US News Ranks ABE #1 in 2004

In August U.S. News & World Report published its undergraduate rankings for 2004. We are proud to announce the Purdue ABE department was ranked #1 in the undergraduate specialty rankings for agricultural engineering. In addition, the Purdue University Schools of Engineering tied with Cornell University for the 9th place ranking.

Schools of Engineering Dean Linda Katehi says of these rankings, “We’ve obviously established ourselves as one of the best engineering schools in the world, and we are only going to get better at Purdue.”

The ABE faculty and staff would like to thank everyone who helped to make Purdue ABE the best program in the nation. It is really an honor to be ranked #1. With the strategic initiatives that are currently underway, we are striving to maintain this position of excellence. Thank you all for making ABE the best it can be!

See page 4 for photos from the ABE ranking celebration.

Reed Gift to Help Kick Off New ABE Building Campaign

We would like to extend our sincere thanks to Dr. and Mrs. Dale Reed (AGEN B.S. ’53, Ph.D. ’01) for their generous donation to our department. With their gift, the largest single gift in ABE history, we will be formulating plans for a new addition or building. The proposed facility will be located just west of our current building and is slated to house ten new faculty members, twenty new graduate students, and several new named laboratory facilities. Please stay tuned for information.
Dear Alumni and Friends:

Welcome to the fall edition of the Agricultural and Biological Engineering Newsletter. It has been another great semester and year for Purdue University. As you can see from our first page headline, we are very proud that the Purdue ABE undergraduate program was ranked #1 by US News and World Reports in 2004. This is the highest ranking that we have ever received from US News and it was the highest ranking for any of the programs in the Purdue Schools of Engineering. The ranking represents a significant accomplishment for our faculty, staff, students and alumni. Thank you all for your continued support of our programs, which helps us rank among the best in the nation and world.

Another headline event for the ABE Department this fall was the Reed gift to help kick off a new ABE Building Campaign. The gift from Dale and Donna Reed is the single largest gift in ABE history. As we indicated in our previous newsletter, Purdue ABE is positioned for growth in students, faculty and staff. To accommodate this unprecedented growth we will need new and renovated laboratories and space. The ABE Building Campaign will be officially kicked off some time later this year but we wanted to give all of you the heads up on this historic event.

The Department is currently recruiting for six (6) new faculty members in new and emerging areas (see page 16). The addition of these new faculty members will bring our numbers to 30 faculty which is the highest ever. The purpose of the new positions will be to grow our teaching and research capacity in areas important to Indiana agriculture and the value added processing industries. The focus of their program will be to help us define and produce new products and processes that can improve the economic viability of agriculture and the quality of life for consumers. We are expecting the individuals filling these positions to stimulate new ideas and help us contribute to the biological revolution, which is transforming the world’s agriculture and biological industries.

We had a nice group of December graduates (15 BS, 6 MS and 3 PhD students). Many of the graduates have already secured excellent jobs in industry and government. As the economy revives so will the job prospects for the remaining graduates and those graduating in the spring. Students took several field trips this fall including trips to CNH and Deere. The Biological and Food Process Engineering students attended the World Food Congress in Chicago during the fall term. Alumni gifts are used to facilitate these class field trips and the students tell us that they learn a lot about industry and possible future careers from these activities.

Gifts from Alumni and friends continue to help us provide scholarships for undergraduate students in ABE programs. Over the past year over $200,000 in newly endowed scholarships have been received. Larry and Lola Huggins and Gerry and Phyllis Isaacs, former ABE Department Heads and their spouses have set the pace for new scholarships. We also received new endowed gifts from Parker-Hannifin and Bridgestone Firestone and the Bindley family. These scholarships will allow us to give up to ten (10) new $1000 scholarships for deserving ABE students.

This spring we are planning a special Outstanding Alumni celebration on April 22nd, 2004. As always please feel free to drop by to see us anytime if you are in the West Lafayette area. We will be happy to arrange a tour of the Department so that you can view first hand the improvements that have taken place over the past few years.

Happy New Year,

Vincent F. Bralts
Professor and Head
During the May 2003 commencement ceremony, Dr. Donald V. Fites received an Honorary Doctorate of Agriculture degree from Purdue University. The University awards this highest honor to individuals of distinction who have made significant contributions to society and the betterment of humankind.

Dr. Fites graduated from Valparaiso University with a degree in Civil Engineering and a M.S. degree in management from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology where he was a Sloan Fellow. He is currently a member of the Boards of Directors at Exxon-Mobil, Georgia-Pacific, AT&T Wireless, Wolverine World Wide, AK Steel, and Oshkosh Truck Corp., as well as being on the Board of Advisors at Thayer Capital Partners.

As chairman and chief executive officer of Caterpillar, Inc. in 1990, Donald Fites successfully implemented several strategic initiatives to strengthen Caterpillar’s global industry leadership leading to record revenues and profits, and positioning the company for growth and continued financial success. In particular, he led the development of a new line of Agricultural Equipment - from the Cat Challenger to a new track combine. Under his leadership (1993 to 1998), sales and revenues increased 63 percent to $18.9 billion and profits increased 2.5 fold to $1.65 billion. Caterpillar has made major advances in agricultural tractors, forest machinery, and combines in the past 5 years, especially with the innovative rubber track system.

Dr. Fites’ 42+ years with Caterpillar included sixteen years in overseas management positions including area manager of Southern Africa; area manager of Central Europe; marketing director of Caterpillar Mitsubishi Ltd. in Tokyo; and president of Caterpillar Brazil S.A. in Sao Paulo, Brazil.

A leading proponent of free trade, he is past-chairman of The Business Roundtable, the U.S.-Japan Business Council, the National Foreign Trade Council, and the Equipment Manufacturers’ Institute. He is also a director of the National Association of Manufacturers; and a member of the Business Council, the Competitiveness Policy Council, and the President’s Advisory Committee for Trade Policy and Negotiations serving under Presidents Reagan, Bush and Clinton. In March 1995, he was named CEO of the Year by Financial World magazine. In September 1998, he was the recipient of the Consumers for World Trade Annual Award; in April 1999, he was named Executive of the Year by the Executives Club of Chicago; and in June 1999, he received the Creve Coeur Club of Peoria’s Robert H. Michel Lifetime Achievement Award.

Dr. Fites is a native of Indiana, having grown up on a farm in the Valparaiso area, a family enterprise he still maintains. In 1997, he identified Purdue University as a strategic alliance partner and established the Electrohydraulics Center in Engineering which is housed in the ABE Department. Since 1998 Caterpillar has awarded over $2 million in sponsored research contracts.

Dr. Fites is not only involved with corporate affairs, but also with community service. He is a chairperson for both the Salvation Army National Advisory Board and the World Methodist Council Financial Development Committee. He serves as a trustee of Knox College and the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.

Dr. Fites was awarded the Honorary Doctorate of Agriculture for his significant contributions to international trade, university and industrial partnerships, and service to his community.

Diploma citation . . .

DONALD V. FITES
To the Degree of DOCTOR OF AGRICULTURE IN RECOGNITION OF HIS INSPIRED CONTRIBUTIONS TO INTERNATIONAL TRADE, UNIVERSITY AND INDUSTRIAL PARTNERSHIPS, AND SERVICE TO HIS COMMUNITY

http://pasture.ecn.purdue.edu/~ehcenter
“What an accomplishment... to bump off Texas A&M for first place in undergraduate programs. I am so proud of what this department has become. Keep up the GREAT work!”
A. Dale Whittaker (AGEN M.S. ’94, Ph.D. ’97)
Director of Academic Programs
Associate Dean, School of Agriculture
Professor, Agricultural & Biological Engineering

“I heard the great news earlier today regarding the #1 ranking of ABE. Congratulations! The ABE faculty and staff are an outstanding group and their dedication and commitment to education of undergraduates is clearly recognized by colleagues across the nation. Please extend my personal compliments to everyone. Again, congratulations to you and your family!
Victor Lechtenberg
Dean, School of Agriculture
Professor, Agronomy

Undergraduate engineering specialties: Agricultural
(At schools whose highest degree is a doctorate)
1. Purdue Univ. - West Lafayette (IN)
2. Texas A&M Univ. - College Station
3. U. of Illinois - Urbana-Champaign

Left to right: Associate Dean Dale Whittaker, Dean Linda Katebi, ABE Department Head Vince Bralts, and Associate Dean Larry Huggins cut the celebration cake.

Dean Linda Katebi joins in the toast to celebrate ABE’s current and future success.
ABE Advisory Committee Meets to Discuss ABE Strategic Plan

In early November the ABE Department Advisory Boards met on campus to review and finalize the ABE strategic plan. The ABE Advisory Boards includes individuals from industry and agriculture who meet with the ABE Faculty and Dean to help direct the Department. Primarily the purpose of the meeting this year was to review the ABE strategic plan and set specific goals for the future.

Vincent Bralts introduced new faculty and updated the members on department activities. During the morning session, both Professor Bralts and Professor Bernie Engel presented strategic plans to the committee. Following their presentations, four breakout groups each discussed the strategic plans and reported back to the group at large. All members contributed and discussed ABE’s strategic plans and gave excellent feedback. At noon, everyone had an opportunity to meet Dr. Larry Huggins, Associate Dean of Engineering. Two of ABE’s graduate students, Will Smith (ABE BS ’03), Roxanne Mitchell, and a recent Purdue ABE Alum, Jessica Wilder (ABE BS ’03), also attended the luncheon.

Mike Irvin, Director of Ag Development, gave an update to the members; Professor’s Gary Krutz and Dan Ess presented ABE’s development plans for the future. Near the end of the meeting another breakout session was held with members reporting back. The committee made a motion, which was passed, to accept the ABE 2003 strategic plan.

The next step will be to finalize the implementation plan with the faculty, and to begin taking action toward our strategic goals.

ABE STRATEGIC GOALS

1. To provide undergraduate students with effective educational opportunities.
2. To increase fundamental and applied research activities.
3. To facilitate profitable and environmentally sustainable agricultural production and processing systems.
4. To provide graduate students with world class educational opportunities.
5. To create departmental infrastructure that promotes productivity and supports professional and personal growth.
In early November the Indiana Soybean Board (ISB) endowed a professorship dedicated to researching new uses for soybeans. The endowed chair titled Indiana Soybean Board Professor in Soybean Utilization Research will conduct research to create value-added products from soybeans in the ABE department. Purdue University will match this endowment and establish an additional faculty position in soybean research. (See Bindley Challenge on pg. 7.)

“The future lies in how to make better products from soybeans, not just how to grow them better. This opportunity will provide soybean producers with a continual source of research that directly benefits them and these faculty positions will also provide leadership in academics and outreach related to soybean uses. The timing of the ISB gift also is such that we can give them a two-for-one benefit,” says School of Agriculture Dean Victor Lechtenberg.

ABE graduate student Shailendra Bist is conducting research to develop biodiesel fuels that could be used in aviation from soybeans and other agricultural products. Shailendra feels the addition of two professors will help improve research projects dealing with soybeans: “It’s very good for the students in general and for graduate students in particular. A lot of times students need help on a project that can be provided by the faculty. With this endowment undergraduates will find the support they need to do more projects. Through this process they might do a project that could lead to important discoveries in the future.”

The School of Agriculture will receive $2 million in federal funding to support corn-based fuel research. The School of Agriculture and LORRE (Laboratory of Renewable Resources Engineering), in a partnership with the Midwest Consortium of Sustainable Biobased Products and Bioenergy, are working to provide the foundation for a biobased chemical industry centered in the rural communities of the Midwest. This industry will aim to create cost-competitive, environmentally-safe chemicals from corn, to increase the value of and provide new markets for corn, and to provide new investment opportunities in midwestern rural communities.

“Future markets for Indiana farmers and rural business will come from the combination of new technologies and our agricultural base. This effort will help position Indiana as a center for biofuels research and development, stimulate the economy, and provide new ways for our farmers to make money,” says Dean Victor Lechtenberg.

The efforts of this partnership will initially focus on using new technological methods to enhance the capabilities and product streams of corn dry mills. The goal for the next five years is to develop valuable technologies to improve the economical, environmental, and competitive benefits of dry mill products. It is anticipated that the advanced technologies developed at Purdue can provide applications that will benefit the region and the nation.
The ABE Department is pleased to announce the establishment of eight new endowed scholarships. Purdue ABE Professor Larry Huggins and his wife Lola have established the Larry & Lola Huggins Scholarship fund for ABE students. This endowment will be matched by the Bindley Challenge (see below) and will result in two $1000 scholarships awarded annually.

Gerry & Phyllis Isaacs have also established a new scholarship fund. The Gerald W. and Phyllis J. Isaacs Scholarship will be awarded based on academic merit to students studying Ag Systems Management, Agricultural & Biological Engineering, or Biological & Food Process Engineering. This scholarship will also be matched.

In addition to alumni support, ABE has received two corporate sponsored scholarships. Bridgestone-Firestone has given ABE over $20,000 in the past couple of years and Parker-Hannifin has committed over $20,000 to our department that will be used for one $1000 or two $500 scholarships. The number of scholarships given each year will depend on endowment performance and financial need.

Every gift of $20,000 or more to a scholarship fund in the life sciences is being matched with an equal amount from the Bindley Challenge. This generous commitment from Purdue alumni Bill and MaryAnn Bindley is an excellent opportunity to make your scholarship donations go further!

Thank You!
Matthew Deutsch’s family joins him for the ABE reception and heads to the Hall of Music for Commencement ceremonies.

GRADUATE STUDENTS
Wat Chayaprasert, MS
Dennis Kim, MS
Xiao Dong, PhD
Francisco Monroig, PhD
Rich Mumford, MS
Lal Ninan, PhD
Doug Rusch, MS
Nick Vanlaningham, MS
Matt Wenger, MS

OUTSTANDING GRADUATE STUDENT
Behic Mert
Behic is working on a Ph.D. in ABE to use acoustic and ultrasound techniques to characterize the properties of foods and biomaterials. He has published and submitted papers to leading journals in the areas of rheology and scientific instruments. Funds have been allocated to commercialize a measurement prototype that Behic has developed in his research. In addition to his research, Behic has served as TA in ABE 210, which involves the application of thermodynamic principles to biological systems. He has mentored undergraduate students and graduate students in ABE, as well as other departments around Purdue, regarding technical issues and adapting to a new environment.

ABE GRADUATES
Lannette Armstrong, Rochester
Kimber Brenneman, South Bend
Austin Ehle, Grabill
Bradley Kaufman, Wabash
Scott Wagner, Danville
ABE engineering graduate candidates, Brad Kaufman (MSE) and Lanette Armstrong (FPE).

Outstanding Undergraduate Student
Brad Kaufman, B.S., Machine Systems

Brad is from Wabash and has held an internship with Lindahl Brothers, Inc. throughout his academic career. Brad is a member of Alpha Zeta, the agricultural honorary fraternity; Alpha Epsilon, the honorary society for agricultural and biological engineering; the Purdue Society of Professional Engineers; and the National Society of Professional Engineers. He has also been a residence hall intramural coordinator for two years and is a member of ASAE, the society for engineering in agriculture, food, and biological systems. Brad plans to continue his education with graduate studies in Machine Systems Engineering.

ABE department students, family, faculty and staff enjoy visiting during the pre-ceremony.

ASM GRADUATES
Justin Booe, Clay City
Matthew Deutsch, Evansville
Nathan Fleck, Vincennes
Travis Kittle, Clay City
Jared Rosenbarger, Brookston
Cale Russler, Cynthia
Luis Santini, Puerto Rico
Jason Walker, Charlottesville
Douglas Werling, New Haven
Benjamin Zuercher, Berne
Associate Professor Dan Ess was selected as a Fellow of the Purdue Teaching Academy. His record of and devotion to teaching earned him this distinguished honor. The mission of the Purdue Teaching Academy is to provide leadership and serve as a method of strengthening the quality of undergraduate, graduate, and outreach learning. Dan joins ABE’s Professor Gary Krutz and Professor Emeritus Ed Monke as a Fellow in the Purdue Teaching Academy.

Professor Martin Okos received the inaugural Division Service Award from the AIChE. The Association established this award to honor those individuals whose dedication has made a strong contribution to both the field of food engineering and the profession as a whole.

At the 2003 ASAE International meeting in Las Vegas, Environmental Scientist Jin-Yong Choi, GIS Specialist Larry Theller, Professor Bernie Engel, and Professor John Harbor (Earth & Atmospheric Sciences) received an IET Outstanding Paper Award for their paper titled “Internet Based SDSS for Watershed Management Using Web-GIS Capability.

Distinguished Professor Michael Ladisch chaired a National Academy of Sciences Committee on Opportunities in Biotechnology for Future Army Systems. This committee published a report that recommended the U.S. military take advantage of the current progress being made in the field of biotechnology, which could include the use of biosensors to detect biological and chemical agents.

Professor Don Jones received the 2003 PUCESA Career Award and Associate Professor Natalie Carroll received the Junior Award at this year’s Purdue University Cooperative Extension Specialists Association (PUCESA) awards ceremony.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL!
Virtually everyone living in the Lafayette-West Lafayette area knows about the severe flooding that occurred last summer. Some of us may have even contemplated building a boat to travel around flooded areas. Besides the inconvenience of road closings and having to vacate residences, homeowners were presented with the threat of contaminated wells.

ABE Associate Professor Jane Frankenberger recently warned homeowners, “water from a well that has been flooded should be assumed to be contaminated.” Use of a well in a flooded area should be ceased until the well is certain to be free of contamination. Floodwater can be contaminated by various sources including sewage from flooded septic systems or pesticides and other crop treatments.

Brent Ladd, an ABE Extension Water Specialist, cautioned, “Another implication of flooding is the damage or deconstruction of the well in general.” The rapid movement of water can damage well structures during a flood. Floodwater can also cause electrical damage to the well pump. A licensed contractor or electrician should be contacted if well or electrical damage is suspected.

In addition to well contamination, structural damage, and electrical problems, recent flooding near livestock manure lagoons may introduce an additional problem. Water and soil quality could be affected by overflows of lagoons because of flooding.

ABE Professor Don Jones said despite the severe rainfall, significant issues regarding water quality should not be a concern; however disposal of effluent will be a problem because of the supersaturated soil. Don Jones said, “Most waste lagoons aren’t built to withstand a storm like the one that went through Indiana…”

If an Indiana farm experiences lagoon overflow, it is important to contact the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM, 800-451-6027), who will work with the farmer to solve the overflow and disposal problems. Don also mentioned that the IDEM is currently working on a policy to deal with issues resulting from flooding.

Land development may be to blame for much of the flooding this past July. The development of housing complexes, shopping centers, and recreational areas near natural waterways have caused a decrease in the natural buffers needed to keep excess water from causing flooding problems. “Development and farming practices have reduced the natural buffers around streams by nearly 70% nationally,” Brent Ladd told Purdue News Service on July 11, 2003.

These natural buffers include the grassy and wooded areas near waterways that act to slow the flow of water and absorb excess. These buffers work because of long root systems that are able to draw water away from the ground surface and return it to nearby waterways, such as rivers or streams.

Brent said about this problem, “When you study old, pre-settlement watersheds, you notice that the waterways meandered and flowed more slowly. Now we have a lot of flashiness, a lot of fast-moving water that goes up and down very quickly. If we want to reduce our flood risks, we have to restore many of the natural buffers we’ve lost.”
CASE NEW HOLLAND MANUFACTURING OPERATION
RACINE, WI
ASM 530 - Professors Dan Ess & Gaines Miles

The Agricultural Systems Management 530 – Power and Machinery Management class traveled to Racine, Wisconsin, to visit the CNH Racine Manufacturing Operation on December 5, 2003. The students were hosted by recent ASM alumnus and CNH employee, Joe Miller (ASM BS ‘03). Tour participants were given a complete tour of the facility that assembles the MX Magnum and TG New Holland tractor lines and components for CNH combines and four-wheel-drive tractors. The trip back to Indiana included a taste of Wisconsin as the group visited one of that state’s many fine cheese and sausage retail outlets.


PURDUE FRESHMEN Run with the Best
written by Roxie Hannemann

Few people would doubt that Professor Gary Krutz believes wholeheartedly in helping 21st century students make sound decisions to run with the best. The slogan is not just a cliché, but John Deere & Company’s statement that they are the best, both in their products and as an employer.

On November 14, 2003, Professor Krutz, along with Professors Dan Ess and Bob Montgomery, headed up a group of Purdue freshmen engineers and traveled to John Deere Technical Center in Moline, Illinois. A great deal of planning went into the tour, including both funding from Deere and help from company employees.

Adel A. Zakaria, John Deere’s Senior Vice President, Engineering and Manufacturing, along with his employees, Dave Smith, Terry Sipes, Lyle Stephens, and Jon Cross all enthusiastically guided the students. They walked through John Deere’s Virtual Reality lab, Composites, Sound, Mechanics and Metallurgy labs and left with a good idea of what it would be like to work as engineers for John Deere and Company.
Students Study in Brazil During Maymester

Twenty Purdue Ag students and four professors spent their Maymester in South America as part of the ASM 491K Tropical Agriculture in Brazil course. 27,445 kilometers by airplane, 1,634 kilometers by buses, 11 kilometers by boats, 95 kilometers by train and they walked about 10 kilometers. Guess that explains the sleepy bus ride.

Coffee, coffee, coffee and a whole lot of shaking going on. Beans are harvested with a hand-held mechanical harvester. Once harvested water is used to separate the ripe and over-ripe beans. The coffee beans are then dried in the sun.

Sugar cane is harvested then crushed. The juice drains into fermentation drums through the distillation process, eventually to become cachaca, a Brazilian sugar cane liquor.

ASAE Lawnmower Winterization

written by Curt Elpers, Purdue ASAE President

The Purdue student chapter of ASAE held its annual lawnmower winterization program in November. Each fall, the club offers the winterization service to the Purdue, Lafayette, and West Lafayette communities. Both riding and push mowers are prepared for winter storage by changing oil, sharpening blades, checking spark plugs and air filters and cleaning the mowers. This year 220 mowers were serviced over the weekend of November 16th by the members of the ASAE student club. In an effort to make the project a more worthwhile and meaningful event, this year the club incorporated a GIS (Geographic Information Systems) program into the routing and planning of pickup and delivery of patron lawnmowers. Each lawnmower’s address was digitally plotted on a map and individual routes were planned accordingly. The use of the software allowed the club to reduce pickup/delivery times and increase overall efficiency of the annual event.
This support from NASA has encouraged me to complete my Ph.D. degree with great enthusiasm, using innovative technologies and applications of remote sensing for solving practical problems. From a personal point of view, while I am working on my thesis research, a project like this one helps to organize and to measure the best of our energies and skills.

Although this effort is a small grain of sand in an ocean of science projects, I hope the results of the research will help to facilitate the use of these datasets for the understanding of the landscape and the environmental conditions in several places of the world in relation to the agricultural production and the characteristics of human living.

I am delighted to be a student in the ABE department at Purdue University, and I am particularly delighted to be working as a graduate student as a part of NASA’s Earth System Science Enterprise.

Epcot®
Written by Nathan Fleck, ASM Undergraduate

During the spring 2003 semester, I held a position on the cast of Epcot® Science at the Walt Disney World Resort in Orlando, Florida. My main responsibility was the management of a hydroponic production greenhouse at “The Land” pavilion, whose mission is to entertain and enlighten Epcot® guests with a dynamic show of living food crops and agricultural technologies.

My main role in this show was to take responsibility for a greenhouse and make it the best show possible. The greenhouse in which I worked was coined the “Creative” greenhouse for the many different crop growing systems it houses. The systems are used to show the park guests the many ways in which crops can be grown as well as illustrate the basic concepts of hydroponics. While some of the systems were traditional hydroponics techniques, most of the systems under my control were aeroponic. I also had a NASA Advanced Life Support System display under my care.

Giving tours through the greenhouses was the task which I enjoyed the most. Approximately four times a week I would be scheduled to lead a group of interested guests, 1-15 people in size, through the complex and answer any questions. I tremendously enjoyed having the ability to meet the hundreds of people who signed up for the tours. Because the tours were a special attraction the guests had to pay extra for, the groups were generally composed of people who had an interest in what we were doing, which made for some good conversations. Another facet of the tours I enjoyed was when I started the tours by telling the guests who I was and where I was from (Purdue), and then listening to their comments. It was amazing to me how many people were Purdue Alumni or the family of alums. I even met a man who claimed his grandfather’s farm was the source of the “Old Oaken Bucket”, for which IU and Purdue compete every year. I also gained an immense appreciation of Purdue University’s reputation as many people were impressed and awed to learn that I was a Purdue student. In fact, some of the guests that I encountered thought that Purdue was an Ivy League school.

I’ve participated in many different projects and worked for many different companies during my life but none of which were as unique as Walt Disney World. I loved every minute of the entire six months, from the work I did to the people that I met. I experienced things that cannot be experienced anywhere else, and learned many lessons which will prove to be useful throughout my entire life. If given the opportunity to do it again I most certainly would!
Long Awaited Hole-in-One
written by Mack Strickland

On July 3rd, just before the summer floods, Arlen Brown became possibly the oldest (almost 90) retired ag engineer to ever hit a hole-in-one — this was his first hole-in-one in 60 years of playing golf, and was recorded while playing at the Chesapeake Run Golf Course in La Porte, IN. According to ESPN Sports, it was reported that he teed the ball high on the 105 yard No. 8 hole, took his trusty 5-iron (he hits it more consistently than most of his other irons), hit a high arching shot (some say he seeded the clouds and that is why the rains began the next day) that hit on the right side of the green, rolled down the green and disappeared. According to the report, his wife (Marcia) said “I think the ball went in.” The ESPN staff checked and there were three young men (young when compared to Arlen) on the next tee who witnessed the feat — they immediately fell to their knees and bowed to Arlen as he passed — then took their golf card over for him to autograph. Since Arlen tries to play golf 3 times per week, as long as the temperature is above 50 degrees, another 60 years would only make him 150 years old. The ESPN announcers were hoping they were around for his next hole-in-one.

Plans are in the work by HBO to make a movie about Arlen’s hole-in-one, bringing in such things as his 23 years as the American flag carrier for the American Legion Post 11 (largest in the state) Honor Guard — or more commonly called, “The Firing Squad”. HBO said he makes some of the sharpest turns when carrying the flag that they have ever witnessed. If the movie goes well, ESPN and HBO are talking about a Sunday morning golf show featuring tips on how to hit a hole-in-one, as well as, how to hit over water that is wider than 100 yards — a feat that Arlen accomplishes at least 3 out of 10 times.

There is a discussion at the University level about having a reception for Arlen where he can sign autographs — I know that the men and women golf teams are anxious for this to occur. The word is that the West Lafayette police have had to step up patrols around Arlen’s house because of all of the groupies who hang-out there.

I just hope it doesn’t take me 60 years of golf to make my first hole-in-one. If it does, I will be the same age as Arlen when it occurs.

Congratulations Arlen!!!
January
12 Spring semester begins
19 Martin Luther King Day, no classes

February
7 Purdue Ag Fish Fry
Indianapolis
8-10 AETC Ag Equipment Technology Conference, Louisville, KY
15 ABE Alumni Dinner

March
15-19 Spring Break

April
16 Distinguished Engineering Alumni Activities
Class of ’54 - 50th Reunion Reception & Dinner
Gala Weekend begins
17-18 SpringFest
Bug Bowl
22 ABE Alumni & Students Awards & Recognition Senior Poster Projects
24 Grand Prix

May
15-16 Commencement
15 Commencement 2:30 p.m.
School of Agriculture
Schools of Engineering
31 Memorial Day, no classes

August
1-4 ASAE International Meeting, Ottawa, Canada

ABE Faculty Position Openings

Assistant, Associate, or Full Professor of Agricultural and Biological Engineering

Three (3) new positions are currently available for faculty who will conduct innovative and externally funded research programs in Machine Systems, Fluid Power, Food Processing or Emerging Equipment Technologies for Crop Production, Material Handling Systems and Food Processing. Development of an innovative and complementary undergraduate/graduate teaching and/or outreach/extension education program will be required. The signature area positions will provide collaborative and interdisciplinary opportunities with the Schools of Engineering, Science and Agriculture.

For full job announcement and application requirements, visit our Website at: http://purdue.edu/ABE

Assistant, Associate, or Full Professor of Agricultural and Biological Engineering

Three (3) new positions are currently available for faculty who will conduct fundamental research in biological engineering related to biosensors, biomaterials, bioprocessing, or sustainable environmental systems, and develop an innovative complementary teaching program. Recognizing the importance of integrating biology and life sciences into engineering, Purdue University is committed to interdisciplinary research as demonstrated by the recent establishment of a $1000M Discovery Park (http://www.purdue.edu/DiscoveryPark/). Joint appointments with engineering and science will be encouraged.

For full job announcement and application requirements, visit our Website at: http://purdue.edu/ABE

Purdue University
Agricultural & Biological Engineering Department
225 South University Street
West Lafayette, IN 47907-2093

Address Service Requested