

DRAFT News Release
Auburn University: Thomas Walter Center
Business-Engineering-Technology (B-E-T) Minor

B-E-T students conduct project work at the University of Plymouth, UK

During March 2009, five B-E-T students, Pat Awbrey, Alison Barksdale, Mike Marsocci, Caitlyn Rummer, and Blake Wager went to the University of Plymouth with Dr. Charlotte Sutton (Assoc. Professor of Management) to complete their spring class project with four mechanical engineering students from the University of Plymouth. Dr. Sutton notes, "I got to see where the Mayflower left Plymouth for America--from Sutton Harbor, no less."

The team's task is to develop a continuous tire pressure adjustment system for passenger vehicles. It is designed keep tires at the manufacturer-specified pressure through the use of an innovative pressurizing system incorporated in the wheel spokes. The team is also preparing a matching business plan for a startup based on this product. The team has worked on product development, manufacturing, sourcing of components and cost of manufacturing. The business plan includes marketing and financing for the startup. The joint team made a presentation at the School of Engineering, University of Plymouth.

"Throughout the entire project, we all learned a lot about working across international borders using resources such as video conferencing and document sharing. This has definitely been an experience that will enhance our ability to compete in an increasingly global job market," said Caitlyn Rummer. "A ton of fun and a great learning experience" according to Pat Awbrey.

The B-E-T team took time to visit London to take in some history. The Thomas Walter Center covers B-E-T student expenses for this trip thanks to generous gifts to the Center.



The joint team near the shoreline in Plymouth

The B-E-T team at London

