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In Celebration and Memory of
R. Bruce Thompson
October 6, 2014
Speakers

Leonard Bond, CNDE
Mike Crum, ISU
John Mittleman, NRL
Kevin Smith, Pratt & Whitney
Tim Gray, CNDE
Richard Lesar, ISU
Ann Thompson, ISU

About the Artist
Rebecca Ekstrand

Rebecca Ekstrand has over twenty-five years of experience in site-specific, public sculpture. She creates sculpture that transforms ordinary spaces, that include art as an integral part of the architecture, into an atmosphere that resonates in a positive way with the environment and the people that use it. Rebecca’s approach to any public sculpture is to explore materials, concepts, and manner of form, while providing responsible design solutions, as part of a comprehensive aesthetic to a structure site. As an Iowa artist, Rebecca Ekstrand has been commissioned by both public institutions and private corporations.

R. Bruce Thompson
Center for Nondestructive Evaluation
Director 1997-2011

R. Bruce Thompson (1941–2011) was a member of the National Academy of Engineering and Director of the Center for Nondestructive Evaluation at Iowa State University. He also served as Anson Marston Distinguished Professor in the Materials Science and Engineering Department and the Aerospace Engineering Department.

The author of over 230 publications and holder of numerous patents, Thompson was a world leader in many aspects of nondestructive evaluation, including his pioneering work on the development of model-assisted techniques for determining the probability of detection of flaws in materials that could lead to failure. He was honored with numerous awards, including being elected to the National Academy of Engineering in 2003, the premier honor in engineering.

Thompson joined Ames Laboratory in 1980, at which he held a number of research and administrative positions. He joined the Engineering Science and Mechanics Department (now part of the Aerospace Engineering Department) and the Materials Science and Engineering Department in 1986. In 1997, he became the director of the Center for Nondestructive Evaluation.

Thompson earned his PhD in applied physics from Stanford University in 1971. He then joined the staff at Rockwell International Science Center, becoming a group leader before leaving for Iowa State. He served in many leadership and advisory roles both within and outside Iowa State, including an appointment to the Air Force Science Advisory Board.