

BSE Spring 2017 Newsletter

News from the Department Chair - Doug Reinemann

We just sent another cohort of graduating Biological Systems Engineers off into the worlds of industry, public service, and academia. We hosted an artist in residence in the spring semester which was a new and interesting chapter in BSE history. The experience was topped off by an exhibition of bio-inspired art at Olbrich Gardens. Bale wrap, re-bar, drywall screws and perhaps a bit of duct tape were featured design elements. Read more about it at the link below. Speaking of history, Ron Schuler is doing a great job of assembling historical documents from the department's 120 years. Look for links on the departments web page. The pre-professional club continues to grow and has been very active, thanks to an outstanding group of officers. As a department, our thoughts are now turning to summer internships and study abroad with students scattered literally all around the world, from research projects nearer to home to summer meetings of the Wisconsin Section and the International ASABE. A special word of thanks to our industrial partners who have made internships available and volunteered to mentor senior design teams. Our update and expansion of shop and lab facilities continues full speed ahead and we appreciate the support of our alumni and friends in this effort. We just received approval to hire a new faculty member in the area of advanced machine systems and will keep you posted on our progress- we look forward to welcoming a new member into the BSE community in the coming year.

BSE Spring Update



BSE Students Find Inspiration in Class Merging Science and Art

BSE artist in residence Peter Krsko's class "Zoethica" explores bioinspired art and technology, not only from the aesthetic and scientific point of view, but through an ethical perspective as well. Peter led the way for many students to broaden their perspectives as engineers. [Read more.](#)



ASABE Students Participate in the Annual Engineering Expo

Students from the ASABE UW-Madison Chapter participated in the annual Engineering Expo this Spring. The Expo unites students, industry, and the community by showcasing engineering projects and ideas. The event was open to the public, drawing a large crowd both days.



Future's Technology Takes Flight



More agronomists and farmers likely will be using unmanned aerial systems for crop production decision-making in the coming months and years. That can be attributed in part to ruling changes by the Federal Aviation Administration, creating increased levels of comfort with new technologies, and falling costs. [Read more.](#)

The Badger on the Big Green Lake: BSE Alumna Works on Finding Solutions for Lake Pollution

All is not well on the Big Green Lake. In 2014, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources designated it as "impaired" because it had low levels of dissolved oxygen. An increase in phosphorus in the lake had caused algae blooms that ultimately pulled oxygen from its water. BSE alumna Stephanie Prellwitz is leading the charge. [Read more.](#)

BSE Awards

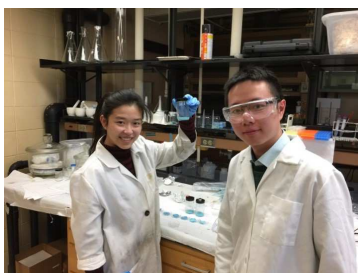
Professor Reinemann Recognized as Honored Instructor

Congratulations to Professor Doug Reinemann, who recently received the Honored Instructor award from UW-Madison Division of Student Housing! The award recognizes a faculty member who has made a positive impact on the academic experiences of undergraduate students. Professor Reinemann was commended for his passion for renewable energy, engaging lectures, and eco-friendly lifestyle.



Grace Skarlupka - BSE Undergraduate Student of the Year!

BSE student and ASABE UW-Madison chapter president Grace Skarlupka, was nominated and selected as the Biological Systems Engineering Undergraduate Student of the Year award recipient. She received it in recognition for her outstanding scholastic achievement, student branch activities, leadership, and career goals.



BSE Graduate Students Won 2017 UW AMIC Seed Program

BSE graduate students, Shu-Ching Yang (left) and Yang Liao (right) in Dr. Xuejun Pan's lab, won the first open competition of UW AMIC (Advanced Materials Industrial Consortium, Industry Student Seed Program). Their project is to fabricate renewable and biodegradable functionalized materials from cellulose, biomass, and chitosan in the forms of hydrogel and aerogel.



BSE Alumna Mario Mondaca Wins Not One, but Two ASABE Superior Paper Awards

Former BSE student Mario Mondaca won his second ASABE Superior Paper Award for his graduate research. It is rare to see two awards given to one graduate student for their research. [Read more.](#)

Joe Sanford - BSE Graduate Student of the Year!

The Wisconsin section of the ASABE recently granted Joe Sanford with the BSE Graduate Student of the Year Award! This award recognizes a BSE graduate student for singular achievement in developing and/or advancing the technology of engineering in food and agriculture.

Professor Runge Honored with Spitzer Excellence in Teaching Award

BSE Professor Troy Runge was selected to receive the Spitzer Excellence in Teaching Award for positively impacting undergraduate or graduate instruction in CALS through outstanding teaching practices, pedagogical scholarship or other beyond-the-classroom accomplishments.



Professor Shutske Recognized as Outstanding Alumnus by Purdue

BSE Professor John Shutske was recognized as an outstanding ABE alumnus by Purdue University for his distinguished industry and academic achievement. Congratulations!



BSE student Joel Cryer with the Hyperbolic Paraboloid Trellis he created in Peter Krsko's Zoethica class!



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