

## 2015 E-Week Banquet (Pg 1/2)



The Annual Engineering Week banquet will be convened the evening of Wednesday, February 18, 2015 at the Stanley Auditorium, Muscatine, Iowa.

Our featured guest and speaker will be Dr. Udaykumar, PhD, Professor of Mechanical and Industrial Engineering at the University of Iowa. More details on his topic are included on the next page.

Also scheduled is the award of IES/Muscatine Chapter scholarships.

**Date:** Wednesday, February 18, 2015

**Speaker:** Dr. Udaykumar, PhD, UI Professor of Mechanical and Industrial Engineering

**Topic:** *How Many PhDs does it take?: A case of finding simple solutions to a complex problem.*

**Location:** Stanley Auditorium 225 Iowa Ave., Muscatine, IA 52761

**Time:** Social – 5:30 pm  
Dinner/Program - 6:15 pm

**Cost:** Free to Students. \$20 for non-students and IES members.

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**RSVP:** Feb. 13th, 2015 to Alan Palmer, 563-264-6673, [PalmerAlan@stanleygroup.com](mailto:PalmerAlan@stanleygroup.com)

**Mark your calendars - It's the annual event you don't want to miss!**

# How many PhDs does it take? : A case of finding simple solutions to a complex problem

Speaker: Uday Kumar, Professor, Mechanical and Industrial Engineering, The University of Iowa



In the Aravali hill range of Northwest India are the last standing forests that hold the desert from encroaching on the bread-basket of India. The forests are threatened by destruction due to livestock grazing and lopping of trees for firewood use in cooking. Prof. Udaykumar has been working with the villagers and NGOs for many years to develop solar cooking technologies to mitigate firewood use and thereby save the forests. After many false starts and unexpected twists, during a just concluded visit to the villages bordering the forest he and his friend Dr. Sailesh Rao hit upon an inspiring idea while staring disconsolately into the roaring flames of a traditional three-stone hearth. The talk will tell the story of how two PhDs hit upon a simple engineering solution that in the words of the speaker's mother "any fifth grader could have thought of (it)"! And why this simple idea may just finally work where many more complex solutions have failed.