



Department of Agricultural and Biological Engineering

Department Head Update – October 2013

Paul Heinemann, Head of the Department

Greetings from the Department of Agricultural and Biological Engineering! Fall has arrived and the semester is half finished. It's been a pleasant Autumn so far and the leaves are at their peak. There are some exciting things happening in the department, which I am happy to share in this newsletter.

Building Renovations

We are excited to have our building on the next university capital plan for major renovations and overhaul! More information about this will be coming as we develop plans and look for support opportunities.

Alumni Affiliate Program Groups

New Affiliate Program Group (APG)

The ABE Department is attempting to form several Affiliate Program Groups (APGs) for department alumni. At this point we have decided to try to create four APGs, three for the current BE options: Natural Resources Engineering, Food and Biological Process Engineering, and Agricultural Engineering. The fourth APG is for those who graduated from the Agricultural Systems Management (ASM) program or one of its previous names, Agricultural Systems Management and Technology (ASMT), or Agricultural Mechanization (Ag Mech).

The Natural Resources Engineering APG is up and running, following approval by the College of Agricultural Sciences (CAS) Alumni Society at their August 12th meeting. Many thanks to Heather Smeltz and Julia Hunt for their efforts to make this happen.

If you would like to be part of one of the engineering APGs, please send the following to Al Jarrett (arj@psu.edu):

Name

Graduation Year(s)

Address

Email

Phone Number

Which APG you wish to be a member of

This will assist us in developing the remaining APGs. Note the Agricultural Engineering APG will be the home of those who are in the Machine Systems and Structures areas.

If you would like to be part of the Agricultural Systems Management (ASM, or ASMT or Ag M) APGs, please send the same information to Jay Rush (jayrush@juno.com). Jay is working to develop this APG.

New Programs

Our new graduate program in BioRenewable Systems has passed the Graduate Council in September, and now awaits the final stamp of approval from the Board of Trustees. We anticipate a January start date, and already have five graduate students ready to switch into the program. In the last letter, we announced the approval of the BRS undergraduate program, which officially began this Fall. The World-campus based iMPS-RESS (Master of Professional Studies in Renewable Energy and Sustainable Systems) has its first students this fall, in Tom Richard's ABE 884 – Biomass Energy Systems course. Several more courses will come online this Spring.

Dean Search Update

The University has announced the new Dean of Engineering. Dr. Amr Elnashai, currently Head of the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering at the University of Illinois, will begin at Penn State in early 2014. The search for the Dean of the College of Ag Sciences is continuing.

Outstanding Engineering Alumnus

We are very pleased to announce that Mr. Ray Evans, B.S. Ag E (1960) has been named as our 2014 Outstanding Engineering Alumnus. Ray spent his career with B.F. Goodrich tire, General Tire, and Titan International where he retired as the Executive Vice President of Engineering, Marketing and Sales. Ray serves on our Industrial and Professional Advisory Committee (IPAC), including the role of chair in 2012. He and his wife, Janet, recently established the Ray and Janet Evans scholarship in Agricultural and Biological Engineering. We are looking forward to hosting the Evans in April 2014 for the OEA award activities.

Parting:

Jamie Liner, who served as our Financial Assistant since February 2013, has left the university to pursue more time at home with her family. We thank her for her high quality work and service to the department over the last eight months. We are currently searching for a replacement.

We are looking forward to seeing alumni and guests at our November 2 tailgate!

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



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