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**Materials Science and Engineering**

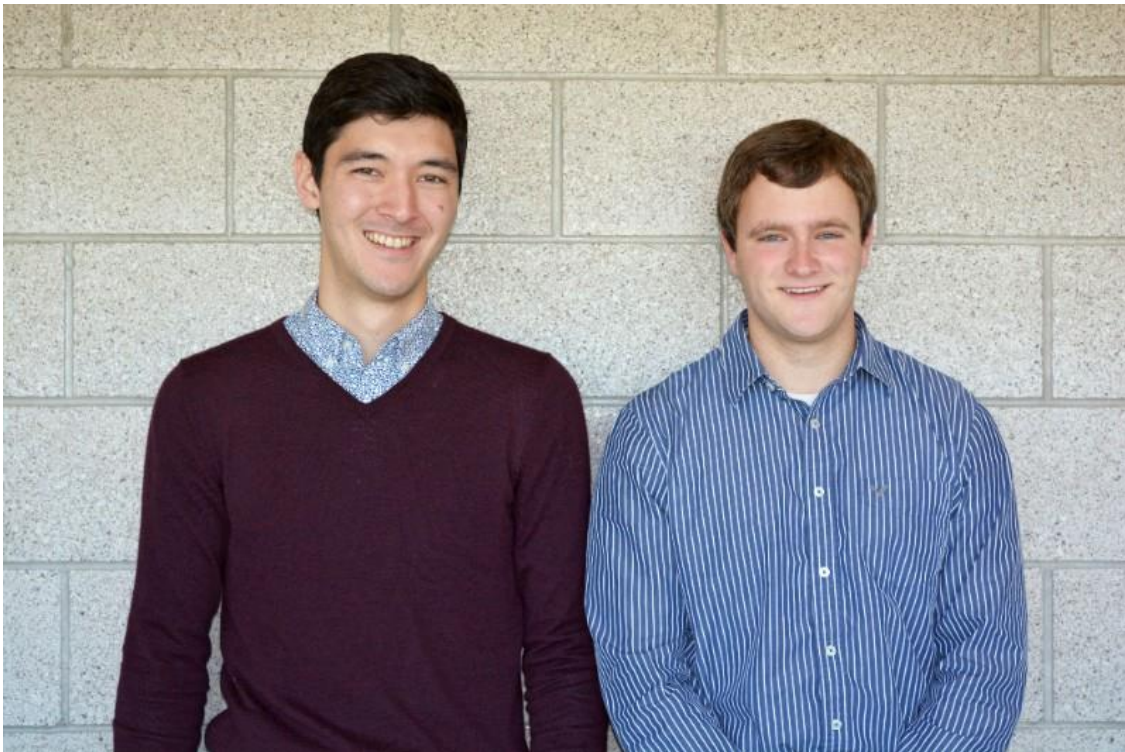
IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

College of Engineering



**Elements**

## [MAT E student a co-lead for team of engineering students in the SpaceX Hyperloop Competition](#)



Andrew Kitahara (left), senior in materials engineering, and Brandon Klosterman, senior in mechanical engineering are leading a team of engineering students in the SpaceX Hyperloop competition

### **November 2015**

In June 2015, Elon Musk, CEO and CTO of SpaceX and CEO and product architect of Tesla Motors, issued a challenge. He established an open competition geared towards university students and independent engineering teams to design and build the best Hyperloop pod.

Andrew Kitahara, a senior in materials engineering, and Brandon Klosterman, a senior in

mechanical engineering, are leading a group of 50 College of Engineering students who are taking on SpaceX and Musk's Hyperloop challenge.

Kitahara and Klosterman met a few years ago during a study abroad in Italy, but it was after a chance meeting this summer that the duo decided to put a team together. Kitahara said he was motivated to pursue this project after reading about it in the news over the summer. He decided to take on the challenge before he even had an idea or a team together, figuring he could generate enough interest in the project that students would want to get involved once everyone was back on campus. He gave his pitch to Klosterman during their meeting on a subway platform and after researching it for a few days, Klosterman was all in, and the team began to take shape.

Kitahara said one of their goals was to create as diverse of a team as possible, with students from across the College of Engineering and the university coming together to show what Iowa State students can do. Currently, the duo have put together a multidisciplinary team composed of students in aerospace engineering, electrical engineering, mechanical engineering, materials engineering, industrial engineering, computer engineering, as well as a couple computer science students.

"We decided we wanted this to be Iowa State's team," Kitahara said. "I want this to be not about me or Brandon or any particular major. We wanted this to be the team that goes all the way to show what Iowa State University is capable of doing and what we are capable of delivering. I want to build recognition of our school to be world class, the same way I see it. I want to share my vision of our school with everybody."

[Read more](#)

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- **Larry Genalo, University Professor,** penned a [Dean's Blog guest post](#) about the **Toying with Technology** program.



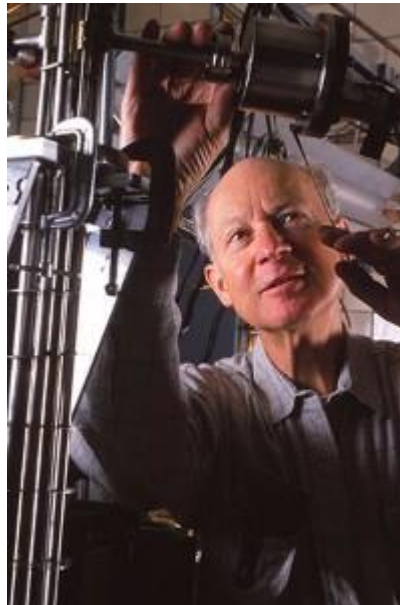
- Steve Martin, Distinguished Professor, received the 2015 Ceramic Education Council's [Outstanding Educator Award](#) for his advancements in ceramics education.



- Emily Kinser (Materials Engineering & Political Science '04, MS '05) received the [2015 Outstanding Young Alumni Award](#) given by the ISU Alumni Association. She is pictured with Jeffery Johnson, the Lora and Russ Talbot Endowed President and CEO of the ISU Alumni Association (*photo by Christopher Gannon/Iowa State University*)

- Xiaoli Tan, Professor, and student Xiaoming Liu had their paper "Giant Strains in Non-Textured (Bi<sub>12</sub>Na<sub>1/2</sub>) TiO<sub>3</sub>-based Lead-free Ceramics" accepted for publication in *Advanced Materials*.

- Karl Gschneidner, Distinguished Professor, [celebrated his 85th birthday](#) with a colloquium held in his honor on Nov. 16. The colloquium, titled "Rare Earths for Life," honored "Mr. Rare Earth" for his over six decades of research in rare-earth metals.





- **Kaitlin Bratlie, Assistant Professor and Mike and Denise Mack Faculty Fellow, was named the recipient of the 2015 MSE Akinc Excellence in Teaching and Akinc Excellence in Research Awards.**

- **Michelle Lenkaitis, Administrative Specialist, was named the recipient of the 2015 MSE Akinc Excellence in Service Award.**



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