

Materials Science and Engineering

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY
College of Engineering

Elements

June 2016



Congratulations Class of 2016!

Iowa State University's Commencement weekend took place May 5-7, 2016. The MSE Department saw degrees conferred upon 37 undergraduates and five graduate students.

On the morning of May 7, MSE faculty and staff gathered with graduating students and their families at the Undergraduate Pre-Commencement reception held at the Scheman Building. Each graduate was given the chance to speak about their favorite memories and future plans.

Awards were given to two students at the reception. Jake Sporrer (*pictured upper right*) received the MSE Student Leadership and Service Award, and Chris Whitmore (*pictured lower left*) received the Outstanding Senior Award.

Sporrer, along with fellow alum Brian Fuchs, spoke about their [future plans](#) for a story

featured by the College. Sporrer plans to head to the University of California-Berkeley this fall to pursue a Ph.D. in electrical engineering. Fuchs heads south to Georgia Tech this fall to begin his Ph.D. in mechanical engineering.



MSE alumni chosen for NSF Fellowships

Two Iowa State materials engineering alumni were recently selected for the National Science Foundation's [Graduate Research Fellowship Program](#). The students are among 2000 individuals receiving awards in 2016 out of 17,000 applicants.

Trent Borman (*above left*) graduated in 2014. He is currently completing an M.S. at Penn State and will then attend North Carolina State University to pursue his Ph.D. Borman's research is in the area of high entropy materials. His team is working to achieve entropy stabilization with ceramics like oxides, nitrides, and carbides.

Rachel Creighton (*above right*) is a 2015 graduate. She is studying bioengineering at the University of Washington and works in the Woodrow Lab studying biomaterials approaches to preventing and treating mucosal infections. Her current project looks at the prevention of HIV infection by analyzing the effects of nanoparticle encapsulation of antiretroviral drugs.



Graduate students receive University Excellence Awards

Three MSE graduate students received University Excellence Awards for Spring 2016. Chris Celania (left) received a Teaching Excellence Award for his work as a teaching assistant. Stephanie Choquette (center) and Hakan Yavas (right) each received Research Excellence Awards for their dissertation work. The awardees are pictured with their certificates and honor cords to be worn at their respective graduations.



2016 Trivedi and Gschneidner Awards

The MSE Department recently announced its [2016 Departmental Award](#) recipients.

Trivedi Best Paper

Named for MSE Distinguished Professor Rohit Trivedi, the Trivedi Best Paper Award is given annually for the best MSE graduate student paper. This year's recipient is Xiaoming Liu (*left*). Liu's paper titled "Giant Strains in Non-Textured ($\text{Bi}_{1/2}\text{Na}_{1/2}$) TiO_3 -Based Lead-Free Ceramics" was published in *Advanced Materials* November 24, 2015. Liu graduated with his Ph.D. in fall 2015 and currently works as a postdoc in Dr. Xiaoli Tan's lab here at Iowa State.

The Karl A. Gschneidner "Go for the Gold" Award

Named for the late MSE Distinguished professor Karl A. Gschneidner Jr., the "Go for the Gold" Award is given annually to an MSE student for the most exciting and breakthrough research carried out in any MSE topical area during a calendar year. This year's recipient is Xinchun Tian (*right*). Tian is a second-year Ph.D. student working with Dr. Ludovico Cademartiri. Tian's work focuses on surfaces with superhydrophobicity, or surfaces that can prevent water from sticking to them.

More News:



Francis named Outstanding Senior

Taylor Francis, a materials engineering senior from Prior Lake, MN, was named a Spring 2016 [Outstanding Senior](#) by the College of Engineering.

Building a Legacy: Materials engineering students keep their degrees in the family

In Dr. Larry Genalo's MAT E 316: Computational Methods in Materials course this spring, there were six different students who were related in some way to a student who had previously gone through (or in



Bygd featured by College

Hannah Bygd, a graduate student with Dr. Kaitlin Bratlie, was recently featured in a [profile article](#) published by the College of Engineering. Bygd is a Spring 2016 graduate whose work focused on using materials to improve immunology.

First-year engineering students gain unique experience through First-Year Honors Mentors Project

The desire to expand their reach and introduce another generation to engineering led a few first-year engineering students to pursue an interesting research project through the Iowa State University Honors Program. Dr. Larry Genalo paired 14 of

some cases, was still in) the materials science program. Two of those students, [Daniel Acton and Daniel Regenscheid](#), [spoke](#) about what it's like having this unique bond.

these first-year honors students with teams of elementary education students in this Toying with Technology™ course. Read more about their experiences here.

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