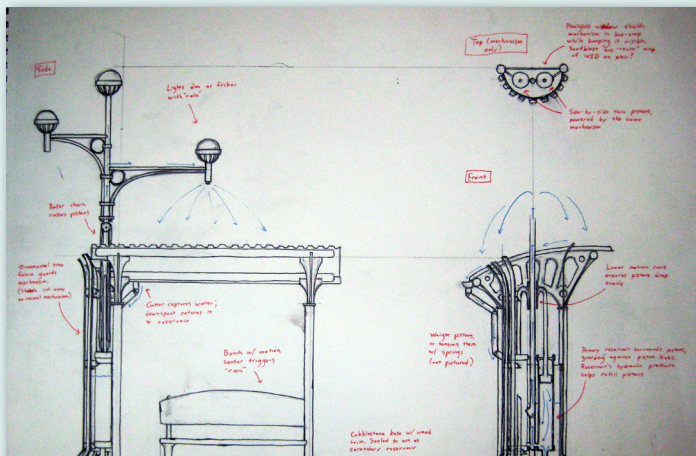




DEPARTMENT OF
**Materials Science
and Engineering**
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

SUMMER 2015

DEPARTMENT NEWS
www.engr.wisc.edu/mse



THE SCIENCE OF ART AND THE ART OF SCIENCE

A popular new course gives engineering undergraduate students and students from the art department the opportunity to work together on a complex design project—designing a fountain for the Wisconsin Institutes for Discovery building.

Read more: go.wisc.edu/wid-fountain

Advancing engineering for a better society: Los Alamos leader named Grainger Institute director

Alumnus Dan Thoma has become the first director of the Grainger Institute. Thoma earned his PhD in 1992 in metallurgical engineering from UW-Madison and is the deputy division leader for the Los Alamos National Laboratory Materials Science and Technology Division.

Read more: go.wisc.edu/thoma-grainger



Padma Gopalan receives prestigious Romnes Faculty Fellowship

Professor Padma Gopalan is one of two engineering faculty to be honored with a 2015 Romnes Faculty Fellowship. Gopalan is exploring self-assembling polymers for bioinspired applications.

Read more: go.wisc.edu/gopalan-romnes



I'm excited to tell you about a major change to our graduate programs that will enhance our ability to deliver an outstanding graduate experience to our students. Through careful study, we have decided to merge the Materials Science Program into our department graduate program. This unified approach not only will build a stronger sense of community among all our graduate students, but it also will establish uniform standards for graduate education while strengthening the opportunities for interdisciplinary research and education from across campus. External and internal review committees have targeted this reorganization as a key goal in recent years. Students and faculty in the two programs overwhelmingly support it.

We continue to look for additional opportunities to enrich our students' educations. In the fall 2014 semester, for example, we offered a unique cross-listed course that brought engineering undergraduate students together with students from the art department to work on a unique and complex project—designing a fountain for the Wisconsin Institutes for Discovery building. The hands-on course was so well received that we decided to offer it as a freshman course, which we refer to as “da Vinci Engineering.”

We've also enhanced our senior capstone experience by providing our seniors industry-supported projects that enable them to address real issues in industry. Support from our industrial partners also allows us, for example, to upgrade our student facilities and to expose our students to instruments they will see in the workplace. And, companies that engage with the department can work with and mentor students, as well as access instrumentation and relevant research expertise. We continue to seek enhanced relationships with industry through our industrial affiliates program (WIMSEA) and through senior capstone projects.

You probably heard the level of state funding to the university will be cut, and we're taking a strategic approach to addressing our reduced funding. However, we are committed to continuing to provide our students with a high-quality education. Support from industry and alumni is important, as it provides us the means to build upon our excellence and extend additional opportunities to our students and our faculty. I'd like to thank all of you who have made gifts to the department. Thank you for your continued support and generosity.

Don Stone, Professor and Chair

go.wisc.edu/mse-giving

Thank you for your continued support of the UW-Madison Department of Materials Science and Engineering.

If you'd like to make a gift, you have a variety of options, including estate gifts, matching gifts, endowments, and an annual gift, among others. If you're considering a gift, contact Aaron Mullins, (608) 890-1486, aaronmullins@supportuw.org



College of Engineering
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

Department of Materials Science & Engineering
1509 University Ave.
Madison, WI 53706

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 658
Madison, WI