2017 ASABE ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL MEETING

The department sent 26 people (14 faculty members, 1 postdoctoral scholar, 10 graduate students, and 1 undergraduate student) to Spokane, Wash., for the ASABE annual meeting.

Congratulations to Blue Ribbon and Superior Paper Award winners Carmen Agouridis, Som Chattopadhyay, Mike Sama, Aaron Turner, Mike Montross, and Sam McNeill. Caleb Priddy, Tyler Wells, Lucas Garrett, and Gabriel Draughon took third place in the Gunlogson Competition, and Alpha Epsilon was deemed Most Outstanding and Most Improved Chapter.

The full list of accomplishments is on the BAE website: https://www.uky.edu/bae/faculty-and-students-attend-asabe-annual-conference-spo-kane

MONTROSS STARTS AS CHAIR

Mike Montross assumed his new position as Department Chair on July 1, 2017. Continuing the work of Dr. Nokes, Dr. Montross will focus equally on academics, research, and extension. To keep communication levels high, he plans to continue holding a monthly managers meeting before the monthly faculty meeting. If you missed the CAFE announcement about Dr. Montross, you can read it at https://uknow.uky.edu/professional-news/montross-named-chair-uk-biosystems-and-ag-engineering.

SUMMER RECAP

Students competed in the ASABE International 1/4 Scale Tractor Team Competition in Peoria, Ill., from June 1-4, 2017. This year’s team finished sixth overall and second in the written report. Mike Sama advises the team.

Fifteen students participated in Digital Germany, a 24-day education abroad program comprised of two courses.

Joe Dvorak taught BAE 305 DC Circuits and Microelectronics and Karin Pekarchik taught UKC 390 Digital Storytelling: German STEM, Agriculture, Culture, and History.

ACADEMIC NEWS

Faculty teaching assignments have changed.

Forty incoming sophomores are enrolled in BAE 200 Principles of Biosystems Engineering, taught by Alicia Modenbach. The number of seniors in BAE 402 Senior Design, now taught by Sue Nokes and Mick Peterson, is 44.

EQUIPMENT AND TECHNOLOGY

Tim Stombaugh and Doug Carr are updating the conference rooms with new audio visual equipment. Highlights:
• A new brighter projector (increasing from about 1000 lumens to 5000 lumens)
• Bigger screen
• New tablet input device on lectern
• 16:9 aspect ratio instead of 4:3
• Video source selector in lectern to select from the native PC, VGA or HDMI inputs

George Day and Burl Fannin have overhauled the Welding Lab with new equipment and restructured work stations. The lab will be ready for use when classes start.

The old directories that hung on the walls in Barnhart’s common areas are being replaced with interactive displays that will improve way-finding and connect to our website. Dr. Nokes had approved one unit, and recently, Agricultural Economics, CAFE Office of Diversity, and CAFE IT have demonstrated interest in a second display for the second floor. Donnie Stamper is programming them, and he and George Day are handling installation.

ENGINEERING DESIGN CENTER

The shop installed two new band saws this spring, thanks to improvements initiated by former Department Chair Dr. Nokes.

The shop designed and built mini pulling tractors in support of Tim Stombaugh’s 4-H program.

ANTOINE, aka The Incredible Machine, a student project, is in development. The purpose of the machine is to demonstrate as many principles of agricultural and biosystems engineering as possible. BAE senior design teams, the quarter scale tractor team, outside students, graduate students, and even faculty sometimes need a refresher or simply initial exposure to the hands-on side of the job. Antoine will have a PLC, a data acquisition system, hydraulics, electronics, pneumatics, bearings, shafts, pumps, augers, pH sensor, various liquid level sensors, etc. all working together to make “bricks” (at least for now). Antoine will demonstrate everything from three-phase power and grain handling to PID control of liquid temperature. Antoine will be built using salvaged components from other machines we have built through the years and will reside on a wheeled frame in the shop.

CHEMICAL LAB

The SEAL AQ1 discrete analyzer has been updated with new software and is currently set up to measure ortho-phosphate, nitrate/nitrite,
ammonia, sulfate, and chloride in aqueous samples. We are also looking into the possibility of using this device to measure total Kjeldahl nitrogen and phosphorus. If you have an interest in using the AQ1 for any of these analytes contact Jeff Smith.

We have a new Hoshizaki ice maker located in 179. This unit produces a flaked ice that offers better temperature stability than cubed ice and is easily packed to hold tubes, flasks, beakers and other vessels making it suitable for a variety of laboratory purposes.

The cube ice maker is also in room 179. This unit is for potable ice only and not intended for any laboratory purpose.

BUSINESS NEWS

Travel reimbursement has moved to online processing via the Trip module in https://myuk.uky.edu/irj/portal. If you missed this update, check your email for Julie’s reminder dated 7/27/2017 or talk to her and Beverly.

The second-floor printer is now in Room 235.

UPCOMING

Blood Drive—September 18

Round Up—October 4-7

You are receiving this email because you are an employee of the University of Kentucky Department of Biosystems and Agricultural Engineering. This newsletter is published monthly during the academic year and intended for internal use only. If you have questions, concerns, or suggestions for the next newsletter, contact Karin Pekarchik.

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