



PennState

**AGRICULTURAL AND
BIOLOGICAL ENGINEERING**

Department Head Update

Paul Heinemann, Head of the Department

August, 2016

Dear Friends and Alums: Greetings from the Department of Agricultural and Biological Engineering! The big news is: We have moved! Late July and early August was quite a hectic time for us, as we finished our sorting, cleaning, packing, and tagging. Moving an entire building is quite an experience. Overall, the move went well (big kudos to Randall Bock and his work with preparing us and working with the moving crew).

Our new spaces are comfortable, and for the most part quiet. Except for late in afternoon when music is blasted from the football practices across the street, that is. We have been unpacking and getting our offices and labs prepared, ready for the new semester which begins in less than a week! You can find our new location at: [ABE temporary location](#)

Building project

The abatement crews have started to set up in the old building. They will clear out any hazardous materials over the next month or so, with the demolition (and gutting of the original building) scheduled for sometime in September. Everything is on schedule for the December 2017 move-in.

Please check out our [building project website](#) for updates, as well as space naming opportunities.

The Porsche Project – Auction

Many of you probably remember the Porsche that was donated in 2001. Well, we finally got it auctioned, and raised over \$17,000 to support the BioRenewable Systems and Biological Engineering Leadership and Communications Development Fund. Much credit goes to Jim Hilton for his efforts over the years to get the Porsche in reasonable selling condition.



New faculty and staff

We welcome two new members of the department: Cibin Raj, Assistant Professor of Agricultural and Biological Engineering, and Wendy Thomas, administrative support assistant overseeing student records. Cibin is working in the water resource engineering area and is a co-hire with Civil and Environmental Engineering, with ABE as his tenure home. Wendy joined us from the registrar's office and is helping to manage the undergraduate and graduate programs.

New faculty position announced

It's been some years since we have been able to hire a machinery-related position, but we are very pleased to have approval for a tenure-track position in mechatronics and intelligent controls applied to agricultural and biological systems. The position has been posted and we are hoping to have someone on board by next Spring. Our thanks to the BRS Advisory Board and the Industrial and Professional Advisory Council (IPAC) teams for helping to push these positions!

Promotions

We congratulate Dr. Howard Salis for his promotion to associate professor and Dr. Jeff Catchmark for his promotion to professor.

New senior design sequence in Biological Engineering

We have completed our first year of the new senior design sequence. The grain entrapment simulator was highlighted in Penn State news and will be featured in an upcoming edition of ASABE's Resource Magazine.



We are very interested in external sponsorships for our senior design experience, and welcome your support. For more information about sponsoring a project, please go to: <http://abe.psu.edu/industry/capstone-design>

For more information on these stories and the latest department news, please visit our website: abe.psu.edu or join our Facebook Page: www.facebook.com/PennStateABE

Department Contact Information

Department of Agricultural & Biological Engineering
111 Research Unit A
University Park, PA 16802
814-865-7792