ong, S.J.: A Bibliography, 1929-2006. Later this year, Hampton Press will publish Language, Culture and Identity: The Legacy of Walter J. Ong, S.J. The book was edited by Dr. Walsh and his colleague Dr. Sara van den Berg.

At the time of his death, Dr. Walsh also was working on an essay about garden images in Renaissance literature.

During his more than three decades at the University, Dr. Walsh was recognized not only as a dedicated scholar but also for his commitment to his students.