

Mechanical Engineering @ Iowa State



InCyde Mechanical Engineering September 17, 2009

ME faculty member wins R&D 100 Award

Mark Bryden



Mechanical Engineering Associate Professor Mark Bryden is among the researchers at Iowa State University and the U.S. Department of Energy's Ames Laboratory to win a 2009 R&D 100 Award. The award, presented annually since 1963, salutes the 100 most technologically significant products introduced into the marketplace over the past year. The *Chicago Tribune* has called the R&D 100 Awards the "Oscars of

Invention." ([News release](#))

Iowa State Gets Virtual Reality Platform Partner

For the next two years, students at the [Virtual Reality Applications Center](#) (VRAC) at Iowa State University will be working with virtual reality software from [ICIDO](#). VRAC is an interdisciplinary research center focusing on the interface between humans and computers. Research areas include the development of computer interfaces that integrate virtual environments, wireless networking, pervasive computing, and emerging user interface devices. Examples of the research are the development of virtual power plants, game simulations, and control interfaces for unmanned aerial vehicles. ([News release](#))

Course features leaders in global technology, culture

Technology, Globalization and Culture (ME/WLC 484/584) is offered by the mechanical engineering and world language and cultures departments to seniors and graduate students across the university. The course, which meets twice weekly, provides a cross-disciplinary examination of the present and future impact of globalization with a focus on preparing students for leadership roles in diverse professional, social, and cultural contexts. With support from Deere and Rockwell Collins, the course is able to feature interesting and informative guest lecturers.

All presentations are open to the public. Check out the course [Web site](#) for more information.

Next Tuesday, September 22, Richard Longworth will address the class. He is a senior fellow at the Chicago Council on Global Affairs, a distinguished visiting scholar at DePaul University, and author of the new book, *Caught in the Middle: America's Heartland in the Age of Globalism*.

Record enrollment numbers

This fall has ushered in Iowa State University's highest-ever enrollment—27,945 students, an increase of more than 4 percent compared to fall 2008. And the Department of Mechanical Engineering is part of that record-breaking number. The department has a total of 1,294 students enrolled this year; 1,123 are undergraduate students and 171 are graduate students. Combined in both the undergraduate and graduate programs, we have 102 women enrolled.

Nominations for chair search

The ME Chair Search Committee would like to invite nominations for the ME chair position. Committee representatives, during the fall faculty retreat and faculty meetings, have already stressed the importance of having a good set of nominations. The committee would like to encourage everyone in the department to e-mail nominations to mechairsearch@iastate.edu.

ME student earns Carver Scholarship for biorenewables research

Mark Mba Wright, a doctoral student in mechanical engineering with a chemical engineering minor, has been awarded the 2009 George Washington Carver Scholarship Prize for Outstanding Student Achievement in Biorenewables. ([News release](#))

Mark Mba Wright



Engineering Iowa State's Solar Decathlon house

Mechanical engineering grad student Tim Lentz has been on the team for 18 months, and now it's his turn at bat. Iowa State's [Solar Decathlon team](#) is designing and building an energy-efficient solar powered house for a U.S. Department of Energy competition this fall. Spend [two minutes with Lentz](#).

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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