

February 20, 2012

## Iowa State adds sustainability minor

Iowa State's new sustainability minor is only a few months old. But a hundred students are enrolled in one of the minor's core courses this semester. In a recent show of hands, some three-fourths of the students in the class indicated their intent to minor in sustainability. ME associate professor **Mark Bryden** teaches this core course, TSC 220, "Globalization and Sustainability."



Bryden

Arne Hallam, associate dean of Liberal Arts and Sciences, said the "Globalization and Sustainability" course and a second required course, "Globalization and the Human Condition," lay the groundwork for the sustainability minor. ([Full story](#))

For more information on the sustainability minor, visit: [www.las.iastate.edu/sustainability](http://www.las.iastate.edu/sustainability).



ME alum Brian Lapcewich's stands atop an 80-meter high wind turbine.

## Wind energy powers up alumnus' career

When **Brian Lapcewich** enrolled at Iowa State in 2005 as an undeclared engineering major, he didn't know his passion for engineering would lead him to a career where an ordinary day at the office would mean standing atop an 80-meter high wind turbine.

As a junior in high school, Lapcewich toured the campus and fell in love with the classes and the program. "I ended the day feeling like I wasn't going to be just a number, that I could thrive and succeed," he says. From the beginning, he leaned toward mechanical engineering, and it only took one semester to declare. He says he never looked back. ([Full story](#))

## Upcoming Events

**February 21, and 28** – [Teaching and Learning Circle: From Simple to Sophisticated: Assessment Techniques for the College Classroom](#)



Mechanical engineering senior Scott Lograsso races his hobby stock at Boone Speedway. *Photo credit Tom Macht.*

## Speedway Illustrated features ME undergrad student's innovation

**Scott Lograsso**, senior in mechanical engineering, was featured in an article in January's edition of *Speedway Illustrated* for applying what he learns at Iowa State to his hobby stock car dirt track racing.

*Speedway Illustrated* is a magazine that covers dirt track racing and national touring series, technical tips, and features on racers. ([Read the Speedway Illustrated article](#))

## Dedic receives Wallace E. Barron All-University Senior Award

**Chloe Dedic**, senior in mechanical engineering, was one of five ISU seniors to receive the Wallace E. Barron All-University Senior Award. Established in 1968, the award recognizes outstanding seniors who display high character, outstanding achievement in academics and university/community activities, and promise for continuing these exemplary qualities as alumni. It is named for Wallace E. "Red" Barron (Class of '28), who served as director of alumni affairs at Iowa State from 1937 to 1968. Awardees receive recognition and the Official Iowa State University Ring, compliments of the ISU Alumni Association.



Dedic

Recipients of the award were nominated by faculty members. These students will be recognized at the ISU Alumni Association Board of Directors luncheon on Friday, February 24 at the ISU Alumni Center from 12:00 – 1:30 p.m. Congratulations to Chloe on this honor!

## Levitas and students published in foremost physics journal

**Valery Levitas**, Schafer 2050 Challenge Professor and faculty member of aerospace engineering and of mechanical engineering, along with PhD student **Mahdi Javanbakht** were published in *Physical Review Letters* (PRL, 2011, Vol. 107, 175701), the world's foremost physics journal.

**February 23** – [Food and Farm Policy in the United States: Building the Economy and National Security with Public Health](#)  
**February 27** – [Energy Sustainability in a Changing World](#)  
**February 28** – [Sustainapalooza: Celebrating Our Cardinal, Gold, and Green!](#)  
**March 12-16** – Spring Break, classes recessed

The researchers have advanced our understanding of surface-induced phenomena and the Ginzburg-Landau theory for their description in the paper “Surface-Induced Phase Transformations: Multiple Scale and Mechanics Effects and Morphological Transitions.” ([Full story](#))



Levitas

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Do you have department news you'd like to share?  
Please e-mail news items for InCYde Mechanical Engineering to [Alex Rausch](#).