

BSE Update

A Newsletter of the University of Wisconsin-Madison Biological Systems Engineering Department

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Winter 2009

Remarks from the Chair

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As I write this, another semester and year are rapidly drawing to an end. While there certainly are clouds of uncertainty in the sky and on the horizon, there are also many signs of optimism. For our nation, we have elected a new leader, who we all hope will help lead our country with vision and creativity that will inspire confidence and lend to better economic times. Here in Biological Systems Engineering, we have many things to be optimistic about as we begin the New Year.

Our faculty, staff, and students have been honored with a number of awards and recognitions as described elsewhere in this newsletter. I will only mention one of these here as I congratulate our student ASABE Pre-professional Club on winning the EMI Award for their activities and initiatives of the last year. This is just one of many awards received by BSE faculty, staff, and students at the ASABE Meeting last summer in Providence, RI.

Additionally, we have continued an upward trend in our student numbers with about 70 undergraduates and 35 graduate students.

In the tight budget times, BSE has been fortunate to have three new faculty and are recruiting for another. We have hired Matthew Digman to fill the Machinery Extension position held by Ron Schuler until his retire-

ment. Matt will begin this spring. We also welcome Troy Runge, who will also be Director of the Wisconsin Bio-Energy Institute in addition to his fifty percent faculty appointment in BSE. Troy will begin his new roll around April 1, 2009. John Shutske joins BSE and CALS from the University of Minnesota, and he is serving as Associate Dean for Extension for our College. John began this past July. Additionally, the Department has been given approval to recruit for a new faculty position in the area of bio-waste and manure. That search process is now underway.

Not to be forgotten are our Department Alumni and friends, who have generously supported our Department and helped make possible many scholarships, fellowships, and other special activities. Thank you all so much for your generous support and the difference it has made to our Department and especially to our students.

We, indeed, have much to be thankful for as we look towards the New Year, and the continued success and excellence that we strive to achieve.

Happy Holidays and Best Wishes for the New Year.

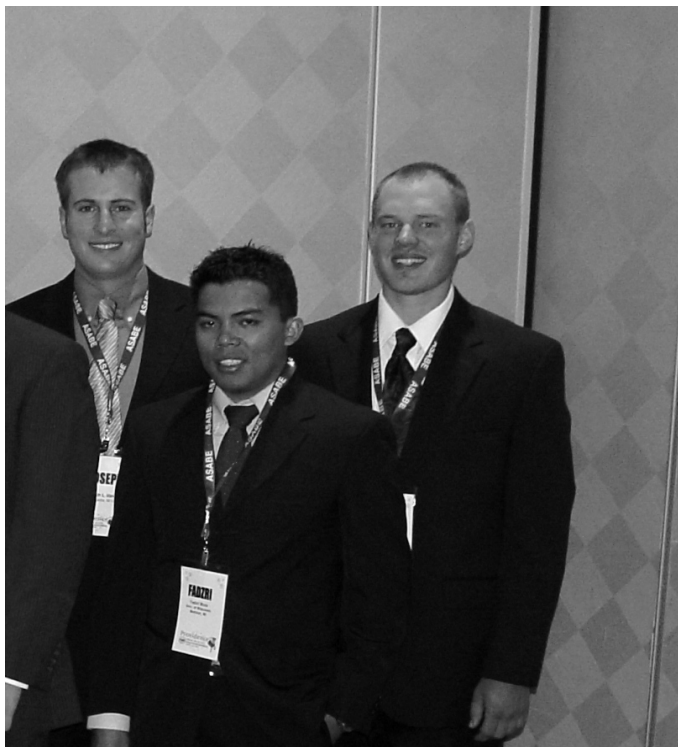
Sincerely,

Richard Straub
BSE Department Chair

Student Update...

ASABE Student Branch Wins 2008 AEM Trophy

The University of Wisconsin-Madison ASABE student branch won the 2008 AEM (Association of Equipment Manufacturers) first place trophy in the Group A (larger branches) competition. This is quite an achievement because in past years, the Wisconsin student branch won awards in the Group B (smaller branches) competitions. The student branches are recognized for outstanding initiative and accomplishments for their activities.



Left to Right Joseph Hanson, Mohd Fadzri Musa and Darrin Sherstad.

BSE Student Team Wins Gunlogson Design Award

A team of University of Wisconsin-Madison students placed first in the Gunlogson Design Award presented during the 2008 ASABE Meeting in Providence, RI. Their design, Arbor Hills Greenway Storm Water Infiltration System Design, was a storm water management system to replace the existing concrete channel storm water conveyance system within Arbor Hills Greenway. Arbor Hills is a Madison neighborhood located on the south side. The design consists of a series of dry ponds and infiltration basins to reduce storm water runoff and improve water quality prior to discharging into the University of Wisconsin Arboretum. The design of the system maintains full recreational function of the greenway. Team members were Darrin Sherstad, Joe Hanson, and Mohd Fadzri Musa.

Student Update...

Student Scholarships

Roger W. Ambrose Scholarship:

Justin Banach, Junior from Cottage Grove, MN majoring in Food & Bioprocess.

Gail Edwin & Janice Faye Janssen Biological Systems Engineering Fund Scholarship:

Kristi Freitag, Junior from Rice Lake, WI majoring in Natural Resource & Environmental Engineering

Ham Bruhn Biological Systems Engineering Scholarship:

Kody Habeck, Senior/Grad from Milton, WI majoring in Machinery Systems Engineering

Ham Bruhn Biological Systems Engineering Scholarship:

Leah Kammel, Junior from Madison, WI majoring in Natural Resource & Environmental Engineering

Cora I. Jayne Academic Merit Award

Julia Kolberg, Junior from Wauwatosa, WI majoring in Natural Resource & Environmental Engineering

Peter Young Student Assistance Grant

Julia Kolberg, Junior from Wauwatosa, WI majoring in Natural Resource & Environmental Engineering

Orrin I. Berge Scholarship

Luke Melchior, Junior from Green Bay, WI majoring in Machinery Systems Engineering

Irving W. Gerhardt Scholarship

Hillary Mess, Junior from Watertown, WI with an undecided major

Ham Bruhn Biological Systems Engineering Scholarship

Anna Mielke, Senior from Inver Grove Heights, MN majoring in Food & BioProcess Engineering

Robert H. & Willa Meier Scholarship Fund

Steven Sell, Senior from Rio, WI majoring in Natural Resource & Environmental Engineering

Don S. Montgomery Scholarship Fund

Adam Steen, Senior from Muncie, IN majoring in Machinery Systems Engineering

Irving W. Gerhardt Scholarship

Ryan Stenjem, Senior from Cambridge, WI majoring in Natural Resource & Environmental Engineering

Ervin W. Schroeder Biological Systems Engineering Scholarship

Jeremy Sutter, Sophomore from Mount Horeb, WI majoring in Natural Resource & Environmental Engineering

Don S. Montgomery Scholarship

Hannah Uhlenhake, Senior from Salem, WI majoring in Machinery Systems Engineering

Dick J. and Grace B. Stith Scholarship Fund

Peter Vanderloo, Senior from Dodgeville, WI majoring in Machinery Systems Engineering

Ham Bruhn Biological Systems Engineering Scholarship

Shane Williams, Senior from Barneveld, WI majoring in Machinery Systems Engineering

Charles Eckburg Memorial Freshman Award

Michael Schalla, Freshman from West Bend, WI majoring in Machinery Systems Engineering

Bradford Richmond Award

Kevin Zwieg, Freshman from Ixonia, WI majoring in Food & Bioprocess Engineering

Wisconsin Agricultural Engineer Scholarship

Christopher Hargot, Junior from Withee, WI majoring in Machinery Systems Engineering

Students and faculty in the Biological Systems Engineering Department greatly appreciate the support of these scholarships. The annual scholarships awarded to BSE students exceed \$10,000.

Faculty Update...

Richard Straub Elected to be an ASABE Fellow

Richard J. Straub, BS '72, MS '75, PhD '80 all Agr. Engr. was elected a ASABE Fellow during the 2008 ASABE International Meeting. A Fellow is a member of unusual professional distinction, with outstanding and extraordinary qualifications and experience in, or related to the field of agricultural, food, or biological systems engineering. The number of candidates elected to fellow each year shall not exceed 0.2 percent of the total membership of ASABE. Straub is the director of Agricultural Programs and Research Stations in the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences and serves as chair of the Biological Systems Engineering Department.

Straub joined the department as an Assistant Professor in 1979 with a teaching and research appointment in the machinery systems area. He was promoted to Associate Professor in 1984 and to full Professor in 1989. From 1996 to 1999, Straub served as department chair. In 1999, Straub was appointed director of Agricultural Research Stations in the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences where he had responsibility for thirteen research stations located throughout Wisconsin. In 2005, Straub was appointed interim Associate Dean and Executive Director, Wisconsin Agricultural Experiment Station.

Straub has provided innovative and visionary leadership and success in strategic planning and problem solving in his many job responsibilities. He has provided leadership in planning a federal research facility at the Marshfield Research station and was instrumental in strategically directing investment into the Wisconsin Agricultural research power and machinery courses and has been a student and faculty advisor. His research has primarily focused on forage machinery and bioprocessing of biological materials. His work has received four patents.

As a 36 year member of ASABE, Straub has been active at the national and section levels serving in leadership positions on numerous committees. Currently he is chairing the Standards Council of ASABE and serving on the Board of Trustees. He received a Presidential citation for his contributions to the ASABE Standards program.



Faculty Update...

Kevin Shinnars Receives Award

Kevin J. Shinnars BS '81, MS '82, PhD '85 all Agr. Engr., received a 2008 ASABE Superior Paper Award during the 2008 International Meeting of ASABE in Providence, RI in June. Superior recognition was awarded to 2.5 percent of the published papers during 2008. The paper, "Single-Pass, Split-Stream Harvest of Corn Grain and Stover," appeared on the 2007 Transactions of ASABE. Co-authors on the paper were former graduate students: Graham S. Adsit, BS BSE '04, Benjamin N. Benversie, MS Agr. Engr. '05, and Matthew F. Digman, MS BSE '06, and USDA Dairy and Forage Center researchers: Richard E. Muck and Paul J. Weimer.

Schuler Receives AgrAbility Award

Ronald T. Schuler, BS Agr. '62, BSME '63, MS Agr. Engr. '67, PhD Agr. Engr. '71, received a Breaking New Ground Achievement Award during the 2008 National AgrAbility Training Workshop in Wichita, KS in November, 2008. The award recognized Schuler for 'Cultivating Independence for Persons with Disabilities in Agriculture.' He served as the primary investigator on the National AgrAbility Project from 2000-2008. AgrAbility is a project that provides education and assistance to farmers with disabilities supported by USDA funds allocated in the Federal Farm Bill. UW Madison has had a state project, AgrAbility of Wisconsin, since 1991 and the National Project, which serves twenty-one state projects, from 2000 through 2008.

Alumni Update...

Rachel (Bohrer) Rudd, P.E., MS Ag Engr '00 received the 2007 Roger H. Lynch Outstanding Young Engineer of the Year Award from the U.S. Public Health Service (USPHS). This is a national award for civil engineers within the USPHS with less than eight years of experience. Rachel has been a field engineer with Indian Health Service, an agency of USPHS, located in Minot, ND since November, 2000. She has been designing individual and community scale water and sewer systems for homes on Indian Reservations throughout North and South Dakota. The award was specially for the design of two innovative sewer systems that resulted in a dramatic cost savings to the government.

Thomas G. Kolaras, Jr. BS Agr Mech and Mgt '89 is vice-president of Marketing for Eisai, Inc. located in New Jersey. Eisai is a U.S. Pharmaceutical subsidiary of Tokyo based Eisai Co. Ltd, a research-based human health care company that discovers, develops and markets products throughout the world.

Christine Gaynes, MS Agr Engr '00, reports that she is a watershed engineer for the Lake County Storm Water Management Commission. She resides in Woodstock, IL.

Funding Update...

Please give some consideration in contributing to one of the Biological Systems Engineering Department Funds listed below:

Biological Systems Engineering Facilities Fund

Biological Systems Engineering General Fund

Biological Systems Engineering Student Activities Fund

Dick and Grace Stith Scholarship

Farm Machinery Research Fund

Ham Bruhn BSE Scholarship

Ham and Janet Bruhn Distinguished Graduate Fellowship

Gail and Janice Janssen BSE Scholarship

Lynndon and Norma Brooks Scholarship

Martin and Kathleen Burkhardt Fund (BSE Employment Assistance)

Milking Research and Instruction Laboratory Fund

Orrin Berge Scholarship

Rural Energy Issues Fund

Robert and Willa Meier Scholarship

Schuler Family Ag Safety and Health Fund

Sixties Decade Computer Lab Equipment

Fund White Clover Dairy Research Fund

Wisconsin BSE Scholarship

We sincerely wish to thank our alumni and friends who have generously supported the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences Department of Biological Systems Engineering. Your gifts today are more important than ever as the University faces challenging budget constraints. Gifts made to the Department of Biological Systems Engineering help us with scholarship, facilities improvement, endowed professorship and graduate fellowships, and carry on our tradition as leaders and innovators in the biological systems engineering field.

An annual household gift of \$500 or more qualifies you and your spouse for membership in the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences Dean's Club. As a member of the Dean's Club you will receive special invitations to the Dean's Football Brunch held in the Fall, the annual Dean's Club Recognition program in May, as well as periodic mailings about the College and a Dean's Club Pocket Calendar. An invitation to join the prestigious Bascom Hill Society is extended to those who provide support of \$25,000 or more to the department or to a specific project or program of their choice. You can pledge your commitment over a 10-year period, provide for a gift in your will, or give a gift of annuities or appreciated stock. If you have specific questions about giving, please contact Brian Hettiger at the UW Foundation (Phone: 608-265-5893; e-mail: brian.hettiger@uwfoundation.wisc.edu).

Thank You...

Contributions from March 21, 2008 through November 15, 2008.

Boumatic

Martin E. Burkhardt

Caterpillar Foundation
(Andrew G. Jirovec match)

ConocoPhillips Corporate
(Stephen A. Rohleder match)

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Marshall F. Finner

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John Deere Foundation

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Department of Biological Systems Engineering Funds

I/we would like to join other alumni and friends in support of the Department of Biological Systems Engineering Fund.

I/we wish to pledge \$_____ over _____ years. Please remind me of my pledge in _____ (month).

I/we contribute \$_____. (Contribution is enclosed.) My company will match this gift; company form enclosed.

I/we wish to have my contribution support _____ fund.

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Alumni Update

Name: _____

Degree and Date(s): BS () MS () PhD ()

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News to share: _____

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