

Alumni Update

Name: _____

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

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**Please return to: Biological Systems Engineering Alumni Newsletter
460 Henry Mall, Madison, WI 53706
or e-mail information to:
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**BIOLOGICAL SYSTEMS
ENGINEERING UPDATE**
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UPDATE

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

Summer 2002

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The Chair's Chips



As the fall semester begins, students arrive with new expectations either returning to improve over last semester or starting new to make the transition from high school to the college campus. A number of 'get acquainted' programs are scheduled including the BSE department faculty hosting a student-faculty mixer during the second week of classes.

Our students were involved in numerous activities since the end of spring semester. The tractor team competed in the ASAE Quarter Scale Tractor Competition May 31 – June 2 in Moline, IL. The students did extremely well in a number of categories associated with the event but they had a major disappointment when they were unable to compete in the pulling event due to mechanical problems with their tractor.

After some redesign, the tractor performed very well during the ASAE International Meeting in Chicago, July 29-31. Gail Janssen was able to place fourth in the past-presidents competition. At the meeting, nine UW-Madison students worked in lieu of paying registration fees for attending the meeting.

During the summer, several students assisted with student recruiting. Graham Adsit and Jill Grodecki staffed a BSE student recruiting display at the state FFA Convention. Graham also serves as a CALS Ambassador assisting the Student Services Coordinator in the CALS Academic Affairs Office. One of the Ambassador's

activities is staffing the CALS student recruiting display.

During the 2002 calendar year, we will have a number of changes in our faculty with the retirement of Gary Bubenzer and Dick Koegel. Also, Anita Thompson, a PhD graduate from the University of Minnesota, joins the department faculty in October. More information about Thompson will be available in the next newsletter.

Our building project for adding two floors to our 1981 laboratory addition continues through the bureaucratic maze of approvals. It has gone to the Board of Regents ranked 17th on a list of twenty projects submitted by University of Wisconsin-System. If it passes that hurdle, only one more step remains, which is the Wisconsin Department of Administration.

In 1995, the department's name was changed from Agricultural Engineering to Biological Systems Engineering but our majors remained Agricultural Engineering. Currently, we are in the process of changing the name of our undergraduate and graduate majors to Biological Systems Engineering. We hope to have the new major name in place for the fall graduates. Initially, the students will be able to choose between the old and new major names.

Be sure to complete the update form on the last page if you have changed your professional position, received an award, or moved to a new address. We look forward to news from our alumni and friends.

Sincerely,

Ronald T. Schuler

BSE Department Chair

THANK YOU

to our contributors
February 16, 2002 -
August 17, 2002

Contributors to the departmental
funds established in the UW-
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Kelly Kruse

KOEGEL RETIRES

On June 28, 2002, Richard Koegel retired after 32 years on the faculty at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. In 1970, Koegel joined the Agricultural Engineering Department and the Mechanical Engineering Department as a Lecturer and advanced through the ranks to Professor. In 1980, he accepted a position as a Research Agricultural Engineer with the USDA/ARS Dairy Forage Research Center and remained in that position until his retirement. He retained his appointment in BSE until his retirement. Presently, he is an Emeritus Professor in BSE.



Prior to joining the faculty, Koegel spent two years (1959-61) on the faculty at the National College of Agriculture in Bao-Loc, Vietnam, and four years (1963-67) as a director of the Young Farmers' Training Center in Niger, West Africa. He received his BS ME, 1956 and BS Agr., 1956, as well as PhD degree from UW-Madison in 1971 and his MS from Utah State University in 1962. His PhD research was titled, "Pressure Fractionization of Alfalfa" and his advisor was Ham Bruhn.

Early in his UW-Madison career, Koegel's research team developed the concept of macerating alfalfa and forming mats, which dry rapidly and may be harvested within hours of cutting. He was involved in many other forage-related research including use of preservatives, drying and storage alternatives and reducing harvesting losses. In addition, he also conducted research on the fractionization of alfalfa and other plant materials for proteins, enzymes, bio-fuels and organic acids.

Based on his international experiences, Koegel was always interested in applications of resource conservation and appropriate technology. He applied his alfalfa fractionization work by developing a low cost protein extraction system for developing countries.

Koegel received numerous awards including the prestigious Federal Engineer of the Year Award in 1990 for his outstanding research activities and the Wisconsin Section of ASAE Career Achievement Award. He also received numerous ASAE paper awards. We wish him well in his retirement. ■

Biological Systems Engineering UPDATE
460 Henry Mall, Madison, WI 53706
For more information, please call (608) 262-3310
or visit our website at <http://bse.wisc.edu>

ALUMNI & FACULTY HOLD KEY ASAE POSITIONS

Following completion of the International ASAE Meeting in Chicago, July 29-31, several alumni and faculty hold key positions in ASAE. Gary Bubenzner, Emeritus Professor in BSE, starts his third and final year as the ASAE Treasurer, a very important position providing financially related recommendations to ASAE Board of Trustees. Last year, Bubenzner presented the dues increase to those in attendance at the international meeting.

Members of the Board of Trustees include Kelly A. Detra, MS, Agr. Engr., '96, and Larry R. Johnson, BS, Agr. Engr., '68; MS, Agr. Engr., '70. The board is the top governing board for the society setting policy and voting on numerous recommendations coming from councils and committees in ASAE. Detra is a design engineer with CNH Global and has provided leadership for the ASAE Quarter Scale Student Tractor Competition. Johnson is an Engineering and Research Manager at Weiler and Company. Both will complete their membership on the board in 2003.



Jill Grodecki, a senior in the Natural Resources and Environment option, was elected first vice-president of the ASAE Council for the Student Pre-Professional Clubs. As first vice president, Grodecki will be responsible for serving as a liaison between the committees and the officer group.

Jim Converse, a member of the BSE faculty since 1970, started serving as the Meeting Council chair. The council is responsible for making recommendations regarding future International ASAE meeting locations and specialty conferences of ASAE.

Dick Straub, a member of the faculty since 1979, will be a member of the ASAE nominating committee. The committee's responsibilities are to nominate ASAE members for key positions in the organization with the most important being the President-Elect for 2003-04. ■

DR. SAVOIE TO VISIT BSE ONE YEAR



Dr. Phillippe Savoie, a research scientist with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada at the Sainte-Foy Research Centre, Quebec, Canada, joins the BSE department as a visiting professor from September 1, 2002 through August 31, 2003. He has an adjunct professor appointment at the University of Laval in Quebec, Canada.

Savoie's research has been in the area of forage harvesting, conservation and utilization. His contributions have improved the management of hay handling tools such as tedders and inverters. He developed the technology of forage maceration into a large scale working prototype. Much of the basic maceration work was done at UW-Madison.

While visiting, Savoie will be working on electromagnetic monitoring and treatment of forages, drying big rectangular bales, and harvesting and field processing of biomass for energy, specifically corn stover. He will be working with Kevin Shinnars. ■



Alumni Update



Thank you for continuing to send your business cards and information updates. We appreciate hearing from you! If you haven't kept in touch, please send us your business card and/or complete the form at the end of this newsletter.

David Dupre (BS, Agr. Engr., 1996) a hydrologist with the U. S. Geological Survey – Water Resources in the Illinois District has moved to a new address: 2511 Lynhurst Dr., Champaign, IL, 61820-7710.

Scott Bouchard (BS, Agr. Engr., 1994) reports he has been employed with Creative Automation for the past five years in Medford, WI. In his current position, he is designing automated materials handling equipment systems primarily for the woodworking industry. They design, manufacture and install automated equipment systems including conveyors, saws, routers, stackers, feeders and machines for window assembly.

A recent article in the Wisconsin State Journal indicated that **Bonnie Goodweiller** (BS, Agr. Engr., 1991) posthumously received a Masters degree in Business Administration from Edgewood College in Madison on August 9. Bonnie died on April 4, 2001 at the age of 46 after a courageous battle with cancer. She was employed by the Department of Natural Resources.

ALUMNI NEWS

JOHNSON RECEIVES CALS HONORARY RECOGNITION

Larry R. Johnson, BS, Agr. Engr., '68; MS, Agr. Engr., '70; will receive an Honorary Recognition Award from the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences on October 30 in the Memorial Union. Johnson will receive the award because of his contributions to the department, college and university. Additional consideration was given for his involvement in his profession and the community.

Johnson's past professional experience includes Product Engineer at Ford Motor Tractor Operation, Manager of Product Development at Butler Mfg., Vice-President for Engineering at J-Star and Vice-President of Engineering and Manufacturing at J-Star. Currently, he is the Engineering and Research Manager at Weiler and Company.

Johnson has served as chair of the department advisory committee and was a member of the BSE

Campaign Committee serving as co-chair of the Sixties Decade Alumni Group, which established an endowed student computer fund. He has been active in ASAE serving on the Board of Trustees and numerous national committees. He has served as chair of the Wisconsin Section of ASAE. Congratulations to Larry for receiving this recognition from CALS and we thank him for his support.

POFAHL RECEIVES COE DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

At the 55th Annual Engineer's Day on October 18, Bob Pofahl, BS, Agr. Engr. '71; MS, Agr. Engr., '73; will receive a Distinguished Service Award from the College of Engineering. Currently, Pofahl is president and owner of Resource Engineering Associates, Inc. in Middleton, WI. Before starting his company, Pofahl held engineering positions with RMT, Inc. in Madison, WI; Boyle Engineering Corp. in Fresno, CA; Harza Engineering in Fresno, CA and Minnesota Department of Natural

Resources in St. Paul, MN. He has been active in community activities and the BSE Campaign. He served as chair of the 70's Decade Alumni Group and chair of the Wisconsin Section of ASAE.

Pofahl will be recognized at an Engineer's Day Awards Banquet at 5:15 at the Monona Terrace Convention Center. A BSE Department noon luncheon is planned at a local restaurant. Other activities on Engineer's Day include an afternoon reception that will be held in the Agricultural Engineering Building and the dedication of the new Engineering Centers building located at the corner of University Avenue and Breeze Terrace. Yes, the temporary buildings, home of drafting courses for many years, are gone.

Congratulations to Bob on this recognition of his outstanding accomplishments during his professional career. The BSE department faculty and staff greatly appreciate his support. ■



BUBENZER RETIREMENT CELEBRATION

Although Gary Bubenzer retired on January 3, 2002, we did not celebrate his retirement and successful career until May 10 at the Friedrich Center on campus. There was an excellent response for the evening banquet. A number of guests traveled some distance to recognize Bubenzer's successful career in BSE. Mike Walter and Tammo Steenhuis, former graduate students of his, traveled from Ithaca, NY, where they serve on the faculty of the Biological and Environmental Engineering Department at Cornell University. Bubenzer's graduate advisors, Ed Monke, retired from Purdue University, and Ben Jones retired from the University of Illinois were also on hand for the celebration.

Bubenzer started his career at the UW-Madison in 1969 as an Assistant Professor after receiving his PhD from the University of Illinois. During much of his career, he had a large teaching load with four to five courses each year. His courses ranged from short course to graduate level courses.

Early in his career, Bubenzer developed a national reputation on soil erosion. Much of his work focused on the understanding of the mechanism of soil movement due to wind and water. His work impacted the practices implemented at the national level on how to minimize erosion losses. He understood the value of using fallout cesium measurements to define soil movement in field studies of erosion and deposition.

Bubenzer was very active nationally in the Accrediting Board for Engineering and Technology (ABET), which accredits university engineering programs. He provided outstanding leadership for our profession in ABET and the Engineering Accreditation Committee (EAC.) He served on numerous ABET visiting teams and was the team leader. On many occasions, Bubenzer provided reports to University Presidents and was recognized in our profession as the expert on ABET criteria and processes. In addition, he has provided training for ASAE members who later served on visiting teams.

Bubenzer was very active on campus committees and in our professional society, ASAE. He served as chair of BSE and the Land Resources program in the Institute of Environmental Studies (IES), as well as Physical Sciences Executive Committee chair. In ASAE, he served as chair of the Soil and Water Division, the Finance Council, and the Publications Council. In addition, he served as editor of the Soil and Water Division.

Bubenzer received many awards including Fellow in ASAE, the prestigious Hancor Soil and Water Engineering Award and many ASAE Blue Ribbon Extension Aids Awards. He received several teaching awards in the college.

He and his wife, Sandy, plan to spend some of their retirement time continuing to visit national parks having already visited a large number of them. Bubenzer continues his involvement in ASAE where he currently serves as treasurer. ■

THANK YOU

to our contributors
February 16, 2002 -
August 17, 2002

Madison Gas and Electric Co.

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John A. Theisenhusen

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Wisconsin Energy Corp. Fdtn.



\$\$\$ SCHOLARSHIPS \$\$\$

Undergraduate students in BSE received in excess of \$15,000 in scholarships for the 2002-03 school year through BSE and College of Agricultural and Life Science scholarship funds. In addition, many BSE students received other scholarships from the College of Engineering and other sources. The following is a list of BSE recipients earning BSE and CALS scholarships.

STUDENT	SCHOLARSHIP
Michael Koltes	WI Rural Opportunities Foundation
Kelly Granberg	Ham Bruhn BSE
Julie Graham	Ham Bruhn BSE
Jill Grodecki	Ham Bruhn BSE
Kelly Granberg	Laurence N. and Anella W. Dexter
Laura Franke	Don S. Montgomery
Eric Rego	Ervin Schroeder
Josiah Akin	Ervin Schroeder
Bryan Yanke	Roger William Ambrose
Joshua Kappelman	Lynndon and Norma Brooks BSE
Karen Mandl	Gail and Janice Janssen BSE
Eric Bergum	Walter Ebling
Laura Buchli	Wisconsin Agricultural Engineer
Karen Mandl	Irving W. Gerhardt
Lisa Buchli	Caroll Basadny
Patrick Uhlenhake	Don S. Montgomery
Graham Adsit	Georgia M. Helberg
Graham Adsit	WALSAA Outstanding Sophomore
Colleen Madden	Dick and Grace Stith

FUTURE TRUCK COMPETITION

Jason Hilgren, currently a graduate student in BSE, was the leader of the UW-Madison Future Truck Team, which placed first in the national competition sponsored by Ford Motor and US-DOE, Department of Energy in June 2002. The goal of the

competition was to design a truck that operates with cleaner fuel emissions and uses less fuel without compromising the truck performance. A Ford Explorer was the vehicle used in the competitions, which took place in Arizona and California. Jason received his BS degree in mechanical engineering in May 2002.



Scott Waletzko, 2002 ASAE Student Honor Award Recipient



Scott Waletzko, BS, Agr. Engr., '02, received the ASAE Student Honor Award which was presented at the last UW-Madison student meeting of

the school year along with being recognized during the Awards Banquet at the 2002 International ASAE Meeting in Chicago. The award encourages scholarship, activity in the student ASAE Pre-Professional Club, extracurricular activities and national student activities. Waletzko was club president in 2000-01, secretary in 1999-2000 and Quarter Scale Tractor Team co-leader in 2001-02. He was involved in Engineering Expo and attended national and Wisconsin Section ASAE meetings. Currently, Waletzko is employed as an engineer at John Deere Ottumwa Works in Ottumwa, IA.

QUARTER SCALE TRACTOR TEAM RESULTS



Quarter Scale Tractor Team Members: (standing) Graham Adsit, Josiah Akin, Scott Waletzko, Bob Boland, Brad Yanke, Rob Silha, Tanner Brethorst and Brian Huenink (sitting) Jill Grodecki.

During the past five years of the ASAE Quarter Scale Tractor competition, the teams have become much more competitive. This year, the UW-Madison students were further challenged to design a four-wheel drive tractor. During the competition the students pushed their tractor to its limits and a little beyond. The result was a mechanical failure during the last

practice pull about 30 minutes before the official pulling events started at the International competition May 31-June 2 in Moline, IL. The UW team was unable to make the necessary repair in order to compete in the official pulling events.

Although the students were extremely disappointed about the pulling event, they did extremely well in many of the other events in the competition. Competing among thirty teams, the UW-Madison team placed:

COMPETITION RESULTS:

- 1st – website design
- 6th – written report
- 6th – design presentation
- 6th – maneuverability
- 6th – manufacturability
- 8th – static judging

They improved from last year in most categories. Since then, the tractor has been redesigned and competed at the 2002 International ASAE Meeting in Chicago quite successfully.

The UW-Madison X-team placed third in a field of fifteen teams. The X-team consists of younger students who competed using the 2001 tractor with the expectation that they improve the tractor design. The



Josiah Akin driving the X-Team Tractor.

events for this competition include the design presentation, as well as the pulling events.

UW-MADISON STUDENTS VOLUNTEER AT ASAE INTERNATIONAL MEETING



Casey Behringer and Jill Grodecki are all smiles during Dr. Schuler's visit to registration.

UW-Madison students were invited to serve as volunteers during the 2002 ASAE Annual International Meeting held in Chicago. They volunteered to assist with registration, staffing the Bookstore, serving as a speaker liaison and helping pack materials at the conclusion of the meeting. Those students who volunteered included Josh Bacon, John Cudoc, Casey Behringer, Misty Davis, Jill Grodecki, Cheng Gu, Keren Gungor, Brian Huenink, and Marcell Salonga.

