We’ve completed another successful academic year. Many of the recent successes of alumni, students, faculty and staff are highlighted in the newsletter. As you may have noticed in the box adjacent to this letter, Purdue ABE was recently ranked the number one Biological/Agricultural Engineering graduate program (tied with Cornell) by the US News and World Report. This is largely due to the hard work and support of faculty, staff, students and alumni. Thank you for helping make our programs truly outstanding!

An important change in our undergraduate engineering degree programs has been recently finalized. Beginning in August 2009, our BS Agricultural and Biological Engineering (BS ABE) degree will be split into two degrees: BS Agricultural Engineering and BS Biological Engineering. We began offering the BS ABE degree in August 1997 (had been BS Agricultural Engineering prior to that). Students in the Biological and Food Processing area will pursue the BS Biological Engineering degree while students in Machine Systems and the Environment and Natural Resources areas will pursue the BS Agricultural Engineering degree. The splitting of the BS ABE into two degrees helps us align with ABET criteria. Most importantly though, this split will allow us to maintain the comprehensive nature of our programs while providing continued opportunities to improve and grow. Our Agricultural Systems Management degree (previously Agricultural Mechanization) remains the same.

Placement for graduates of our programs has created some challenges given the current economy. Thank you to all of you who have passed along opportunities. If you are aware of job opportunities, please continue to send these to Micky Creech (mcreech@purdue.edu).

We have begun initial planning for an ABE event during Homecoming weekend (October 3). Please watch your e-mail and our web site for additional details.

Our Mission

“To prepare students, citizens, and the industry for the future through innovative education and extension/outreach program, and the discovery of knowledge.”
Bill Field - was presented the Ag Alumni Association’s highest honor, the Certificate of Distinction!

This award, which was instituted in 1938, is presented to those who have distinguished themselves with significant contributions that have enhanced the agricultural profession.

Bill has been a professor at Purdue since 1977 and in 1979 he established the Breaking New Ground Resource Center, which serves the needs of farmers and ranchers with disabilities.

The Integrated Corn Ethanol Co-Products Team, an interdisciplinary applied research and Extension rapid response effort, addresses issues surrounding the increasing production of DDGS from the corn ethanol industry, including the DDGS production process, impacts of DDGS as an animal feed ingredient, and economics of its use. The team has created a series of Bioenergy Extension publications (http://extension.purdue.edu/renewable-energy/bioenergy.shtml), sponsored several seminars and a conference for stakeholders, and written numerous refereed journal articles. The team’s effort is supported by partnership with The Andersons Clymers Ethanol (a local ethanol plant) and the Indiana State Department of Agriculture.

“Many hands, many minds, one goal”!
Jenna Rickus - was selected as a US delegate to the NSF funded WIRES International summit for the field of micro/nanotechnology. The summit connected women researchers from around the world in the fields of energy systems, Micro/nanotechnology and simulation-based engineering. The summit was held June 1, 2, 3 and 4 in Barcelona Spain.

Gary Krutz - was recently recognized for thirty years of active membership with SAE International.

Joseph Irudayaraj - has developed nanoscale multifunctional probes that can help pinpoint the location of tumors and might one day attach to cancer cells.

Marshall Porterfield - was featured in Purdue Today as well as various other publications for helping create a precise biosensor that detects blood glucose and potentially other biological molecules by using hollow structures called single-wall carbon nanotubes anchored to gold-coated “nanocubes”.

Chang Lu - presented his seminar titled “Microfluidic tools for single cell analysis” at both the University of Notre Dame and the University of California Riverside.

Monika Ivantysynova - gave a presentation entitled “Prius Without a Battery - An effective way to save fuel and reduce emissions with hydraulic power trains” in the Light Duty Hybrid Vehicle Technology Session of the 2009 SAE Government/Industry meeting held in Washington DC.

John Lumkes - received the NFPA Education and Technology Foundation Award for the project titled - “Design, Simulation and Control of Hydraulic System Topographies with Integrated Energy Recovery”.

Monika Ivantysynova and John Lumkes - and 11 of their graduate students traveled to the University of Minnesota to attend the annual site visit of the Center for Compact and Efficient Fluid Power (CCEF). The center is funded by the NSF and consists of 7 universities and 59 industry partners. This year’s visit was critical to the success of the center as the NSF advisory board will be deciding whether or not to continue funding the center for the next 7 years. The students played a key role in presenting their research findings in the form of posters to the NSF advisory board.

Nate Mosier - was an instructor at the Penn State Cellulosic Biofuels Short Course held in San Francisco California.

Al Heber - testified before the U.S. House Committee on Science and Technology during a hearing entitled: Monitoring, Measurement and Verification of Greenhouse Gas Emissions II: The Role of Federal and Academic Research and Monitoring Programs. He presented a 5-minute Power Point presentation and answered several questions from the committee members during the 2 hour and 20 minute long hearing. He was one of seven members of the scientific panel.

Michael Ladisch - was presented the Charles D. Scott Award at their annual Symposium on Biotechnology for Fuels and Chemicals. The Symposium was held in San Francisco and this award recognizes persons who have discovered innovative uses of biotechnology to produce fuels and chemicals.

Dennis Buckmaster - has found a way to get more bang for fewer bucks when it comes to processing cellulosic material to make ethanol. By shredding corn stover instead of chopping, as is commonly done, about 40 percent less energy is needed to gain access to more of the material stored in the plant.

Marshall Porterfield - was awarded the University Faculty Scholar Award in April.
Craig Barcus (BFPE) - this ABE Outstanding Senior is an intelligent, talented, hard working, mature, grounded, out-going, well-rounded student and a great leader. Craig has tremendous motivation for research and is a great student in the lab. Craig entered Purdue’s Masters program last fall and has dual status as a senior and a Master’s Degree student. He is making rapid progress towards completion of his thesis. Craig has also been very helpful in the recruitment of new students to ABE. He has participated in freshman engineering lectures and is a freshman advisor for 1st year engineering students.

Janie Stine (BFPE) - this ABE Outstanding Junior has outstanding academic abilities, a direct, no-nonsense personality and wonderful organizational skills. She is constantly helping her fellow students to understand course material. She has an essentially perfect GPA, indicating her very strong scholastic skills. Janie also participates on Purdue’s iGEM team, where she helps organize and participates in genetic engineering competitions. Thanks to her enthusiastic leadership and participation, the Purdue iGEM team has received several awards in national competition.

Jacob Ohlemiller (ANRE) - this ABE Outstanding Sophomore is an excellent student who never missed a class, never turns in homework late or incomplete, and is always courteous to both faculty and fellow students. Jacob is a well-rounded student with excellent academic skills, as well as being very involved in campus and community activities. Jacob’s engineering inquisitiveness, academic ability, overwhelming positive approach to life, and a desire to truly make the world and others in it a better place are contagious.

Benjamin Daily (ASM) - this ABE Outstanding Freshman is an excellent student, he communicates clearly, understands the context of his degree, and has a well-planned and very bright future. In addition to his ASM major, he plans to obtain minors in Spanish and Management. Ben is also active in the Agricultural Systems Management Club as well as the Agronomy Club and is active in the Lafayette community.

Graduate Student Awards

Magoon Award Honoree - Andrew “Dewey” Mann

Celebration of Graduate Student Teaching Honoree - Oscar Ramos

Purdue Student Engineering Foundation Outstanding Graduate Student Award - Majdi Abou-Najm

ABE Outstanding MS Graduate Student - Azalenah Shah

ABE Outstanding PhD Graduate Student - Jun Wang

Bilsland Dissertation Fellowship - Jun Wang

Purdue Doctoral Fellowships - Margaret McCahon

Ross Fellowship - Joshua Zimmerman

Lynn Fellowship - Isaac Emery

Hugh and Edna Donnan Fellowship - Clairmont Clementson

NSF Fellowship - Ruth Pinto, Elizabeth Casey and Janie McClurkin

USDA National Needs Fellowship - Laurent Ahiablame

Ivanhoe Fellowship - Laurent Ahiablame

Ben Dietrich - is the 2009 Purdue Student Engineering Foundation Outstanding Senior. While maintaining a respectable GPA, Ben has been exemplary in his service to the department. He has volunteered to help with recruiting events as well as Purdue’s cooperative education program. Ben is currently the president of the Purdue ASABE student chapter. The combination of leadership and service that Ben has demonstrated make him highly deserving of this recognition.
The ABE department hosted the Annual Alumni & Student Celebration on April 23. The department hosted events all day with our 2009 Outstanding Alumni being recognized in the morning, ABE Senior Design and ASM Senior Capstone projects on display for judging in the afternoon and the student awards and scholarship banquet in the evening with over 200 faculty, staff, students, parents and friends in attendance.

The academic programs committee awarded $60,000 in scholarships to 68 students.
Professor Don Jones joined the Department of Agricultural and Biological Engineering at Purdue University in 1977 and after 32 years of service retired in early 2009.

Don’s research and teaching interests included computer applications such as spreadsheets, multimedia and web-sites in agriculture and water resources, especially as applied to agriculture production systems and rural waste management. He conducted active outreach programs in areas of manure management and on-site wastewater.

Don has actively participated in the development of several expert systems and over 60 internet-based environmental educational programs. Don has been the recipient of many awards including: ASABE Fellow, PUCESA Career, Senior and Team awards, Hovde Award for Excellence in Educational Service to Rural People of Indiana, ABE Outstanding Teacher in ASM, ASABE Henry Giese Structures and Environment and Nolan Mitchell Young Extension Worker Awards, Certificate of Distinction Award, and Ag Dean’s Team Award.

The Agricultural and Biological Engineering Department wishes Don the best in his retirement.

www.purdue.edu/ABE
Emily Raderer (BS ABE ‘07) - is working at Texas A&M’s Urban Solutions Center in Dallas doing research. She married fellow Purdue graduate Allen Guzik in October 2008.

Jada Phillabaum (BS ABE ‘97) - was recognized as a 2008 recipient of the Emerging Leader Award from the Society of Women Engineers. Phillabaum is a marketing recruitment and development supervisor in Caterpillar’s Marketing and Product Support division.

David Yung (BS ABE ‘08) - and his parents visited with Purdue President France Cordova when she attended the Purdue Alumni Event in November in Hong Kong, China.

Brad Lukac (BS ABE ‘96) - welcomed a new member to his family! Paxton Carter Lukac was born on November 11th and she weighed in at 8 pounds and 3 ounces and was 20 inches long.

Scott Benko (BS ABE ‘82) - works for Indy Tractor LLC, in Mooresville, Indiana.

Dr. Kelsi Bracmort (MS ABE ‘01, PhD. ABE ‘04) - has accepted a new position as an analyst in agricultural conservation and natural resources policy for the Congressional Research Service (CRS).

Dustin Thurston (BS ABE ‘03) - joined the RM Armstrong Company as a Program Engineer. He will be working on the drainage and permitting programs for transportation projects.

Lawrence Ranck (BS ABE ‘68, MS ABE ‘72) - retired from Sonoco Products Company as President of Sonoco Development, Inc. and Sonoco Products Company Resources, Inc. in January 2009 after 32 years of managing intellectual properties.

John Chenoweth (BS ABE ‘53) - is consulting part-time during retirement from the USDA-NRCS. John states that his training in hydrology and hydraulics served him well, and that he has very fond memories of the Purdue faculty and fellow students.

Robert Dieterie (BS ABE ‘70) - retired after 30 years with Viking Pump located in Cedar Falls, Iowa. During his time with Viking Pump he served as a Project Engineer, District Manager and Regional Manager.

David Pyle (BS ABE ‘08) - joined POET Biorefining located in North Manchester Indiana as a Plant Engineer.

Corey Arrick (BS ABE ‘00) - is a Senior Process Engineer with Barry-Wehmiller Design Group located in Philadelphia.

Levon Mathews (BS ABE ‘81) - was promoted to President and Chief Executive Officer of Vantus Bank, headquartered in Iowa.

Evandro Chartuni Mantovani (MS ABE ‘81, PhD ABE ‘84) - has added a new member to his family - grandson Francisco

Michael Hitchcock (BS BFPE ‘88, MS ABE ‘91) - is employed by LinkedIn in Florida and spends a lot of time fishing in the Saint John’s river.

---

The ABE Department Wishes to Extend Sincere Sympathy to the Family and Friends of Samuel D. Parsons

Samuel D. Parsons joined the Purdue University Agricultural Engineering department (now ABE) in 1964 and retired in 2001. Dr. Parsons’ major emphasis was in the area of farm machinery management.

Professor Parsons died on March 24, 2009.
ABE Alumni!
We Want To Hear From You!

We would like to keep in touch with you about ABE activities and events, as well as other college and department events, so be sure you send your e-mail address to Micky Creech at mcreech@purdue.edu

Purdue University is an equal opportunity/equal access employer