The Institute of Industrial Engineers (IIE) student chapter received the Silver Award as part of the 2007 Chapter Recognition Program for work that was done during the academic year. The chapter president was Jeremy Cosner, M.S.I.S.E. ’06, and the faculty advisor is Assistant Professor of Industrial and Systems Engineering Diana J. Schwerha.

Chemical and biomolecular engineering Ph.D. student Bryan Boggs, B.S.Ch.E. ’07, Russ Farquhar, B.S.Ch.E. ’06, and Amy Weber, an industrial and systems engineering senior, won second place in the Chem-E-Car competition at the North Central American Institute of Chemical Engineers Regional Conference at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in spring 2007 with their “Shoe-Sized Ammonia Powered Automobile,” funded by the Vice President for Research Student Enhancement Award. They will compete in the national Chem-E-Car competition in Salt Lake City in November.

Christian Canto and Vanessa Fajardo, both chemical and biomolecular engineering Ph.D. students from Mexico, received 2007 Roberto Rocca Fellowships, which provide scholarship support to talented graduate students from Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Mexico, and Venezuela who study outside of their country.

Matthew Cornett, B.S.C.E. ’07, and civil engineering senior Andrew Wargo, won first place in February’s Intercollegiate Asphalt Mixture Performance Contest, awarded by the Ohio Department of Transportation and Flexible Pavements of Ohio. Students designed an asphalt mixture that would not rut under heavy traffic. They prepared test specimens following their mix design and submitted to the Ohio Dept. of Transportation for rut resistance measurement. The written report was submitted to Flexible Pavements, and the mix design was submitted for a regional competition.

Chemical and biomolecular engineering master’s student Damilola Daramola, B.S.C.E. ’04, won a National Society of Black Engineers Board of Corporate Affiliates Scholarship for demonstrating high scholastic performance and dedicated service to the Society and other organizations, and for possessing high professional promise. Selected for the highest level of this three-tiered scholarship program, Daramola currently works in the Electrochemical Engineering Research Laboratory under Associate Professor of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering Gerardine Botte. This is the second consecutive year a Russ College student has received the honor.

Electrical engineering students tied for third place in the Annual Institute of Navigation’s Autonomous Lawn Mower Competition, held in June at the Wright State University Campus in Dayton. Each of the engineering schools designed and built a lawnmower that would mow a patch of grass on its own. Differential Global Positioning System techniques were used to guide the mowers to better-than-inch accuracy. Lasers and sonar were also employed to watch for obstacles.

Chris Engel, B.S.E.E. ’06, authored and presented “UAV Navigation in the National Airspace System” at the JUP quarterly meeting held at MIT in October 2006. Electrical engineering master’s student Behlul Poonawalla authored and presented “Peripheral Vision Display for GA—Flight Test Results.”

Vanessa Fajardo, a Ph.D. student in chemical and biomolecular engineering, won a third-place Harvey Herro Award in the student poster competition in applied corrosion technology at the NACE 2007 Conference and Expo in Nashville, Tennessee, in March. A group of 18 students and five faculty members attended.

The Ohio University Flying Bobcats took home 21 awards in the National Intercollegiate Flying Association’s (NIFA) Regional Safety and Flight Evaluation Conference (SAFECON), hosted at Ohio University in October. Notable awards include the safety award, which the Flying Bobcats won for the second consecutive year. The team was second runner up for the Team Flight Award.

The Flying Bobcats at the NIFA Regionals award ceremony in October (front row, L to R): Brent Pycraft, Marco Junco, Nathan Galieti, Michael J. Smith (team assistant captain), Matthew Cox, and Heath Bowers (team captain); middle row (L to R): Stephanie Sullivan, Marcus Frank, Michael T. Smith, Kevin Ketchum (kneeling); back row (L to R): Deak Arch (advisor), Anthony Pelfrey, Eric Taylor, Sean Cannon, Ryan Krawczyk, Brad Cobb, George Armann (coach), Matthew Miller, William Sandoval, David Readout, and B.J. Galloway (interim department chair).
Championship Award. The team’s captain is senior Heath Bowers, head coach is Staff Instructor George Armann, and faculty advisor is Assistant Professor Deak Arch.

Seniors Nick Herpy and Carolyn Salisbury, and sophomore Sonja Abbey, all electrical engineering students, won second place in the Student Ethics Competition at the IEEE Region II Student Activities Conference, held at the University of Cincinnati in April. The students had 90 minutes to review a high-pressure professional dilemma, choose the most ethical course of action, and give a six to 10-minute presentation to a panel of five or six judges.


Slave Jovanovski, B.S.C.S. ’07, placed second overall in the “Sponsor Track” of the TopCoder Open competition hosted by Ohio University in May. TopCoder analyzes a client’s software needs, runs a series of competitions to build each piece of their program, and assembles the pieces into a high-quality application. Jovanovski was eligible for the sponsor track, reserved for employees of companies that sponsor the competition, because he is working online as an intern for VeriSign while he finishes his last quarter at Ohio University. He won $1,500 and has since joined VeriSign full time.

Mallory Pollard, a first-year aviation student, won the 2007 Scripps School of Journalism Public Speaking Showcase. She competed against 800 Ohio University students from a variety of majors with her speech, titled “Why Aviation is the Best Major Ever.” Mallory received a plaque and a $100 cash prize and was offered an additional scholarship.

Leadership Symposium in Colorado Springs, Colorado, in February. The symposium, held at the U.S. Air Force Academy, focused on the advantages of a diverse workforce.

Amy Weber, a senior industrial and systems engineering major, won first place in the paper competition at the North Central American Institute of Chemical Engineers Regional Conference at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in spring 2007 with her presentation “Feasibility Study on the Use of Ammonia Electrolysis for On-Board Hydrogen Production.” Chemical and biomolecular engineering sophomore Stephen Back won second place for his presentation, “Using an Electrochemical Technique to Measure Chromium Ions Simultaneously.”

Institute of Industrial Engineers student chapter members, all industrial and systems engineering majors, take a break from volunteering for Habitat for Humanity in fall 2006 (L to R): Eric Franz, Andrea Kors, Jeremy Greathouse, Shannon McNeal, and Quintin Neubauer, all B.S.I.S.E. ’07; and graduate students Jeremy Cosner and Jerome Anderson.