



## ***Hello Alumni and Friends!***

It has recently come to our attention that not everyone has been receiving our quarterly newsletter and I would like to take this opportunity to apologize for this oversight.

Many things have happened in the department and we would like to invite you to come see us. We will be participating in the Engineering Open House and ExplorACES during the weekend of March 7-8.

### ***Open House News...***

The Department of Agricultural and Biological Engineering will be participating in the Engineering Open House and ExplorACES on March 7 and 8, 2008.

Open house participation is a chance to show off a few of the many globally important research projects and exciting student opportunities going on in our department. As a participant of two open houses, we will have several displays in the Digital Computer Lab (DCL) 1304 W. Springfield, Urbana, as well as displays in our own Agricultural Engineering Sciences Building (AESB).

Displays located at DCL include a robot that can be used for mechanical weed control, an interactive game modeling the carbon cycle, improved methods for lowering the cost of ethanol production, and a renewable, naturally available biofilter to minimize the transport of chemicals from agricultural fields into surface water sources. The IlliniCycler will also be at DCL, this computer controlled thermal cycler promises polymerase chain reaction (PCR) results comparable to those produced by commercially available devices. PCR is a process used to amplify small quantities of deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) by repeatedly duplicating it. The deduster is a uniflow aerodynamic particle separator that uses low velocity and low pressure drop to separate particles in air streams to achieve high efficiency in particle separation and low energy consumption.

At AESB, we will have a demonstration of an air cannon, which can be used for various purposes in agriculture such as a "puncher-planter", and for general safety testing. A robot that uses a spining laser and wireless communication to navigate will be on display, as will the Diesel Particulate Filter, an advanced retrofit system used to decrease the public's direct exposure to toxic diesel engine Particulate Matter (PM) emissions on Champaign-Urbana Mass Transit District (CUMTD) buses. The thermochemical conversion process (TCC) can be used to convert biomass such as swine manure into a crude oil product. The engines and fuels lab tour will provide visitors a chance to view research and testing being conducted for the use of alternative fuels for diesel engines.

### ***ABE Hosting Reception...we hope you can join us!***

ABE will be hosting an Alumni/Emeriti reception in the Tractor Lab on Friday March 7, from 3-5 p.m. We would enjoy this opportunity to see you and catch up. We would also like to take this opportunity to invite you to update your personal information by completing the form at the bottom and mailing it to us. We have included a mailing address label or, if you prefer, you can email the information to [age@uiuc.edu](mailto:age@uiuc.edu) or fax to 217-244-0323.

Please help us keep in touch with you by supplying your current information:

Last Name \_\_\_\_\_ First Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Professional Affiliations \_\_\_\_\_

Employer \_\_\_\_\_ Job Title \_\_\_\_\_

Please tell us what's been going on in your life \_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_

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### ***Retirements and New Faces...***

ABE has seen some changes in our faculty and staff over the last few years. We celebrate with four of our faculty members who have retired and are glad to see them, along with all emeriti, as they continue to benefit our department through teaching, research and other numerous ways. Phil Buriak, Les Christianson, Marvin Paulsen and Mike Tumbleson have joined the ranks of Emeriti in the last two years. Loren Bode also announced his retirement this spring. He will retire May 15, 2008 and we wish him well in his retirement. So if you find these gentlemen roaming our halls when you come to visit us for EOH and ExplorACES, please extend your congratulations!

Our staff members that have recently retired include: Mary Beth Munhall, Steve Maddock and Larry Meyer. They also continue to contribute to the department in various ways by working as extra help and coming in to visit.

You may also find some new faces at our reception. These are new faces of faculty and staff members who we are excited to have in ABE. You will learn more about them in a new publication that will be printed this spring. This publication, *ABE@Illinois*, will feature articles about new and exciting people and programs.

### ***Recognition and Awards...***

- U.S. News and World Report ranked our Agricultural Engineering undergraduate program #1 for the second year in a row among America's Best Colleges in 2007.
- Loren Bode, Alan Hansen and Mike Hirschi received the Engineering Council Award for Excellence in Advising.
- Alan Hansen was presented with a NACTA Teacher Fellow Award at the 53<sup>rd</sup> Annual North American Colleges and Teachers of Agriculture Conference.
- Joe Harper was awarded the J. Kent Mitchell Teaching Excellence Award.
- Prasanta Kalita was awarded the Campus Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching and the President's Distinguished Service Citation Award from the ASABE.
- Vijay Singh was the first person to receive the new AACCI Young Scientist Award for 2007 from the American Association of Cereal Chemists.
- Yuanhui Zhang was awarded the Distinguished Service Award from the American Society of Heating, Refrigeration and Air-Conditioning Engineers.
- Illini Ag Mech Club won 2<sup>nd</sup> runner up in the AEM Trophy competition for 2007.
- Quarter Scale Tractor Student Design group placed 1<sup>st</sup> in the Website Design Competition. They also placed 1<sup>st</sup> in the 1050 lb and 1300 lb class.
- Students from ABE, CEE and Chemistry were awarded \$75,000 by the US-EPA. This was the first time UIUC has won this national award. Congratulations go out to Steve Anderson, Greg Byard, Paul Davidson, Joseph Good, Gregory Goodwin, David Hasse, Daniel Koch, Brandon Kocher, Andy Lenkaitis, Amanda Olsen, Malia Appleford, Laura Hahn, and Luke Zwilling.