NIFA Announces the Availability of Grant Funds and Requests Applications for the National Needs Graduate Fellowship (NNF) Grants Program - NIFA and the USDA Forest Service (FS) continue a collaborative, long-term effort focused on workforce development through graduate education (M.S. and Ph.D. level). Emphasis will be placed on the four critical capacity shortage areas (decision sciences; land use and landscape analysis; ecosystem processes and forest health; and utilization technology), identified by educators, employers, and the National Association of University Forest Resources Programs (NAUFRP).

Eligible Applicants: (1) land-grant institutions including the University of the District of Columbia, (2) colleges and universities having significant minority enrollments and a demonstrable capacity to carry out the teaching of food and agricultural sciences, (3) University of the District of Columbia, (4) other colleges and universities having a demonstrable capacity to carry out the teaching of food, and agricultural sciences, and research foundations maintained by an eligible college or university.

Funding Opportunities

DISCOVERY LEARNING RESEARCH CENTER - Faculty Fellows Program – 2010 - The Discovery Learning Research Center invites applications for its 2010 Faculty Research Fellowship program. The FRF will support up to two Purdue tenure-track faculty members to plan for and carry out research on a topic that will further the mission and goals of the DLRC.

The FRF program will support each faculty member by providing:

• Up to 2-months of summer salary or the equivalent for a 1-semester course release during the AY.
• Up to 1 semester of support for one graduate student
• A $5000 discretionary account for travel or supplies.
• Desk space at the DLRC and access to its educational research facilities.

The Faculty Fellow(s) agree to:

• Develop a research project that specifically promotes the mission and strategic themes of the DLRC. The research project should be carried out as collaboration with the DLRC. Development can involve pilot testing an idea or carrying out preparatory research to develop a plan.
• Apply for external funding, either through federal agencies, private sources or a combination of both. Application for funding should take place during the period of the fellowship. For funding opportunities with deadlines outside the period of the fellowship, the proposal writing should take place during the period of the fellowship in order to have a significant amount of the proposal completed before the end of the fellowship in preparation for submission.
• Recognize DLRC in all presentations and publications that arise as a result of research generated through the FRF support by listing DLRC as the author’s academic affiliation.

Example:
Title of Publication of Presentation
First Author, Second Author, etc.
Department of XXX (academic department) and Discovery Learning Research Center
Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN

• Provide DLRC with yearly up-to-date reports of papers, presentations, students, collaborations, proposals, and research grants that involve work performed as a result of research generated through this support.
• Participate in DLRC activities during the fellowship period, such as DLRC Affiliates staff meetings. After the fellowship period, continue association with DLRC through research engagement, formal and informal collaboration, and general contribution to the ongoing vision and intellectual capital of the Center.
For 2010, the period of support through the FRF program will be 1 semester, to be either during summer or fall, 2010, or spring 2011. For 2010, we are particularly interested in projects that will address the Public STEM Literacy goal of the DLRC, but will accept applications targeted at any of the Signature Theme Areas of the Center.

Applications should consist of the following:
1. A cover sheet with name of the faculty member, department and contact information, title of the project, the semester in which the work will be done, and the DLRC Signature Theme area that the proposal will address.
2. A 500-word abstract of the proposed work.
3. A three-page proposal that describes the work to be carried out, the funding sources to be sought, and how the DLRC will be involved collaboratively in the work.
4. A two-page CV highlighting the items (background, funding, publications) most relevant to the proposed work.

Applications should be submitted as a single PDF document to Chris Ramsey, cramsey@purdue.edu, by 11 pm, April 12, 2010.

**Grants/Funding**

**PEDRO IRAZOQUI, JENNA RICKUS, KAUSHIK ROY**
Cyberonics, Inc. - $1,200,000 - "Core Technology Development Plan for Cyberonics Next-Generation Devices".

**Papers/Presentations/Seminars/Publications**

**JONATHAN C. CLAUSSEN** - received First Place in the Graduate Student Poster Competition Annual Meeting of the Institute of Biological Engineering (IBE).

**RAMEEZ CHATNI** - was awarded a Third Place Award for his poster at the 2010 annual meeting of the Institute of Biological Engineering (IBE), held in Boston, Massachusetts.

**VIMAL MISHRA AND KEITH A. CHERKAUER** - "Retrospective Droughts in the Crop Growing Season: Implications to Corn and Soybean Yield in the Midwestern United States" - accepted in Agricultural and Forest Meteorology.

**DR. MONIKA IVANTYSYNOVA** - and several students attended the 7th International Fluid Power Conference in Aachen, Germany. The students, Chris Williamson, Rajneesh Kumar, Richard Klop, and Kyle Merrill each wrote and presented papers at the conference. Over 700 attendees from the fluid power industry were present at the conference.
2010 DISTINGUISHED AGRICULTURAL ALUMNI - Ed Vondell (BS ABE ’85) is currently Head of Product Engineering, Mexico and Latin America, living in Mexico City. He is responsible for design and homologation of products for Mexico and Latin America and continuous engineering work for certain areas of corporate car and truck platforms. More than 250 engineers report to Mr. Vondell in his role as Head of Product Engineering. Chrysler de Mexico received the “Premio Nacional de Tecnología 2007” (National Technology Award for 2007) under his direction.

Prior to this position, Mr. Vondell was Plant Manager of the Indiana Transmission Plant II in Kokomo, Indiana. The plant represents an investment of over $455 million. As Plant Manager he was responsible for all aspects of the operation in Kokomo. The plant produces a Rear-Wheel Drive, Five Speed Automatic Transmission that is used in the popular Chrysler 300C, Dodge Charger, Jeep Grand Cherokee and Jeep Commander. The Indiana Transmission Plant II was awarded the DaimlerChrysler Operational Excellence Award for 2005 under Vondell’s leadership. This recognition was awarded to the plant because of the excellent safety, quality, and cost results in 2005.

In 2007, Ed Vondell was recognized as an outstanding alumnus of the Purdue University Department of Agricultural and Biological Engineering. This award was in recognition of his career success and engagement of our program. When asked how his ABE degree helped him, Ed stated – “The ABE program helped me develop a solid problem solving mindset. Not only individual problem solving, but learning how to solve problems in a group setting. This has been valuable throughout my career.”

The Purdue Distinguished Agricultural Alumni Award is presented to mid-career Purdue Agriculture graduates who have made significant contributions to their profession, or society in general. Mr. Edward Vondell is the 2010 Distinguished Agriculture Alumni from the school of Agricultural & Biological Engineering.

KAMYAR HAGHIGHI - The position of head of Purdue University’s School of Engineering Education will be named for the program’s founder, Kamyar Haghighi. The naming is made possible by a $2 million gift from the S.D. Bechtel Jr. Foundation. Haghighi created the world’s first Department (now School) of Engineering Education at Purdue in 2004. The first-year engineering program brings 1,700 students through the School of Engineering Education each year.

Haghighi came to Purdue in 1986 as an assistant professor of agricultural engineering. He became an associate professor of agricultural and biological engineering in 1991 and a full professor in 1995. He was named head of what was then the Department of Freshman Engineering in 2003, before establishing the Department of Engineering Education the next year.
2010 Distinguished Engineering Alumni - Mr. Burke received a bachelor’s degree in Machine Systems Engineering from Purdue University in 1979. He has been a long time member of several professional organizations, including ASABE and SME.

In the beginning of his career, Mr. Burke spent 13 years with Ford Motor Company in the Climate Control Division in a variety of engineering and operations positions in the United States and Mexico. Then, Mr. Burke worked for nine years with Visteon Corporation, where he was Vice President of the North American Manufacturing Operations with responsibility for more than $10 billion in sales. While there, he led an effort to develop and implement business strategies to enhance the company’s global manufacturing product portfolio. Before that, and based in Cologne, Germany, Mr. Burke served as Vice President of European and South American Manufacturing and Vice President of North American and Asian Operations.

Mr. Burke joined Modine Manufacturing Company in 2005 as Executive Vice President. In July 2006, he was promoted to the position of Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer, taking on the responsibilities of streamlining the company’s global organizational structure. As COO, he was in charge of all global operations for the Powertrain Cooling, Engine, Passenger Thermal Management, Commercial and Fuel Cell Products Groups, as well as the Environmental, Safety and Security Department.

Mr. Burke was born in South Dakota and is a native of Bloomington, Illinois. He is on the Board of Trustees of MAPI/Manufacturers Alliance and been nominated to become a director of the National Association of Manufacturing for a term beginning in January 2010. In addition, Mr. Burke serves on the Board of Directors of the Racine County United Way. He resides in Racine, Wisconsin with his wife Ginee, and they have two grown children.

The Purdue Distinguished Engineering Alumni Award is presented to engineering alumni who have distinguished themselves in any field of endeavor that reflects favorably on Purdue University, the engineering profession, or society in general. Mr. Thomas Burke is the 2010 Distinguished Engineering Alumni from the school of Agricultural & Biological Engineering.

The ABE Fluid Power Lab - hosted groups of middle school students on March 17th and March 24th. The students visited ABE and learned about fluid power, careers in ABE, asked a lot of questions, and had fun playing with the mini-excavators in the lab. There were 28 students participating on the 17th and another 18 students on the 24th. ABE graduate students (Jose Garcia, John Andruch, Michael Holland, and Gabe Wilfong) assisted John Lumkes and did an excellent job working with the students. The feedback from the participants was very positive. The teachers were also very appreciative and surprised by the breadth of activities found in ABE.
KLEIN ILELEJI - The Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) of the U.S. Embassy, in collaboration with the National Food Reserve Agency of the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Water and Resources (NFRA) as well as Purdue University, Oklahoma State University and the University of Kentucky conducted workshops aimed at reducing post-harvest losses for grains in Nigeria.

The workshops took place in Makurdi, Benue State March 9-11, 2010 and Akure, Ondo State March 15-17, 2010 and focused on stored-grain management, stored-product insect pest control, and workers’ health and safety issues. Participants were from NFRA, State Ministries of Agriculture and private companies including flour mills and poultry producers. These workshops are part of FAS activities in support of the US Government’s Global Hunger and Food Security Response for Nigeria funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

GARY KRUTZ – is a 40-year ASABE member!

MAHA LAB - will be hosting the 6th Fluid Power Net International PhD Symposium from June 15-19 2010. Registration deadline for industry participants is April 15, 2010. Online registration and additional information about the symposium can be found on the website: www.6thphdsymposium.com

Student News

ALPHA MU – the Indiana Alpha Chapter of Alpha Mu, The Agricultural Systems Management Honor Society, held its initiation ceremony and banquet on March 2, 2010.

Congratulations to the new members who have been recognized for their “worthy qualities of character, scholarship, and professional attainment”; they are: Ashley Beeker, Benjamin Daily, Anthony Knebel, Ryan Musselman, Christopher Nobbe, Derek Pullen, Mark Wenning, Ian Wooten, Jesse Alderson, Nick Fueger, Lucas Shideler, John Hobbs, Kyle Bailey, Andrew Mann and Clifford Racz.

Thanks go to the current officers and members who organized a very nice event; they were Adam Bell, Tyler Shaw, Pam O’Conner, Eric Steidinger, Make Osowski and Kyle Beach. Dennis Buckmaster is Advisor for Alpha Mu.
**ABE Outstanding Students**

**Senior – Mary Jane “Janie” Stine** – was born and raised in Indianapolis, Indiana and is the daughter of Mary Jo Smock and Mark Stine. From a young age, Janie enjoyed learning the subjects of math and science, so when it was time to go to college, people told her she should be an engineer. This turned out to be great advice. At Purdue, Janie decided to major in Biological and Food Process Engineering (BFPE), which allowed her to simultaneously explore her love of engineering and biology. Janie has enjoyed her time at Purdue, becoming an officer in the Biological Engineering in Genetics Club as well as BFPE Club. Last year, she also participated in the Soy and Corn Innovation Contest, and her team won grand prize for its incredibly soft and eco-friendly corn-based toilet paper. In her spare time, Janie is also quite musical. She participated in the All-American Marching Band and Purdue concert bands for 4 years, and she marched with the Glassmen Drum and Bugle Corps last summer. Next year, Janie plans on attending graduate school to earn a Ph.D. in chemical engineering. Janie owes her inspiration and success to her mother, who taught her that anything is possible if you make the time for it and give it all you’ve got.

**Junior – Courtney McWaine** – Courtney is a Junior majoring in Biological and Food Process Engineering with a Spanish minor. Throughout her tenure at Purdue, Courtney has remained on the Dean’s List every semester while being involved in various extracurricular activities. Her memberships include: the National Society of Black Engineers, the Society of Women Engineers, the National Society of Collegiate Scholars, Golden Key International Honour Society, Alpha Lambda Delta Phi Eta Sigma Honor Societies (where she served as the Vice President), and the Professional Practice Ambassadors (where she is currently the Assistant Director of Industrial Relations). Aside from campus involvement, Courtney actively seeks to be help out the community as much as she can. Currently, she volunteers on a weekly basis at the Lafayette Adult Resource Academy (L.A.R.A) helping native Spanish speaking students increase their English proficiency. Furthermore, Courtney has volunteered at various other places such as the Almost Home Humane Society, YWCA, the Lafayette Urban Ministry, and the Kankakee Center of Hope just to name a few. In addition to being a full time student, Courtney is also a co-op, and she has completed three rotations with Bunge Oils in the Operations, Research and Development, Innovations, and Process Engineering groups. During her first rotation in Fort Worth, Texas she was named the Safety Leader of the Month for her hard work. Courtney has two rotations remaining, and her upcoming one will be in the corporate offices in St. Louis, Missouri. Courtney looks forward to making the transition to this new assignment and continues to set high goals for the rest of her collegiate and professional endeavors.
Sophomore – Molly Scherer – is a well-rounded, responsible sophomore student at Purdue University. She balances involvement with multiple student organizations, a job in the Agronomy Department, competing in intramural sports, and manages to keep a respectable GPA. She has previously completed research for Dr. Martin Okos, and is looking forward to exploring the use of Miscanthus as a biofuel with Dr. Patrick Murphy this coming summer. Molly displays a high degree of initiative and determination, and has a very wide range of interests with regards to biological materials, is very much a self starter and has the ability to work independently and also in teams. She always displays a high degree of enthusiasm, and does not hesitate to take on the responsibility to carry out a project, and her mature attitude and desire to achieve indicates her outstanding potential for success. Molly is grateful for the support and quality education she receives from the ABE Department.

Freshman – Josue Ordaz - was born in Oakland, California, and is the son of Marivel and Juan Ordaz. He has joined several campus organizations while continuing some of his community activities. As a participant in the College of Agriculture’s Food, Environment, Engineering and Life Sciences (FEELS) program, Josue attends seminars that help him develop his academic and leadership skills. This past fall he participated in the FEELS program’s “Walk for a Cause” fund raising event. Josue also joined the Latino Cultural Center’s (LCC) Ambassadors program in September. He attends their seminar series and helped to organize the LCC event celebrating a Mexican Traditional Day entitled “Day of the Day” that was held at the Lafayette YMCA. As a member of LCC’s committee on Health and Fitness he also helped to organize events to promote health and fitness including workout sessions and speakers. Recently Josue joined the Society of Mexican Engineers and Scientists (MAES), a nationwide organization that seeks to promote and honor excellence in education and leadership among Latino engineers and scientists. Josue is looking forward to the future, where he plans on graduating with a degree in Biological Engineering and Biochemistry from the ABE department and work in the industry to improve any aspect of life throughout the world.

Outstanding Service Scholarship – the College of Engineering awarded ABE Graduate students Mark Thomas and Lindsay Birt each a $2,000 scholarship. These scholarships are awarded to current engineering graduate students who have provided outstanding service to the graduate student community, the School, the College, and/or the University.
JD McClurkin – ABE graduate student, was selected as the Graduate Student Representative for the College of Engineering Dean’s Advisory Council. The Engineering Advisory Council of Purdue University was formed in 1972 and is a group of distinguished alumni and friends of the Schools of Engineering who meet twice-yearly with faculty, staff, and students. As industry, academic and government leaders, EAC members offer external counsel, furthering Purdue engineering in its mission of learning, discovery, and engagement.

Alumni News

ASABE (The American Society of Agricultural & Biological Engineers) – recently named ABE alumni, Mark Bowers (BS ABE ’03) and Ian Radtke (MS ABE ’05) Outstanding “New Faces of ASABE for 2010”. The New Faces are ASABE members, 30 years of age or younger who have distinguished themselves with outstanding, early-career achievements that serve as an inspiration to their peers and to the future engineers who will follow in their footsteps.

Mark is employed by John Deere Harvester Works in East Moline, Illinois and works on the Tier 3 engine program.

Ian works for Caterpillar and is a valuable member of their design team working on wheel loader transmissions.

Congratulations to both ABE alumni!

Fatima Kazem (BS ABE ’95) – is working as a radiologist in San Diego, California. She was married in 2008, and had a baby boy in June 2009. She is enjoying California and loves reading the updates about fellow alumni and what is happening in the ABE department.

FYI

Special Boilermaker Award – nominations are being accepted for the Special Boilermaker Award which is given annually by the Purdue Alumni Association. This award was established in 1981 to recognize a member of the Purdue faculty or staff who has contributed significantly to the quality of life and/or the betterment of the educational experience for a substantial number of Purdue students. Nominations are due by June 1st - for additional information visit the web site at - - - https://www.purduealum.org/Services/Programs/Awards/SpecialBoilermakerAwardHome/tabid/394/Default.aspx.
Purdue Young Alumni Award – the Purdue Alumni Association is accepting nominations for its outstanding Young Alumni Award. The award honors a person age 32 or younger who has given outstanding service to the University, the Purdue Alumni Association, or any Purdue Alumni organization. Nominations are due by June 1. More information and the online nomination form can be found at www.purduealum.org/ya.

Alumni & Student Award Celebration
Thursday, April 22, 2010
University Plaza
Poster Viewing at 5:30 pm
Dinner at Approximately 6:00 pm
Awards Around 7:00 pm

Cost - $5.00 for ABE Students

Sign Up With
Micky Creech or
Yvonne Hardebeck
in ABE #201
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