# ANNUAL REPORT 2007–2008 ACADEMIC YEAR

# IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

**Department of Mechanical Engineering** 



# KNOWLEDGE. INNOVATION. LEADERSHIP.



WWW.ME.IASTATE.EDU

AUGUST 2008

# RESPONSIBILITIES

The Department of Mechanical Engineering at Iowa State University is a community of faculty, staff, students, and alumni—and industrial and governmental partners—working together to improve the state of Iowa and society in the broadest terms through mechanical engineering research, education, and service.

# Vision

Through the excellence of its people, the Department of Mechanical Engineering will be recognized as a leader of its discipline in a manner that exemplifies the land-grant traditions of learning, discovery, and engagement. The department will be a desirable place to study and work, with its community comprising the best and brightest, and with research and educational programs grounded in the mechanical engineering sciences and set within the context of meeting important societal needs.

# MISSION

The mission of the Department of Mechanical Engineering has three tenets centered on the principle of improving lives and livelihoods: to create knowledge through research in the science and technology of mechanical engineering; to share knowledge through educational programs and the dissemination of new discoveries; and to develop the professional potential of faculty, staff, and students.

# PRIORITIES

We will pursue the following priorities to reinforce our recognized strengths and advance our vision for 2025.

- Extend our pillars of research excellence
- Strengthen our graduate program
- Enrich our undergraduate program
- Develop our people
- Build our community

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# YEAR IN REVIEW

At lowa State's Department of Mechanical Engineering, we strive to keep those invested in our department informed about our programs and activities. Each semester, we distribute the newsletter *Dimensions*, which contains articles about recent accomplishments of our faculty, staff, students, and alumni. Our programs can also be viewed in terms of indicators such as enrollment, degrees awarded, extramural research support, research publications, student credit hours taught, student scholarships, and



number of faculty. This annual report is intended to capture that data concisely and disseminate it to the department's community with a view toward describing the state of the department, our challenges, and our progress. This document is our inaugural annual report, and we will issue one each summer at the conclusion of the academic year as a means to gauge our progress.

Mechanical engineering is the most popular major at Iowa State, as it has been for the past three years, and our impact continues to grow. The American Society for Engineering Education ranks the department among the top ten programs nationally in terms of bachelor's degrees awarded. In 2004, enrollment in the department reached an all-time high, but it has flattened since then and is now trending slightly downward. Our enrollment pattern mirrors the national trend in mechanical engineering education, where an ebb-and-flow exists between mechanical and electrical engineering enrollments. You may have read in the popular press that this year represented the peak for the "baby boomlet" generation entering universities. The state of Iowa's Department of Education forecasts a decline of some 10 percent in high school graduation rates over the next seven years.

At the departmental level, those demographic trends will be moderated by slight increases we are beginning to see in enrollment of out-of-state and international students. We began a new initiative directed at recruiting and retaining women in the mechanical engineering program, including social networking functions, professional development opportunities, mentorship, proactive recruiting, and new scholarships. We are collaborating with the National Academy of Engineering on this focused effort to attract top talent to our program. To further strengthen our undergraduate program, the department hired two full-time academic advisers, Johna Wolfe and Kevin Osgerby, and a program assistant for undergraduate study, Janelle Miranda. Senior adviser Doug Beck was promoted, and he now leads our advising program. Professor Greg Maxwell spearheaded creating a new minor degree in nuclear engineering, which will be offered in collaboration with other Big 12 universities. This exciting minor will have its center of gravity in the mechanical engineering department but will be available to any student in the college, and we are already seeing significant interest from students and the nuclear power industry.

With an eye to the future, this year the department completed a broad strategic planning initiative to define our roadmap to 2025. You may ask, why the year 2025? Children born today will enter our department at that time. Why will they choose to study mechanical engineering at lowa State? As a community of scholars, how do we envision the department's research and educational programs evolving? How will our department adapt to emerging demographic, globalization, technological, and financial trends? Professor Ted Heindel was appointed associate chair for academic affairs last fall, and he and an appointed strategic planning



committee engaged our faculty, staff, students, alumni, external advisory council, and other campus units in developing this shared vision. The recommendations of this important report lay the groundwork for us to continue delivering superior performance, making a distinctive impact, and being known for enduring contributions. In brief, the department's top priorities are to

- Extend our pillars of research excellence
- Strengthen our graduate program
- Enrich our undergraduate program
- Develop our people
- Build our community

You can download the plan at www.me.iastate.edu/strategicplan.html.

This year was also one of transition. We said goodbye to Professor Dick Pletcher, who retired after having served on the Iowa State faculty for 41 years, and to Professor Mike Pate, who retired after two decades of service. Professors Shankar Subramaniam and Sriram Sundararajan were promoted to the rank of associate professor with tenure. Professor Sundararajan was also appointed as the department's inaugural associate chair for graduate studies and research, and new initiatives are already underway for proactive recruiting and improving the admissions process for master's and doctoral students. Gloria Starns was promoted and now serves as the department's first senior lecturer. She brings a wealth of experience and a passion for world -class teaching to the classroom.

We have welcomed several new faces to our faculty and staff. Assistant Professor Gap Kim and Associate Professor Xinwei Wang joined the department, and they strengthen our signature research programs in both design and manufacturing innovation and biological and nanoscale sciences. In addition to the staff hired for the undergraduate program, six additional staff members joined our team: Mary Bilstad, program coordinator; Amy Carver, graduate program assistant; Janet Huggard, department secretary; Hyemi Sevening, director of development; Jessi Strawn, communications specialist; and Denise Wright, assistant to the chair. We had an active spring semester, which was directed at interviewing and recruiting faculty members for next year through both a departmental search and the college's cluster hire search. We look forward to several new colleagues joining our ranks in the coming year.

As the department grows, our faculty continues to be recognized for its excellence. For instance, Professor Robert Brown received the Impact Award from the Iowa State University Alumni Association, Professor Song-Charng Kong received the Society of Automotive Engineering's Ralph R. Teetor Educational Award, and Professor Sriram Sundararajan received the College of Engineering's Young Engineering Faculty Research award and Iowa State's award for Early Achievement in Teaching. Our faculty members, and the students who study with them, are creative researchers with an eye for bringing the principles of mechanical engineering to bear on technologies that meet important societal needs-energy and our environment, national security, health care, and cyberinfrastructure. Just in the past year, we collaborated in research across 24 departments on campus, all seven university colleges, 17 research institutes and centers, and 150 organizations outside of Iowa State. Mechanical engineering faculty members lead major research enterprises including the Bioeconomy Institute, the CyberInnovation Institute, the Virtual Reality Applications Center, and the Industrial Assessment Center. The department boasts internationally acclaimed programs in biological and nanoscale sciences, clean energy technologies, complex fluid systems, design and manufacturing innovation, and simulation and visualization.

In the past, at Iowa State and other public institutions, it was sufficient to expect that state allocations would fully cover operations and new initiatives. State funding now accounts for some 27 percent of Iowa State University's total budget and 55 percent of the general fund operating budget. Indeed, Iooking at public universities nationally, such percentages



are today the norm. The department has become increasingly proactive in responding to this new financial climate. Our research expenditures last year exceeded \$11M—a remarkable level of activity and innovation on the part of our faculty. We are grateful for the generous support of our alumni, friends, and industrial partners who share our vision and enthusiasm for moving the department forward.

We are honored to report that private gifting from individuals and corporations reached an all-time high this year. Our alumni and their families kindly established three new named faculty positions in the department: the Gary and Donna Hoover Chair, the Larry and Pam Pithan Professorship, and the William March Scholar. Our industrial partners are working with us to establish the nuclear engineering minor, enhance our students' capstone design experiences, and improve our advising, orientation, and recruiting services. Through the generosity of our community, we were able to award more than \$200,000 in scholarships and fellowships, which have become indispensable for attracting and retaining the best and brightest students. There is much work to be done in implementing our plans for the future. These investments by our many friends—and their embrace of our high goals—are wonderful commitments to the impact that we can make together, and their support of our students and faculty is sincerely appreciated.

We finished the year in a strong and favorable financial position with respect to both our state budget allocation and private gift development. Planning has begun at the departmental level to align our fiscal procedures with the university's transition to a new budgeting system, which will move revenues and costs to the local unit level, rather than be centrally vested. This budget model frames a new incentive structure for each department and college at the university, and with our strong enrollment and active research programs, we are well-positioned for adapting to these changes.

I think you will find our department continues the tradition of excellence you have come to expect and is well poised for many more advances and accomplishments to come. Should you wish to share your personal thoughts about the department's future, please do not hesitate to contact me by e-mail at wickert@iastate.edu or phone at 515 294-7121.

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Jonathan Wickert Chair, Department of Mechanical Engineering Larry and Pam Pithan Professor of Mechanical Engineering

# **PERFORMANCE INDICATORS**

# DEGREES AWARDED



Master's Degrees Awarded



Fiscal Year

**Doctoral Degrees Awarded** 





### **UNDERGRADUATE ENROLLMENT**



Fall Undergraduate Enrollment

Calendar Year

### **G**RADUATE ENROLLMENT



Calendar Year

Fall Graduate Female Enrollment



Calendar Year

# Fall Graduate Minority Enrollment





### **GRADUATE PROGRAM RECRUITING**



### **Complete Graduate Applications**











## FACULTY AND STAFF



Full-Time Equivalent Faculty



**O**PERATIONS



Departmental General University Budget

**Fiscal Year** 



Private Giving:



# RESEARCH

Doctoral dissertations	
Master's theses/projects	31
Journal publications	66
Conference publications	51
Patents	2



# **Research Expenditures**





### NATIONAL BENCHMARKS

Metric	Iowa State Mechanical Engineering	ASME Benchmark Group <sup>1</sup>
Student credit hours taught	13,731	12,828
BS degrees awarded	223	151
MS degrees awarded	31	40
PhD degrees awarded	8	15
Full professors	12	16
Associate professors	6	9
Assistant professors	9	8
Lecturers and instructors	6	2
Adjunct or courtesy faculty	4	4
External sponsored research expenditures per tenured or tenure track faculty member	\$387,000	\$185,000
Fraction of academic year salary required to buyout one course section	11%	14.8%
Academic year salary recovery through research grants and contracts per tenured or tenure track faculty member	\$2,900	\$6,900
Endowed faculty positions for tenured or tenure track faculty members	5	3.4
Fraction of overhead returned to faculty members	15%	9.1%
Graduate research stipend for calendar year	\$14,575	\$15,300
Half-time graduate teaching assistants supported per tenured or tenure track faculty member	0.48	0.4
University supported staff	15	13

<sup>1</sup>Carnegie classification peer group for very high research activity public universities

# American Society for Engineering Education's leading departments for bachelor's degrees in mechanical engineering

University	Degrees Awarded
1. Purdue	277 (tie)
2. Virginia Tech	277 (tie)
3. Georgia Institute of Technology	273
4. Pennsylvania State University	261
5. Kettering University	257
6. University of Michigan	223
7. Michigan Technological University	222
8. California Polytechnic State University, SLO	209
9. Iowa State University	207
10. University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign	205

# **EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS**

National Merit Scholars	2
Students in co-ops and internships	240
Scholarship recipients	
Scholarships awarded to students	\$256,658

- The Women in Mechanical Engineering program began with the goals of better explaining the rewards and excitement of careers in mechanical engineering and better retaining and recruiting women to the field.
- The nuclear engineering minor was approved by the College of Engineering.
- Iowa State's ethanol-powered formula car raced to an 18th-place finish against 130 student-designed and student-built cars at the 2007 Formula SAE (Society of Automotive Engineers) competition.
- The department's students collaborated with Camp Courageous of lowa to design a train for the enjoyment of children and adults with disabilities.
- Mechanical engineering faculty and students are key members of the lowa State team selected to compete in the Department of Energy's fourth Solar Decathlon to be held in Washington, D.C., in the fall of 2009.
- Inspired by the One Laptop Per Child program, an international movement to provide laptops for children in developing countries, sophomore students designed, built, and tested a human-powered battery charger that, with one minute of charging time, would power a laptop for 10 minutes.
- Samantha Hanson was selected to serve as the College of Engineering's student marshal during undergraduate commencement on December 15, 2007.
- Chris Deal was one of five Iowa State students who received the 2007 Wallace E. Barron All-University Senior Award.
- Rachael Waggoner interned with KÀ, a Cirque du Soleil production at the MGM Grand in Las Vegas.
- ME 389X, Applied Methods in Sustainable Engineering and International Development, was taught on-location in rural Africa over the summer of 2008.
- The human-powered vehicle team designed and built a multi-rider vehicle named Cyclocity for competition in the American Society of Mechanical Engineers East Coast Challenge in Wisconsin during April 2008. The team finished first overall in the tandem and second overall in the utility rider categories.
- Sol Invictus, Iowa State University's solar race car, completed the 2,400-mile North American Solar Challenge in July 2008 and finished in eighth place overall with a time of 91 hours and 12 minutes.
- Steve Corns and Stephen Gent received the College of Engineering's Teaching Excellence Award.
- Hemanth Porumamilla and Doug McCorkle received the College of Engineering's Research Excellence Award.

# **Research** portfolio

### STRATEGY

We have successfully identified research niches where we bring the principles of mechanical engineering to bear on important technologies that improve our society, and we benefit from a research climate that is forward looking and interdisciplinary. We collaborate with two dozen other departments, with every college on campus, with 17 interdisciplinary research institutes and centers, and with 150 organizations outside of Iowa State. Mechanical engineering faculty members lead major research enterprises including the Bioeconomy Institute, the CyberInnovation Institute, the Industrial Assessment Center, and the Virtual Reality Applications Center. With research supported by industry and governmental agencies, the department boasts internationally acclaimed programs in biological and nanoscale sciences, clean energy technologies, complex fluid systems, design and manufacturing innovation, and simulation and visualization. By any measure-patents, textbooks, awards, start-up companies, publications-the excellence of the department's faculty and students is widely recognized throughout the mechanical engineering community.



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### PROGRAMS Biological and Nanoscale Sciences

Pranav Shrotriya, Program Director

The biological and nanoscale sciences program investigates problems at the interface of engineering, biology, and nanotechnology, enabling us to apply the fundamental principles of mechanical engineering to expand opportunities for new science and engineering breakthroughs. By merging the engineering



fields of dynamics, materials, mechanics, fluid flow, and heat transfer with the scientific fields of chemistry, materials science, and biology, we pursue experimental and computational strategies to understand the physical principles specific to small scale and biological phenomena. This enabling research uses unique physics at the nanometer scale with a view toward revolutionizing areas such as biomedicine and biotechnology.

### Clean Energy Technologies



#### **Terry Meyer, Program Director**

The clean energy technologies program investigates alternative energy, energy efficiency, and advanced processes and materials that have reduced resource demand and environmental impact. The fast-growing needs of emerging economies cannot be met over the long term without advances in the

energy sciences. Driven by the escalating price of fuel, geopolitical instability, and air and water pollution, we are developing a new technological paradigm to power the world's economy. Our research on alternative energy encompasses solar, wind, biomass, geothermal, and advanced nuclear energy systems, and our work on energy efficiency technologies encompasses building energy use, fuel cells and distributed power systems, advanced hybrid vehicles and transportation systems, and low carbon emission power systems. Our work is directed at innovations that reduce carbon emissions and water consumption, while providing low-cost, high-performance substitutes for depleting natural resources.

# Complex Fluid Systems

#### Shankar Subramaniam, Program Director

The complex fluid systems program investigates non-Newtonian, multiphase, turbulent, and/or chemically reacting flows over multiple length and time scales. We develop unique experimental and computational techniques that advance our understanding of fluid flow phenomena and enable engineering applications, including fuel and



chemical production; biomass transport; particle dispersion; and heat exchangers in evaporators, boilers, and condensers. The efforts of this program pioneer new theories and models of complex fluid processes and validate these processes through novel experimental techniques and exploration tools.

### Design and Manufacturing Innovation Abhijit Chandra, Program Director

The design and manufacturing innovation program centers on transforming resources into useful and desirable products, cutting across all phases of the design and manufacturing cycle. In each phase, the transformation process is characterized in terms of innovation, quality, and efficiency, as well as meeting the needs of



consumers and aligning the design and manufacturing process with economic and regulatory structures. Novel experimental, computational, and analytical techniques are developed to advance our understanding of these transformation processes, as well as to study practical applications, including chemical mechanical planarization, laser processing, tribology at the micro/ nanoscale, surface engineering, and characterization for biomedical applications. The interplay among engineering, the marketplace, and the regulatory environment influences design and manufacturing decisions. Our efforts contribute to better theories, models, and technologies that improve the realization of products.

### Simulation and Visualization



#### **Eliot Winer, Program Director**

The simulation and visualization program investigates advanced computational and experimental techniques to understand and predict physical phenomena, as well as unique image rendering methods to enhance the interpretation of complex systems and data sets. This program develops and advances simulation and

visualization capabilities and applies them in a societal context. One goal is to enable scenarios for products or processes to be altered and tested in a virtual environment before any physical models are created. Such capability will significantly reduce the time and cost associated with product development, while improving the accuracy, efficiency, and robustness of a product or manufacturing process.

# DEPARTMENT ORGANIZATION



### EXTERNAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

Brett L. Anderson, PE Structures Technology Leader The Boeing Company

Larry Bodensteiner Senior Engineering Manager IBM Mechanical Design & Integration

Scott Bowman, PE Principal, KJWW

Craig Connell VP—Application Development Black & Veatch

Bruce Gibson Air Products & Chemicals, Inc

Mike Hilby Manager of Manufacturing John Deere Des Moines

Mike Jensen Automation Program Manager Technology & Solutions Division Caterpillar, Inc. Brad Knous LyondellBasell

Cynthia J. Lord, PE Manager—Fossil Fuel Procurement Alliant Energy

John Mammoser Consulting Engineer Rolf Jensen & Associates, Inc.

Celeste Six Account Manager Altec Industries

Bob Taylor Vice President Kiewit Power, Inc.

Sheryl Wreghitt SLW Quality Consulting, LLC

# Faculty *Professors*



Anson Marston Distinguished Professor

BS, Engineering Mechanics, University of Michigan, 1965 MS, Engineering Mechanics, University of Michigan, 1967 PhD, Engineering Mechanics, University of Michigan, 1971

Professor Bernard works with real-time applications of computer modeling and simulation, particularly vehicle dynamics applications, and interactions between technology and globalization.



#### Robert Brown

**James Bernard** 

Anson Marston Distinguished Professor Bergles Professor in Thermal Science Director, Bioeconomy Institute Director, Center for Sustainable Environmental Technologies

BS, Physics, University of Missouri, 1976 BA, Mathematics, University of Missouri, 1976 MS, Mechanical Engineering, Michigan State University, 1977 PhD, Mechanical Engineering, Michigan State University, 1980

Professor Brown is interested in the conversion of biorenewable resources into bioenergy and biobased products, combustion, gasification, fast pyrolysis, hydrogen energy, hydrodynamics, and heat transfer in fluidized beds.



Mark Bryden

Associate Professor

BS, General Engineering, Idaho State University, 1977 MS, Mechanical Engineering, University of Wisconsin, Madison, 1993 PhD, Mechanical Engineering, University of Wisconsin, Madison, 1998

Professor Bryden researches the virtual engineering of fluids and heat transfer systems within collaborative, immersive, and synthetic environments.

#### Abhijit Chandra



Professor

BTech, IIT, Kharagpur, India, 1978 MS, University of New Brunswick, Canada, 1980 PhD, Cornell University, 1983

Professor Chandra's research interests include mechanics of manufacturing processes, nanoscale surface modification, multiscale and multiphysics modeling, renewable energy, and the boundary element method.



LeAnn Faidley

Assistant Professor

BS, Physics, Iowa State University, 1999 BS, Engineering Science, Iowa State University, 1999 MS, Engineering Mechanics, Iowa State University, 2001 MS, Mechanical Engineering, The Ohio State University, 2005 PhD, Mechanical Engineering, The Ohio State University, 2006

Professor Faidley studies active/smart materials, structures and systems, the characterization, modeling, application, and control of magnetically activated materials, magnetorheological elastomers, and smart materials for medical devices.



#### Ted Heindel

Professor Associate Chair for Academic Affairs

BS, Mechanical Engineering, University of Wisconsin, Madison, 1988 MS, Mechanical Engineering, Purdue University, 1990 PhD, Mechanical Engineering, Purdue University, 1994

Professor Heindel is interested in x-ray flow visualization, fluid mechanics, multiphase flow hydrodynamics, and gas-liquid mass transfer.

#### Atul Kelkar



Professor

BS Mechanical Engineering, University of Poona, Pune, India, 1984 MS, Mechanical Engineering, Old Dominion University, Norfolk, VA, 1990 PhD, Mechanical Engineering, Old Dominion University, Norfolk, VA, 1993

Professor Kelkar researches control theory, robust and nonlinear control, acoustic noise control, vibration control, flexible multibody dynamics, integrated design via multiobjective optimization, robotics, and neural networks.



Gap-Yong Kim Assistant Professor

BS, Mechanical Engineering, Yonsei University, 1997 MS, Mechanical Engineering, University of Michigan, 2003 PhD, Mechanical Engineering, University of Michigan, 2005

Professor Kim works with manufacturing science at the microscale, microscale deformation processes, semisolid forming, modeling and fabricating microreactors, and energy conversion devices.



### Song-Charng Kong

Assistant Professor

BS, Power Mechanical Engineering, National Tsing-Hua University, Taiwan, 1987 MS, Mechanical Engineering, University of Wisconsin, Madison, 1992 PhD, Mechanical Engineering, University of Wisconsin, Madison, 1994

Professor Kong researches experimental engine combustion and emissions studies, biorenewable energy utilization in internal combustion engines, numerical combustion study and model development using detailed chemical kinetics with computational fluid dynamics, and optimization of engine performance via experiments and numerical models.



**Greg Luecke** Associate Professor

BS, Mechanical Engineering, University of Missouri, Columbia, 1979 MS, Engineering and Applied Science, Yale University, 1987 PhD, Mechanical Engineering, Pennsylvania State University, 1992

Professor Luecke's research interests include robotics and control, multibody dynamics and simulation, and artificial neural networks for control.



#### Adin Mann

Associate Professor Director of Graduate Education through January 2008

BS, Engineering Science, Iowa State University, 1984 PhD, Acoustics, The Pennsylvania State University, 1998

Professor Mann works with acoustics, noise control, and design optimization.



#### Greg Maxwell

Associate Professor Director, Industrial Assessment Center

BS, Physics, Purdue University, 1973 MS, Nuclear Engineering, Purdue University, 1977 PhD, Mechanical Engineering, Purdue University, 1984

Professor Maxwell's research interests include energy usage in buildings and HVAC systems, industrial energy efficiency, and nuclear energy.



### Terry Meyer

Assistant Professor

BS, Mechanical Engineering, University of Minnesota, 1993 MS, Mechanical Engineering, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, 1997 PhD, Mechanical Engineering, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, 2001

Professor Meyer's areas of interests are laser imaging and spectroscopy for reacting fluid flow and sprays, biorenewable fuels, combustion, power and propulsion, gas-turbines, scramjets, hypersonic vehicles, and internal combustion engines.

#### Pal Molian



Professor

BE, Indian Institute of Science, 1975 ME, Indian Institute of Science, 1977 PhD, Oregon Graduate Institute of Science and Technology, 1982

Professor Molian works with materials and manufacturing with a focus on laser processing, nanotechnology, microelectromechanical systems, and solid freeform fabrication.



#### Ron Nelson

Professor

BS, Mechanical Engineering, Iowa State University, 1970 MS, Mechanical Engineering, Iowa State University, 1972 PhD, Mechanical Engineering, Stanford University, 1981

Professor Nelson's interests include energy conversion and utilization, environmental control, thermal system optimization, and applied artificial intelligence.



# Jim Oliver

Professor Director, Virtual Reality Application Center

BS, Mechanical Engineering, Union College, 1979 MS, Mechanical Engineering, Michigan State University, 1981 PhD, Mechanical Engineering, Michigan State University, 1986

Professor Oliver's areas of interest include design and manufacturing process automation using geometric modeling, computer graphics, visualization, simulation, optimization, virtual reality, and human-computer interaction.

#### Mike Olsen



Associate Professor Associate Chair for Undergraduate Studies

BS, Mechanical Engineering, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, 1992 MS, Mechanical Engineering, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, 1995 PhD, Mechanical Engineering, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, 1999

Professor Olsen is active in experimental fluid mechanics and microelectromechanical systems.



#### Pranav Shrotriya

Virginia and William Binger Assistant Professor

BT, Mechanical Engineering, Indian Institute of Technology, 1995 MS, Theoretical and Applied Mathematics, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, 1997 PhD, Theoretical and Applied Mathematics, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, 2001

Professor Shrotriya researches the mechanical response of micro- and nanoscale structures, experimental and computational mechanics at small-length scales, mechanics of surface stress sensors and molecular adsorption, stress-assisted dissolution and damage of biomedical implants, and mechanics of manufacturing processes.



#### Shankar Subramaniam

Associate Professor

BT, Aeronautical Engineering, Indian Institute of Technology, 1988 MS, Aerospace Engineering, University of Notre Dame, 1990 PhD, Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering, Cornell University, 1997

Professor Subramaniam's research interests include spray modeling, modeling and simulation of gas-particle flows and granular flows, combustion, turbulent reactive flows, mixing, stochastic models, particle methods, and computational fluid dynamics.

#### Sriram Sundararajan



Associate Professor Associate Chair for Graduate Studies and Research

BE, Mechanical Engineering, Birla Institute of Technology and Science, 1995

MS, Mechanical Engineering, The Ohio State University, 1997 PhD, Mechanical Engineering, The Ohio State University, 2001

Professor Sundararajan's research areas of interest are surface engineering, micro- and nanoscale tribology, multiscale mechanical behavior of materials, scanning probe microscopy, and thin film characterization using three dimensional atom probe microscopy.



#### Judy Vance

Professor

BS, Mechanical Engineering, Iowa State University, 1980 MS, Mechanical Engineering, Iowa State University, 1987 PhD, Mechanical Engineering, Iowa State University, 1992

Professor Vance works with virtual reality applications in mechanical engineering including virtual assembly, virtual manufacturing and mechanism synthesis, optimization, and the fundamentals of engineering design including ideation and concept generation.



# Xinwei Wang

Associate Professor

BS, Thermal Science and Energy Engineering, University of Science and Technology of China, 1994 MS, Thermal Science and Energy Engineering, University of Science and Technology of China, 1996 PhD, Mechanical Engineering, Purdue University, 2001

Professor Wang's areas of interests are laser-assisted bio-imaging, thermal transport in nanoscale and nanostructured materials, novel technique developments for thermal conductivity measurement of films, coatings and micro- and nanoscale wires/rubes, and laserassisted nanostructuring.

#### Jonathan Wickert



Department Chair Larry and Pam Pithan Professor of Mechanical Engineering

BS, Mechanical Engineering, University of California at Berkeley, 1985 MS, Mechanical Engineering, University of California at Berkeley, 1987 PhD, Mechanical Engineering, University of California at Berkeley, 1989

Professor Wickert's research interests include mechanical vibration and noise control, continuous and multibody systems dynamics, applied mechanics, applications in computer data storage, flexible web material manufacturing, and friction-vibration interaction.



#### Eliot Winer

Assistant Professor

BS, Aeronautical and Astronautical Engineering, The Ohio State University, 1992

MS, Mechanical Engineering, State University of New York at Buffalo, 1994

PhD, Mechanical Engineering, State University of New York at Buffalo, 1999

Professor Winer is active in Internet technology for large-scale collaborative design; medical imaging, analysis and visualization, multidisciplinary design synthesis, computer aided design and graphics, application in optimal design, and scientific visualization and virtual reality for large-scale design.



#### Qingze Zou

Assistant Professor

BS, Automatic Control, University of Electronic Science and Technology of China, 1994 MS, Mechanical Engineering, Tsinghua University, 1997 PhD, Mechanical Engineering, University of Washington, 2003

Professor Zou's research areas of interests include precision positioning, inversion-based control theory, scanning probe microscopy, and nanofabrication.

### Senior lecturer



**Gloria Starns** 

### Lecturers



Bill Bathie



Sebastien Feve



Max Gassman



Matt Hagge



Jim Heise



Rajeev Madhavan Nair



Zhaohui (George) Qin

**Adjunct and courtesy appointments Robert Anex**, Adjunct Associate Professor Associate Professor, Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering

**Ashraf Bastawros**, Adjunct Associate Professor Associate Professor, Aerospace Engineering

**Joseph N. Gray**, Adjunct Associate Professor Physicist, Center for Nondestructive Evaluation

**John McClelland**, Adjunct Associate Professor Senior Physicist, Ames Laboratory

# STAFF Business office



**Mary Bilstad** Program Coordinator



**Amy Carver** Program Assistant for Graduate Education



Janet Huggard Department Secretary



Carol Knutson Account Clerk



**Cindy Manning** Educational Programs Secretary



Janelle Miranda Program Assistant for Undergraduate Education



**Jessi Strawn** Communications Specialist



**Denise Wright** Administrative Specialist, Assistant to Chair

# Kiewit Undergraduate Student Services Center



**Doug Beck** Academic Adviser Center Director



Sherrie Nystrom Secretary



Kevin Osgerby Academic Adviser



**Johna Wolfe** Academic Adviser

### Laboratory and information technology



**Larry Couture** Teaching Laboratory Coordinator



Jim Dautremont Laboratory Mechanical Technologist



**Nate Jensen** System Support Specialist



Hap Steed Manager, Technical Services

# Honors

### **ENDOWED FACULTY POSITIONS**

Anson Marston Distinguished Professor	James Bernard
	Robert Brown
Bergles Professor of Thermal Science	Robert Brown
Larry and Pam Pithan Professor of Mechanical Engineering	Jonathan Wickert
Virginia and William Binger Assistant Professor	Pranav Shrotriya
Gary and Donna Hoover Chair in Mechanical Engineering	Open
William March Scholar of Mechanical Engineering	Baskar
	Ganapathysubramanian
	(Beginning AY 2008–2009)
Schaefer 2050 Challenge Professor	Valery Levitas
	(Beginning AY 2008–2009)

#### **PROFESSIONAL SOCIETY FELLOWS**

American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics	Terry Meyer
	(associate fellow)
American Society of Mechanical Engineers	Robert Brown
	Abhijit Chandra
	Atul Kelkar
	Jim Oliver
	Judy Vance
	Jonathan Wickert

### **ISU** HONORS AND AWARDS

Superior Engineering Teaching Award	Sriram Sundararajan
ISU Alumni Association Impact Award	Robert Brown
Young Engineering Faculty Research Award	Pranav Shrotriya
Staff Exceptional Performance Award	Nate Jensen
Learning Community Scholarship Award	.Doug Beck

### NATIONAL AWARDS AND HONORS

SAE Ralph R. Teetor Educational Award......Song-Charng Kong

# FACULTY HIGHLIGHTS

**Robert Brown** was named Anson Marston Distinguished Professor in the College of Engineering. He was also appointed Director of the Bioeconomy Institute, newly established by the Iowa Board of Regents this past fall. The institute will be housed in the Biorenewables Research Laboratory Building to be constructed in the College of Engineering with \$32 million provided by the state legislature.

**Mark Bryden** taught ME 389X, Applied Methods in Sustainable Engineering and International Development, in rural Mali with seven undergraduate

students. The class worked on engineering design of water systems valve, household cook stoves, and village lighting. It was the first mechanical engineering class to be taught in rural Africa.

**Ted Heindel** led the 2025 Committee in developing the department's most comprehensive strategic plan. One of his graduate students, Nathan Franka, and his Experimental Multiphase Flow Laboratory were featured in the March, 28, 2008, issue of *U.S. News & World Report* on graduate education. Based on research performed in his laboratory, a Freshmen Honors student, Timothy Morgan, received an honorable mentioned at an ASME student paper competition where all other student entries were seniors or graduate students.

**Jim Heise** received an Engineering Leadership Award at the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Engineering Student Council Banquet after being nominated by the SAE Student Branch. He was appointed design projects coordinator for the department.

**Song-Charng Kong**'s engine research laboratory examined innovative uses of biodiesel by using it to dissolve waste plastics. The fuel mixture of biodiesel and plastic was burned in an internal combustion engine. This study continues to investigate the combustion characteristics of such fuel mixtures as a means for energy recovery from waste.

**Terry Meyer**'s work on laser diagnostics and biorenewable fuels has appeared in publications ranging from *Mechanical Engineering Magazine* to the prestigious inaugural issue of *Annual Reviews in Analytical Chemistry*. He was recently named general co-chair of the next Optical Society of America's Conference on Laser Applications to Chemical, Security, and Environmental Analysis.

**Gloria Starns** was promoted to the rank of senior lecturer, appointed technology schedule coordinator, and began a project to teach mechanical engineering in a value-based societal context.

**Shankar Subramaniam** was promoted to associate professor and appointed director of the complex fluid systems research program. He also serves as director of the Women in Mechanical Engineering program.

**Sriram Sundararajan** was promoted to associate professor and named the associate chair for graduate studies and research.

**Jonathan Wickert** was elected to the executive committee for the ASME Department Chairs Forum and was awarded Iowa State's Larry and Pam Pithan Professorship. His most recent PhD graduates took positions at North Dakota State University and Sandia National Laboratories. He participated in planning and developing the data storage technology roadmap of the Information Storage Industry Consortium.

# **DOCTORAL DISSERTATIONS**

#### **Muhammad Ali**

Dissertation: Study of a compact energy absorber Major Professor: Greg Luecke

#### **Mark Barker**

Dissertation: Predicting loads on ground engaging tillage tools using computational fluid dynamics Major Professor: Adin Mann

#### **Steven Corns**

Dissertation: The role of information flow in engineering optimization Major Professor: Mark Bryden

#### Balasubramaniam Karthikeyan

Dissertation: A virtual engineering framework to support progressive interaction in engineering design Major Professor: Mark Bryden

#### **Douglas McCorkle**

Dissertation: Establishing an advanced engineering framework for engineering decision making Major Professor: Mark Bryden

#### Hemanth V. Porumamilla

Dissertation: Modeling, analysis and nonlinear and nonlinear control of a novel pneumatic semi-active vibration isolator: A concept validation study Major Professor: Atul Kelkar

#### Aditya Choudary Velivelli

Dissertation: Development of a multiblock solver utilizing the lattice Boltzmann and traditional finite difference methods for fluid flow problems Major Professor: Mark Bryden

#### Li Zhang

Dissertation: Experimental and simulation study of demand controlled ventilation Major Professor: Greg Maxwell

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Tang, C. and **T.J. Heindel**, "Effect of Fiber Length Distribution on Gas Holdup in a Cocurrent Gas-Liquid-Fiber Bubble Column," *Chemical Engineering Science*, 62(5): 1408-1417, 2007.

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**Meyer, T.R.**, G.B. King, M. Gluesenkamp, and J.R. Gord, "Simultaneous High-Speed Measurement of Temperature and Lifetime-Corrected OH Laser-Induced Fluorescence in Unsteady Flames," *Optics Letters*, 32(15): 2221-2223, 2007.

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# **C**ONFERENCE PUBLICATIONS AND PROCEEDINGS

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Yu, M., A. Gupta, and **K.M. Bryden**, "Sensor Response and Sensor Network Development for Practical Combustors," Proceedings of the 16<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Computer Communications and Networks, Honolulu, HI, 2007.

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Wang, X., P. Karra, **A. Chandra**, A.F. Bastawros, R. Biswas, P. Sherman, and L. Yao, "A Multi-scale Predictive Model for Wafer Surface Evolution During CMP Process Incorporating Slurry Evolution," Proceedings of the 12<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Chemical-Mechanical Polish (CMP) Planarization for ULSI Multilevel Interconnection (CMP-MIC), Fremont, CA, 2007.

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Park, K., **G.Y. Kim**, and J. Ni, "Design and Analysis of Ultrasonic Assisted Friction Stir Welding," Proceedings of IMECE2007, ASME International Mechanical Engineering Congress and Exposition, Seattle, WA., November 11–15, 2007.

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Zhang, Y. and **S. Sundararajan**, "A method to generate biomimetic superhydrophobic engineering surfaces," Proceedings of the 2007 Spring Meeting of the Materials Research Society, San Francisco, CA, April 2007, MRS. Faas, D., A. Fischer, and **J.M. Vance**, "Interactive mesh-free stress analysis for mechanical design assembly with haptics," ASME 2007 International Design Engineering Technical Conferences & Computers and Information in Engineering Conference, September 4–7, 2007, Las Vegas, NV, DETC2007-34660.

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