



*Frank M. Kelso, 2014–15 Distinguished Teacher  
Morse-Alumni Undergraduate Teaching Award*

Frank Kelso is a revered teacher who seamlessly combines engineering theory with real-world applications. “Most mechanical engineering students from the 1990s to present will say that he taught them the most about what it means to be an engineer,” says an admiring colleague.

Kelso created the First Year Experience course for all freshmen in the College of Science and Engineering. “When I told Frank we had 1000+ freshmen, no tools, and no workspace,” a colleague recalls, “Frank calmly said, ‘No problem.’”

The project Kelso devised was a big success. He challenged students to use smartphone cameras to capture something that cannot be seen with the naked eye. In response, teams of students turned their phone cameras

into interferometers, microscopes, telescopes, and the like.

“Dr. Kelso has mastered the art of teaching a course that is difficult,” says a former student. “Professor Kelso’s acting as a mentor has inspired me to strive for excellence and innovation in my career,” says another student. “The example he sets through his genuine good character has given me guidance on how to be a well-rounded engineer.”

Kelso was recently responsible for leading engineering students on a major learning abroad experience. “I cannot speak to how important his positivity impacted the students,” says one participant. “With such a grueling daily schedule of learning and working, we looked to Dr. Kelso as a role model for how to work hard and enjoy every minute of it.” ✂

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*“Students become engaged and excited about the course material when they see a clear connection between the classroom and actual professional responsibilities.”*

