MAT E alums return to campus for Fall 2015 College of Engineering Career Fair

October 2015

The Fall 2015 College of Engineering Career Fair took place at Hilton Coliseum and the Scheman Building on Tuesday, Sept. 29, 2015. The MSE department had students milling about waiting to talk with potential employers, many of whom were ISU alums. Two of those alums, Jake Ecklund (Mat E, ‘10) and Nolan Nelson (Mat E, ‘08) manned the SSAB booth with
current co-op student Jordan Ritland. All three were excited to talk with students and share their experiences with potential employees.

SSAB is a staple of the career fair, having a booth there every semester looking for employees, particularly potential co-op students. Both Ecklund and Nelson got their starts as co-op students before being hired by SSAB full-time upon graduation. Both have worked at SSAB since then as metallurgists and research analysts. Ritland said he first knew of the company after going to the career fair last year. He noticed they were specifically looking for materials engineering students and stopped to give them his information. He later got an interview and is currently working as a co-op student.

Ecklund and Nelson said that the education they received in the department is still a huge part of their lives today.

“All the things we got to do hands-on at Iowa State, I feel like that has benefitted me tremendously,” Ecklund said. “Looking at microstructures and the physical properties, having done a lot of the things that are asked of me at my job while I was in school, I feel like there is a strong focus within the department on exactly what industry is interested in.”

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At the 2015 College of Engineering Convocation, Dean Sarah Rajala recognized Kaitlin Bratlie, assistant professor (pictured top left), as the Michael and Denise
Mack Faculty Fellow, and Martin Thuo (pictured bottom left), assistant professor, as a Black & Veatch Building a World of Difference Faculty Fellow in Engineering. Rajala also recognized professor Nicola Bowler (pictured top right), research professor Brian Gleeson, and adjunct professor Iver Anderson with patent awards.

- At the 2015 Iowa State University awards ceremony, Kristen Constant (pictured bottom right), department chair, was named a Morrill Professor. Alan Constant, senior lecturer, received the Iowa State University Award for Outstanding Achievement in Teaching and the Louis Thompson Distinguished Undergraduate Teaching Award.

- Professor emeritus and Ames Lab associate scientist John (Jack) F. Smith passed away Sept. 26, 2015.

- Final enrollment figures for Fall 2015 have been released by Iowa State University. Total enrollment is 36,001 students, which is the largest in school history and an increase of 3.7 percent from last year. The College of Engineering continues to be the largest college on campus, with enrollment of 9312 students. The MSE department has enrollment of 341 students: 266 undergraduate students and 75 graduate students.
The College Relations Department recently profiled two of our new faculty members, Lecturer Tim Cullinan and Al and Julie Renken Associate Professor Peter Collins.

The 2015 MSE Fall Rally was held Friday, Oct. 2. This was a new event held this year for students, faculty and staff to come together for food, fun, and fellowship.