



Department of Agricultural and Biological Engineering

Department Head Update – August 2014

Paul Heinemann, Head of the Department

Greetings from the Department of Agricultural and Biological Engineering! The Summer has ended here on campus, and the students are back with their excitement and energy. We look forward to a successful 2014-15 academic year!

New staff member joins the department

We are pleased that Brooke Gangi has joined the department as our new student records staff assistant. Brooke and her husband Jonathan moved here from North Carolina. Brooke will be dealing with student-related matters for the undergraduate BE and BRS programs, and the graduate ABE and BRS programs.

Update on the Building Project

The Agricultural Engineering Building project passed the PDRB (The Project Decision Review Board) back in June. This is a high-level review involving top university administrators. Passing this step allows us to now go out and solicit proposals for the job. As of this writing, we had received qualification documents from 18 interested parties, and earlier this week we narrowed this list down to 10 groups from whom we will request more detailed proposals. In the meantime, we have identified our temporary “homes” when we move out. This is still scheduled for Summer 2016. We are beginning the development of a set of pages on our website that will provide more information and details. We will let everyone know when that is up and running.

Ag Sciences Dean search – finally finished!

Many of you probably have heard by now, but we have found a new Dean for Agricultural Sciences! Dr. Richard Roush will join us October 1. Dr. Roush has spent the last several years as Dean at the University of Melbourne School of Land and Environment in Melbourne, Australia. Dr. Roush is originally from the US and has held many positions in agricultural institutions. We are looking forward to his leadership. In the 27 years I have been on the faculty, I have never seen such an intense period of administrative change, including a new president, new provost, new Dean of Engineering, and new Dean of Ag Sciences, all in slightly over one year.

Department alumni and friends tailgate

We are having our annual ABE Alumni and Friends Tailgate on Saturday, September 27. We hope that many of you will join us for this event. We are always very happy to see our alums return to visit. Details can be found on our website, just look for the link on the right side of the main page.

ABET – accreditation visit

Our Biological Engineering major is undergoing accreditation review this year. This last occurred in 2008. We have submitted our self-study report (all 262 pages!), and the ABET evaluation team will be visiting the College and our department in mid-October. I would like to thank our faculty and staff for their efforts on this over the past six years, and also our Industrial and Professional Advisory Council members who provide feedback and guidance on our curriculum every year.

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



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