

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

College of Engineering

Parent Newsletter

September 2013

Family members,

Welcome to the fall 2013 semester and our inaugural parent and family advocate newsletter. I am delighted you have registered with the college to receive this great resource. We have three editions planned this year, including an additional November and January edition. Each newsletter is published with the goal of providing family members updates in regards to the college, important dates for you to discuss with your student, and information on resources and programs available to your student as a freshman in engineering.

The fall has gotten off to a great start with record attendance at Destination Iowa State's Welcome event, the university's Club Fest, and our Engineering Student Council's Welcome and Get Involved in Engineering event. Each event was delivered to assist your student's transition to campus and share all the college's great activities and clubs/organizations. Several of these opportunities are featured in the stories that follow.

Notably, this newsletter arrives to you at the same time your student is beginning to participate in his/her first exams. With this, many students will experience anxiety in regards to preparing for the test preparation, performing well on first exams, and developing effective study skills and personal time management. Your student's academic adviser is a great resource for your student to discuss any concerns. A listing of all College of Engineering academic advisers is available on our Engineering Student Services website at www.engineering.iastate.edu/student-services/advising/advising-center. Additional academic resources available to your student include supplemental instruction and tutoring through our campus Academic Success Center. Information on these services is available at: www.dso.iastate.edu/asc/resources.

As you talk with your student about transitioning to campus, please do not hesitate to contact our Engineering Student Services center at 515-294-8993 to speak with any of our full time staff; or contact me directly at 515-294-1570.

We look forward to our partnership with you to assist in your student's success at Iowa State.

Go Cyclones!
Joel Johnson
Director, Student Services

ISU Cyclone

Family Weekend

October 25-27, 2013

Find out more online at:

www.familyweekend.iastate.edu

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LEAD Program

Dear Engineering Student Families:

Greetings from the Diversity Programs Office in the College of Engineering's Student Services! It's an exciting time to be a student in the College of Engineering at Iowa State University. My name is Dr. LeQuetia Ancar, and I am the assistant director of student services and multicultural liaison officer (MLO) for the College of Engineering. I am honored to have the opportunity to support your student's journey to an engineering degree. As the MLO for the college, I coordinate programs and services through the Leadership through Engineering Academic Diversity (LEAD) Program to aid in the academic, professional, and social-cultural development, success, and retention of multicultural and women students. This is done in a multitude of ways; some of which are highlighted below:

- ◆ Participation in the LEAD Living and Learning Community with other first year and transfer multicultural engineering students with the mentorship of upperclassmen peer mentors.
- ◆ Enrollment in a series of seminars (Engr 104 and Engr 105) in the fall and spring semesters, that are focused on academic, professional and social-cultural development.
- ◆ Access to the LEAD Study Center and resources: computers, printing, team meeting space, sample test files and library of textbooks.
- ◆ Academic support through tutoring and opportunities for participation in study tables facilitated by upperclassmen mentors for engineering foundational courses: math, chemistry, physics, computer programming and others.
- ◆ Professional and social networking experiences with engineering faculty, staff, students and industry professionals.
- ◆ Acclimation support through academic and personal advising and referrals to campus partners to aid in the transition from high school to college life.

Students do not have to apply to be a part of the LEAD Program and are welcome to take advantage of services, programs and opportunities offered as needed. Here are a few words from students who have benefitted from the LEAD Program:

"LEAD has definitely helped me in all aspects of my college transition. Being part of the LEAD Learning Community has helped me make connections with peers that you just don't get in a regular class."

"I enjoyed being able to meet others who are similar to me and could help me out whenever I needed help. The peer mentors were extremely helpful too."

"I enjoyed the faculty luncheons and meeting others. I like having volunteer opportunities."

"I have enjoyed the many friendships that were created from these memorable experiences. My network and knowledge of engineering has expanded."

"I enjoyed the environment and very fun and interactive experience which fellow classmates and professionals who came in to talk to us."

"LEAD helped me get acquainted with the college atmosphere and the expectations of a college level course."

"The engineering application visits were very helpful in learning what happens behind the scenes in engineering fields."

Building community through connections and collaboration are at the heart of the LEAD Program. If there is ever anything that I can do to help you as you assist your student, please don't hesitate give me a call or send me an email. Feel free to refer your student to my office in 110 Marston if you feel they could benefit from additional support. My door is always open. Together we can provide the best web of support to our multicultural and women students.

Sincerely,
Dr. Ancar



Dr. LeQuetia Ancar has served in academic and student affairs for the past 11 years in both the College of Engineering and the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. As the assistant director of student services and multicultural liaison officer for the College of Engineering, she currently coordinates diversity programs and services to aid in the success and retention of multicultural and female undergraduate engineering students through the Leadership through Engineering Academic Diversity (LEAD) Program. With a focus on building community, connection, and collaboration she has dedicated her career to helping students discover and reach their full potential. Dr. Ancar earned her PhD from Iowa State's Department of Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering in Industrial and Agricultural Technology.

Marching Band

The Iowa State University Cyclone Football 'Varsity' Marching Band is a very visible and energetic part of Iowa State's culture in the fall semester. Our membership spans most majors offered at our university and our students consistently achieve high academic honors. Over half of our 335 members are engineering majors. These numbers reflect the value our students place upon music in their lives.

For our students band isn't life, but a way of life. Our students learn that teamwork, responsibility and leadership are essential to success. This is reflected in the high placement rate of our band students and the value that employers place in co-curricular activities such as band.

This year promises to be one of the most successful in the band's history. This August, more than 500 students auditioned for membership in the Marching Band. All students work very hard to be in the ensemble, and it is reflected in their performance. The ISUCF'V'MB is a great ambassador for our university. The band not only reflects the musical talent of our students, but their quality of character and the school pride so common at Iowa State.

We hope the next time you are at an Iowa State Athletic event, on campus between 4:30-5:50p.m. or at one of our many exhibition performances around the state, you stop and take a listen to the great talent we have at Iowa State.

It's always better to hear about things from a student perspective so I am including a letter many of our engineering majors composed for you. Go Cyclones!



Steven Smyth
Director of Athletic Bands
Iowa State University

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Being an engineering student and a member of the marching band is a great experience and often goes hand-in-hand here at Iowa State. It may seem like a daunting task to balance both engineering classes and being in band, but it can be a beneficial arrangement. There are a lot of different things students can learn in band that will help them later on in their classes.

One of the biggest concerns prospective students have is the time commitment of band. In our experience, many students notice that band actually helps them develop better time management skills. Band gives students something to plan their day around, making sure they get all of their work done in the free times they have during the day. An added benefit of having rehearsal every afternoon is that engineering students can get away from all the math and science that fill up their other classes. Band is their break in the day to relax and get away from everything else.

Another skill that marching band will teach your student is teamwork. Success in the band requires members to work together with all types of people to solve problems quickly and effectively. This is a great skill to have because many engineering classes at Iowa State have a focus on group work, similar to what is found in a real work environment.

Studying engineering at Iowa State is often a rigorous task, and requires discipline and focus in order to succeed. Marching band plays a key part in developing these skills, as members need to simultaneously march to the correct spots with good technique, play the show music memorized and work with those around them. Doing these tasks all at the same time takes a lot of brain power and concentration, which is why engineers tend to thrive within the group.

Band is also a great way to meet people. By the first day of classes, new band members will already know a lot of other students on campus, both in and outside of their major. This is often beneficial later if they run into a difficult class and need some help. There's a good chance one of their band friends will be in the class too or will have taken it before.

Last but not least, marching band is fun! The first time a marching band member steps out onto the field at Jack Trice Stadium is an experience they will never forget. Performing for over 50,000 people with 335 of your friends is both thrilling and rewarding. Also, traveling with the band is always a great experience; the memories will last a lifetime. Ask current marching band members and they will tell you that joining the band was one of the best decisions they made during their time at Iowa State.

If you are an engineering parent and your student is considering auditioning for the marching band, encourage him or her to try out! The experience is worth it, and they will enjoy it. If you are a proud band and engineering parent, don't fear your student being over-scheduled and too busy; know that he or she will be enriching his or her lives with music and having fun while doing it.

*Truly and valiantly,
Marching Engineers*

Student Reflections

These are some reflections from current students about what they've learned throughout their college experiences.

"It's a good idea to go to as many club meetings as you can so you can see all of the different opportunities. When deciding which ones to join, my rule of thumb was to join at least one club related to my major and one club for fun! It helped me meet a variety of different people."

"We have a great online career service website called CyHire (cyhire.iastate.edu) with lots of job postings and internship opportunities. Take advantage of this."

"You can make it through college without pulling an all-nighter. All it takes is good time-management skills and not procrastinating. I've never had stay up all night, but the nights I was up the latest is when I was doing something I should have started a long time ago."

"If you have questions over homework or class materials, go to office hours. It's a little scary, but your professors/TAs want to help you and see you succeed."

"Don't do tomorrow what you could do today. Procrastination will always come back to bite you."

"You're getting a degree for a job that hasn't been created. It's not your place to decide what's important — assume everything is."

Tips for Transitioning to College

1. Get to know your roommate. They don't have to be your best friend, but don't be a stranger either.
2. Organize yourself. Get a planner or use your iPad. Know when assignments are due so you can be successful.
3. Find your study space. Whether it's in the library or your dorm, know where you can study hard and avoid distractions.
4. Go to class. Sleeping in sounds great, but you will be glad you showed up.
5. Meet with your professors. They have office hours; use them to help you do your best.
6. Get to know your academic adviser. They are a resource for you. If you have academic questions or concerns, you know who to call.
7. Get involved. Find a club or organization to join. Just don't over-commit yourself!
8. Take some time for yourself, whether it's sleeping in, reading a book, or going to the gym.
9. If you don't know what you want to major in yet, that's okay. Everyone is here to figure out that same thing.
10. Take responsibility for yourself and your actions. Be accountable to your friends, professors and classmates. It's a good life skill to have.
11. Don't procrastinate! Yeah, that paper is due in two weeks, but so are three other assignments. Plan ahead so you're not stressing later.
12. Budget your money! It can be easy to spend a lot at the beginning of the semester. But at the end, you'll be broke. Think about what you are going to spend your money on.
13. Stay on campus as much as possible. Feeling homesick? Call home or send an email. But find ways to get to know your campus so it feels like home.
14. Seek professional help when you need it. It's okay to ask for help. Take care of yourself.
15. It's okay to feel overwhelmed. Talk to your friends, professors and mentors about it. They understand.

(Adapted from www.quintcareers.com/first-year_success.html)

Students Studying Leadership

Your student has many opportunities to develop his or her leadership skills while at Iowa State. Beyond student organizations and leadership workshops, ISU students can take courses in leadership to study these skills directly and even earn a certificate in leadership. Employers will notice too. The College of Engineering has a close partnership with the leadership studies program to help our students gain these critical skills while they are in college. Engineering students are responding—the number of engineering students taking courses to study leadership has tripled in the past year as more students learn about the opportunities.

Courses in leadership studies challenge students to examine their ideas about leadership and what qualities they respect in leaders. They learn leadership theories, gain practical leadership skills and apply what they've learned in class teams and out-of-class experiences. For first-year students both ENGR 150: Foundations of Leadership and CLPS 270x: Campus Leadership Development are designed as introductory courses. Upper-class students are advised to consider LAS 322: Leadership in a Diverse Society. These courses are open and available to all engineering students and more than 60 engineering students enrolled in them this fall semester.

Further, students who choose to complete a sequence of leadership courses can earn a certificate in leadership, which is more substantial than a minor, and noted on their transcript upon graduation. To complete the certificate, students will take courses in leadership development, communications and organizational behavior. Engineering students can complete the certificate along with their degree by planning ahead to take courses that count for both their major and the certificate. Collectively, the courses in the certificate are aligned with theoretical models of student leadership development and designed to support students as they grow in their understanding and practice of leadership.

Employers are seeking out students with both technical skills and leadership skills. Dr. Clinton Stephens, scholar-in-residence for leadership education, directs the program and speaks to the importance of developing leadership capacity early in life. "Employers want ISU engineer graduates because they know they can do the engineering work. But then when they see the leadership certificate on students' resumes, it really stands out. Interviewers ask about it, and our students love to share their leadership experiences. These are skills that employers want in their candidates, and they make our students even more desirable," Stephens said.

Ask your student about what they are doing to learn leadership while at Iowa State. They can get involved in student organizations, attend leadership workshops, enroll in leadership courses and enroll in the leadership certificate. We encourage engineering students to take a course in leadership studies early, and if they want the fullest experience, to enroll in the leadership certificate.

You and your student can learn more online at: <http://cattcenter.las.iastate.edu/leadership>.

Engineering Student Council

Greetings Parents,

As co-presidents of Engineering Student Council (ESC), we are delighted to hear your student has chosen Iowa State's College of Engineering. One great feature of this college is that there are more than 40 engineering-related student organizations students can get involved with. A misconception is that students can't (or shouldn't) get involved as a freshmen. This is simply not true! It is never too early (or too late) to get involved. Engineering organizations are always looking for more students, especially freshmen.

While a great education is why many people choose to attend Iowa State, learning doesn't just occur in the classroom. Engineering student organizations provide many opportunities that classes alone can't. By participating in organizations, students can develop relationships with like-minded individuals. Additionally, many organizations have connections with companies, which can provide unique networking opportunities for students. Lastly, every engineering organization is planned, organized, and led by students—which means that leadership opportunities for students abound. Gone are the days of companies hiring just based off of technical skill. Employers place important emphasis on “soft” skills such as communication, teamwork, and leadership skills which may be mentioned in the classroom but are perfected through participation in student organizations.

ESC itself is one such organization run by students, for students, and it exists to help connect students with engineering organizations and then assist those organizations throughout the year. One way we do this is by hosting various on-campus events throughout the year where students can get introduced to and interact with the many engineering organizations. In the beginning of September, ESC held two events that freshmen were encouraged to attend. At the first event, the Engineering Welcome, nearly 30 engineering organizations set up booths and displayed their projects for engineering students to see. This annual event is a great way for students to find new organizations they might be interested in joining. The second event, the ESC Leadership Retreat, brought in speakers to cover topics ranging from goal-oriented motivation to networking and interviewing, and closed with a company executive delivering the keynote speech. Additionally, throughout the year, ESC works closely with the Dean of Engineering and college leadership to represent students and make their voices heard. You'll often see Dean Rajala or one of the associate deans at our events. More information about ESC and the many student organizations we support can be found on ESC's webpage: www.engineering.iastate.edu/esc.

Congratulations on raising a Cyclone and we are excited to serve your students this year!
Sincerely,

Katelyn Dahlke and Austin Dorenkamp

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