



# Department of Agricultural and Biological Engineering

## Department Head Update – May 2014

### **Paul Heinemann, Head of the Department**

Greetings from the Department of Agricultural and Biological Engineering! Spring is finally here in Central Pennsylvania, and graduation is later this week. Here are some of the departmental highlights from the last couple of months.

#### New Professorship in Agricultural Safety and Health

We are very pleased to announce that Nationwide Insurance is endowing a professorship in Agricultural Safety and Health in the College of Agricultural Sciences. Dr. Dennis Murphy, Distinguished Professor of Agricultural and Biological Engineering, will hold the title of Nationwide Insurance Professor of Agricultural Safety and Health. For the full story, please go to: [Nationwide Professorship](#)

#### Building Renovations

The “programming” of our building project is just about completed! This is the formal stage of planning authorized by the University, which involves a committee from within and outside of the department. While this committee typically provides guidance to the department for helping to put together details of our needs, thanks to Jeff Catchmark’s leadership and the efforts of the faculty, staff, and students, we were way ahead of schedule and have been able to get this wrapped up quickly and efficiently. When we began this process, the construction start date seemed like a long way away (about 3 ½ years). Now it’s just two years, assuming everything stays on schedule. We will keep you updated!

#### Jim Hamlett retiring

Dr. Jim Hamlett has announced his retirement effective July 1, 2014. Dr. Hamlett has been with us since 1987, as a faculty member in the natural resource engineering area. In recent years, he has been teaching as many as five classes a year. We will definitely have a big hole to fill in Jim’s absence, but we wish him well and we hope to see him around the department from time to time.

#### Student Records Assistant search

Colleen Bloom, who joined us from Agricultural & Extension Education in Summer 2012 after the College restructuring, has moved on to the Purchasing Office. Colleen effectively served in the student records capacity, helping with the BE and ASM/BRS undergraduate majors, and the ABE and BRS graduate programs. We have just completed the search for her replacement and should have the position filled shortly.

## IPAC

Our Industrial and Professional Advisory Council, sponsored through the College of Engineering, met in March. We welcomed three new members this year: Galen Julius (TAMS Systems), Jennifer Rauhofer (Stormwater Consulting LLC and Stormwater Maintenance LLC), and Mark Beltwoski (John Deere). Mark was unable to join us for the meeting so he was ably represented by Jeff Brown from Deere. For more information about our IPAC, please go to: [abe.psu.edu/industry/ipa](http://abe.psu.edu/industry/ipa)

## BRS advisory

We held our second BioRenewable Systems Advisory Committee meeting April 16 and 17. The committee, made up of industry and academics with ASM, Wood/bioproducts and related backgrounds, was formed to provide guidance and support for our new BRS undergraduate and graduate programs. For a picture of the group that attended and the full list of committee members, please go to: [abe.psu.edu/industry/biorenewable-systems-advisory-committee](http://abe.psu.edu/industry/biorenewable-systems-advisory-committee)

## Dean Search Update

We are still searching for the Dean of the College of Agricultural Sciences, but the process continues. Hopefully by the time I write the next update, we will have identified a new Dean, but if it takes more time to get the right person, then it is well worth the effort.

For details on latest activities and events, please see our website: [abe.psu.edu](http://abe.psu.edu)  
or join our Facebook Page: [www.facebook.com/PennStateABE](http://www.facebook.com/PennStateABE)



## Department Contact Information

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