Vance's METaL lab develops multiple ways to experience virtual reality
Iowa State’s METaL virtual reality facility is designed to be a versatile, everyday research tool. It will be used to study and develop 3-D visual display technology, audio effects and force feedback. It will also make virtual reality more accessible on campus. (Full story)

New ME graduates
On December 17, 90 new BSME graduates received their degree from Iowa State. Additionally, 19 master’s degrees and 8 PhD degrees in mechanical engineering were awarded. Congratulations to all new mechanical engineering graduates!

Brown discovers NAS report is based off Iowa State research
When Robert Brown was perusing the early October publication of the National Academies of Sciences’ report on U.S. biofuels policy, his attention was drawn to its economic analysis. As he read on, Brown realized that this part of the report was heavily influenced by studies performed at Iowa State.
"I was surprised to discover that the economic assessment was derived almost exclusively from papers and reports published by our research team in the previous year," explains Brown, who is the Anson Marston Distinguished Professor of Engineering, Gary and Donna Hoover Chair in Mechanical Engineering, Iowa Farm Bureau director of the Bioeconomy Institute, director of the Center for Sustainable Environmental Technologies, and professor of mechanical engineering, chemical and biological engineering, and agricultural and biosystems engineering. (Full story)

Student marshal and outstanding seniors named for fall commencement
Lowell Stutzman, senior in mechanical engineering, was nominated by the Mechanical Engineering Department for the
Two ME students among best Army ROTC program in Midwestern brigade
The Cyclone Army ROTC Battalion at Iowa State University has been named the top program in the 3rd Brigade. The award is based on overall training performance and success at the annual Leadership Development and Assessment Course (LDAC), and commissioning excellence. The 3rd Brigade is based at the Great Lakes Naval Station in Illinois, and includes Army ROTC programs at more than 40 schools in the Midwest. Tim Elbert and Carl Schmidt, both seniors in mechanical engineering, are members of the program. (Full story)

Mechanical Engineering Department
Winter Break Office Hours
December 19-21: 7:30 a.m. – 4 p.m.
December 22: 7:30 a.m. – noon
December 23 & 26: University Holidays
December 27-30: Main Office closed (limited staff in Advising Center)
January 2: University Holiday
January 3-6: 7:30 a.m. – 4 p.m.
January 9: Resume regular office hours

Iowa State engineers establish national panel to advance a carbon negative economy
A national panel led by Iowa State engineers is launching an effort to research and develop technologies that capture, use, and sequester carbon while enhancing food production, ecosystems, economic development, and national security. The 33-member National Panel for a Carbon Negative Economy recently met for the first time in Chicago. (Full story)

As one student put tape in his mouth to secure string to his model aircraft, another group sent smoke rings wafting through the air at the Mechanical Engineering Design Expo on Tuesday. More than 50 engineering class projects, including a bicycle-powered cell phone charger, a solar-powered medical cooler and a bubble car, were on display in a packed Howe Hall to show off the work of five mechanical engineering design classes. (Full story from Iowa State Daily)

Eight ME students take oath to be responsible engineers
On November 29, 2011, 22 graduating students, including 8 mechanical engineering students, participated in the Order of the Engineer, a rite of passage from student to professional engineer. (Full release)