

Mechanical Engineering @ Iowa State



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Engineering students are making a difference in developing nations

Two Iowa State University student organizations are combining their know-how and dedication to service to create more sustainable households and improve water quality in Mali, Africa.

The student chapters of Engineers Without Borders and Material Advantage received a \$5,000 grant from The Minerals, Metals & Materials Society Foundation in support of the project "Ceramics Production for Water Filtration, Cooking Stoves, and Sustainable Households." ME senior Andrew Havens is a project leader for EWB.

With the funding, the student team plans to improve the weather resistance of buildings during the rainy season, develop technologies that will provide the local village with safe, sustainable water, and fire insulating bricks for cooking stoves to reduce fuel use and harmful smoke. ([News release](#))

Engineers Without Borders



Master's student prepares to intern overseas

Karl Broer, a master's student studying under Robert Brown, will be heading to Germany this summer. Through the Deutscher Akademischer Austausch Dienst (DAAD) German Academic Exchange Service, Broer will intern with a company as part of the [RISE professional program](#). The program provides students the opportunity to live and work in an international context and gain confidence in their practical and professional skills. Additionally, Broer hopes to learn more about German professional culture, practice his German language skills, and do some networking.

"International experiences are an important part of preparing students for the workplace," he says. "These experiences also teach students about how varied cultures are around the world. Important concepts such as cultural barriers can be difficult to grasp unless you experience them firsthand."

This isn't Broer's first overseas experience. He has studied abroad at the Universität Hohenheim in Stuttgart, Germany, as an undergraduate in agricultural engineering, in addition to a study abroad in Graz, Austria.

Concurrent BS/MBA student discusses future plans

Brandon Kennedy, BSME'08, is in his second year of the MBA program at Iowa State. Continually seeking flexibility in his education, he is featured as a successful concurrent BS/MBA student in an [INNOVATEonline feature](#). On the verge of graduation, what Kennedy wants today is to parlay that flexibility as a mechanical engineer with the broad management exposure the MBA affords him, in order one day to establish his own engineering consulting firm.

Upcoming department seminars

The following seminars will feature finalists for the ME department chair position and will be held at 10:30 a.m. in 2004 Black on the dates indicated below. Each candidate will present a seminar that will cover his vision for the department. All interested are welcome to attend.

- Zhuomin Zhang, professor in the mechanical engineering school at Georgia Tech, will present March 29.
- George Voyatzis, distinguished professor and chair of the civil and environmental engineering department at Louisiana State University, will present March 31.

Do you have department news you'd like to share? Please e-mail news items for InCyde Mechanical Engineering to Jessi Strawn at jlstrawn@iastate.edu

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