

Department of Agricultural and Biological Engineering

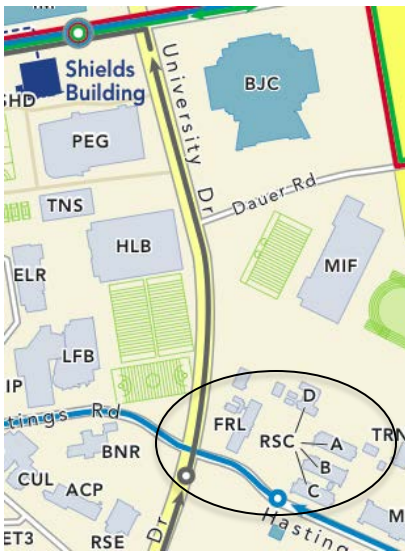
Department Head Update – January 2015

Paul Heinemann, Head of the Department

Greetings from the Department of Agricultural and Biological Engineering! Fall semester has come and gone, and Spring semester has just begun. There is much to share as we start the new year.

Building project

It is hard to believe how quickly the project is moving along. We spent the Fall working on two primary goals – identifying the team that will do the project, and finding a temporary home for the department while the construction is underway.



Our temporary home is referred to as “swing space”. We believe we have this part of the project all worked out – we will be moving to the Northeast side of University Drive, into the Forestry Research Lab (FRL), “Research Unit A” RSC-A, and a new modular lab that has been built in between these two buildings (see the map). “BJC” is the Bryce Jordan Center, “PEG” is the Pegula Ice Arena.

We have completed the second goal, identifying the team that will do the project. We started with 18 team proposals and narrowed it down to the final three. The final selection was on January 15.

Although it seems like an ambitious schedule, we anticipate moving out in early Summer 2016, and moving back in by January 2018. Only three years to go!

In the very near future, all alums in our database will receive a post card announcing the project and the campaign to procure additional funds so that we can achieve our goals.

For the latest updates on our project and information on the project team, go to abe.psu.edu and select “Agricultural Engineering Building Project” on the right side.

ABET – accreditation visit

This was a big Fall for us! In addition to our building endeavors, our Biological Engineering major was reviewed for accreditation in October. Overall, the evaluation went well. We have one issue to address related to the culminating design experience for our BE students. We are working to resolve this before the Summer, when accreditation decisions are finalized.

Spring activities

In addition to the building project, we will be hosting both our Industrial and Professional Advisory Council Meeting (March 25-26) and our BioRenewable Systems Advisory Committee (April 22-23). We are very fortunate to have two very committed groups of individuals who are giving their time to help keep our department on track and up to date. More information about our advisory groups can be found at: abe.psu.edu/industry/



BRS Advisory



IPAC

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