



Back row from left: Armour College Dean Hamid Arastoopour; Argonne National Laboratory Group Leader of ME/ASD, Advanced Photon Source Sushil Sharma; Texas A&M University Emeritus Professor Robert Page; NASA Program Manager, Vehicle Systems, Office of Aerospace Technology Richard Wlezien; NASA Ames Research Center Director for Aerospace Skip Fletcher; University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Professor and Head, Department of ME and IE Richard Buckius; Carnegie Mellon University Lord Professor and Head, Department of ME Adnan Akay; Armour College Associate Dean Candace Wark.

Front row from left: Footlik and Associates President Robert Footlik; Retired Senior Consultant, Wheelabrator Technologies Les Hardison; MMAE Department Chair Jamal Yagoobi; Kimberly Clark Resarch Fellow, Aesthetics Research Center Herb Velazquez; Northwestern University Walter T. Murphy Professor Ted Belytchko.

External Advisory Board members not pictured are General Motors Director, Service Delivery James Korenchan; Alcoa Engineered Products Director of Business Development and Technology Application William Rogers; A. Finkl and Sons Company Chairman and CEO Bruce Liimatainen; and Caterpillar Inc. Advanced Materials Technology Program Manager Ric Woldow.

External Advisory Board Annual Meeting

The MMAE External Advisory Board (EAB) held their annual meeting on October 3, 2003 at the IIT campus.

The group suffered the painful loss in summer 2003 of board member Karl Smith of General Motors, who passed away.

New MMAE Faculty Member: Assistant Professor Murat Vural



Dr. Murat Vural joined the MMAE Department as an assistant professor of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering in the fall of 2003 after three years of postdoctoral research at California Institute of Technology as a visiting associate in aeronautics, where he performed research on various aspects of high-strain-rate deformation and failure in cellular, composite and metallic materials.

Dr. Vural earned his doctor of philosophy, master of science and bachelor of science degrees in aeronautical engineering from Istanbul Technical University.

His recent publications include "Microstructural Aspects and

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"Modeling of Failure in Naturally Occurring Porous Composites", M. Vural and G. Ravichandran, *Mechanics of Materials*, Vol. 35, pp. 523-536, 2003; and "Dynamic Response and Energy Dissipation Characteristics of Balsa Wood: Experiment and Analysis", M. Vural and G. Ravichandran, *International Journal of Solids and Structures*, Vol. 40, pp. 2147-2170, 2003.

Vural is a member of the Society for Experimental Mechanics, the American Society of Mechanical Engineers and the American Society for Engineering Education.

Vural's field of specialty is experimental solid mechanics. His research is particularly concerned with investigating the mechanical response of materials under severe loading and environmental conditions that involve high-strain-rates, large strains, multiaxial stress states and elevated temperatures. Research emphasis is on understanding and modeling the constitutive response and failure of homogeneous and heterogeneous solids by using experimental and analytical tools along with detailed characterization at microstructural level.