

Mechanical Engineering @ Iowa State



InCyde Mechanical Engineering October 8, 2009

Check out the Solar Decathlon Team during competition

The Interlock House left Ames on Monday, September 28, and arrived on the National Mall Wednesday, September 30, for competition. Get an [update](#) on the team's progress.

The opening ceremony for the 2009 Solar Decathlon is at 1 p.m. Thursday, October 8. Iowa State President Geoffroy and other university administrators will attend the ceremony.

2009 Interlock House



EWB to host a regional workshop

The Iowa State chapter of Engineers Without Borders (EWB) will be hosting the EWB-USA Midwest regional workshop on October 24 and 25. There will be more than a dozen chapters from the region and national speakers at the workshop. The weekend will be filled with seminars, interactive sessions, and hands-on technical workshops to build stoves, wire household lighting, and test water for developing countries. Check out the [Web site](#) for the full agenda and registration information.

ME department on mission to recruit

Three representatives from the ME department traveled across the Midwest on October 1 to build relationships with colleges and recruit underrepresented minority and female students. Their trip was part of a seminar outreach program Janelle Miranda, undergraduate program assistant, and Amy Carver, graduate program assistant, received funding for last year through a P&S grant.

The outreach program is designed to strengthen targeted mechanical engineering recruitment activities for underrepresented minorities and females in the science, technology, engineering, and math fields.

Carver, Miranda, and Assistant Professor LeAnn Faidley traveled to Augustana College in Rock Island, Illinois, and Truman State in Kirksville, Missouri. Faidley presented on the current work going on regarding smart materials, while Carver discussed graduate program opportunities. Miranda was on hand to discuss transfer

Ames Lab researchers bring in excellence award

Iowa State associate scientist Douglas McCorkle and Professor Mark Bryden earned additional recognition for their contributions to "VE-PSI: Virtual Engineering Process Simulator Interface." This September, the work received the 2009 Federal Laboratory Consortium (FLC) Mid-Atlantic Regional Excellence in Technology Transfer Award. The prestigious FLC award recognizes employees who have accomplished outstanding work in the process of transferring a technology developed by a federal laboratory to the commercial marketplace.

The Department of Energy's National Energy Technology Laboratory (NETL) and its R&D collaboration partners, Ames National Laboratory (ANL) and Reaction Engineering International, developed the 2009 R&D100 award-winning software to facilitate the collaborative design of next-generation energy plants within a virtual engineering environment.

The team that worked on the project includes

- Stephen E. Zitney, director of collaborative for process and dynamic systems research at NETL
- Douglas McCorkle, associate scientist for ANL and Iowa State University
- Mark Bryden, program director of simulation, modeling, and decision science at ANL and professor at Iowa State University
- Terry E. Jordan, computer engineer for NETL
- Dave Swensen, manager of computational technologies at Reaction Engineering International
- Changguan Yang, software engineer at Reaction Engineering International

Two Minutes With Song Zhang

Want to know more about Song Zhang's research? [Check it out](#) —it'll only take two minutes.

Vance recognized with best paper award

During the 2009 American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) International Design Engineering Conferences and Computers and Information in Engineering Conference, Professor Judy Vance and other Iowa State affiliates received a best paper award. The "Compliant Mechanisms Award: Theory" was awarded to the group by the ASME Technical Committee on Mechanisms and Robotics.

The paper is titled "A screw theory approach for the conceptual design of compliant mechanisms," and the authors include Vance; Hai-Jun Su, assistant professor of mechanical engineering at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County and former Iowa State postdoc; and Denis Dorozhkin, PhD student at Iowa State University.

Galloway Fellows

Victor Roa-Baerga, Michelle Buehler, Jing Ren, Jinjuan She, and Melissa Wickham—all graduate students in mechanical engineering—were recently appointed Seward, Ratcliffe, and Galloway Foundation Mechanical Engineering Fellows for fall 2009.

student options and future program relations with the institutions.

At Truman State the group met with the Society of Physics Students, and at Augustana College they met with interested physics/pre-engineering students. Faculty and students were receptive and excited to hear about Faidley's work at both institutions.

This named assistantship is awarded to selected on-campus graduate students who are enrolled full time in the Department of Mechanical Engineering and is made possible through the Roderick Seward, Flossie Ratcliffe, and Helen M. Galloway Foundation, Inc.

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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