

Mechanical Engineering @ Iowa State



InCyde Mechanical Engineering May 6, 2009

InCyde Mechanical Engineering will go on hiatus until August. Please continue to submit newsworthy items to jlstrawn@iastate.edu as they come up throughout the summer.

ME department turns out two winners of prestigious NSF graduate fellowships

Two of this year's National Science Foundation (NSF) graduate fellowship winners have ties to the ME department at Iowa State. Among the winners were Joseph Miller, who is a PhD student studying under assistant professor Terrence Meyer, and Raathai Molian, who earned her bachelor's degree from the ME department in 2008.

Read the full article at www.engineering.iastate.edu/news/news-article/article/2546/5828.html.

Teaching and research excellence awards announced

Three ME students received awards from the Graduate College for spring 2009. Som Shrestha was presented with the Teaching Excellence Award, which recognizes the top 10 percent of graduate students for outstanding achievement in teaching. Pavan Kumar Karra and Yan Yan each received a Research Excellence Award, which honors the top 10 percent of graduate students at the time of their graduation for outstanding research accomplishments as documented by their theses and dissertations. Each department or interdepartmental unit has the opportunity to select and nominate students for this award every semester.

Heindel and Maxwell share Teacher of the Year honor

Ted Heindel and Greg Maxwell have been honored by this year's ME seniors as Mechanical Engineering's Teachers of the Year. Each year the senior class selects the winner(s) from all faculty and lecturers who are actively teaching. Last year's winner, Zhaohui (George) Qin, was not included in the ballot as is the tradition for this award. A reception was held on May 1, 2009, at the Kiewit Undergraduate Student Services Center to honor the teachers.

Kong's work featured in *NewScientist*

In the article "How to fuel a car on waste plastic," *NewScientist* explores how Song-Chang Kong and other engineering professors at Iowa State are looking for alternative fuel sources. The article is available at www.newscientist.com/article/dn17066-plastic-cups-could-boost-auto-performance.html.

Iowa State Formula SAE racer takes shape, expected to be a fast competitor

There's a lot of confidence in the Formula SAE garage on the Iowa State University campus.

Barring a gearbox breakdown or a drive shaft failure, "I think this car has the potential to be in the top 10," said James Rasmussen, a senior from Audubon who's studying mechanical engineering. "That engine will be one of the most heavily modified single-cylinder engines out there."

He was pointing to the car's ethanol-powered Yamaha YZF 450 engine. It's an engine that normally runs in all-terrain vehicles. But this one will sit in the rear of a mini open-wheel race car designed and built by a team of Iowa State students. They'll compete against 119 other university teams May 13-16 at Michigan International Speedway in one of three annual contests sponsored by SAE, the Society of Automotive Engineers.

Read the full story at

www.public.iastate.edu/~nscentral/news/2009/may/formulasae.shtml.

Department promotions

Congratulations to the following faculty members for their recent promotions:

- Pranav Shrotriya—promoted to associate professor with tenure
- Eliot Winer—promoted to associate professor with tenure

Future ME student awarded Gates Millennium Scholarship

Jonathan DeBarge Morgan, an incoming ME student, and his twin brother Donathan LeBarge Morgan, an incoming ECpE student, have earned Gates Millennium Scholarships, an honor that will provide them full rides for college, all the way through doctorate studies. Read more about the future Iowa State students at www.kansascity.com/105/story/1174340.html.

Summer office hours

From May 11, 2009, to August 14, 2009, the ME administrative office will be open during summer hours of 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

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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