

Alumni Update

Name: _____

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

Home Address: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Phone Number: _____ Fax Number: _____

Position: _____

Employer: _____

News to share: _____

Please return to: **Biological Systems Engineering Alumni Newsletter**
460 Henry Mall, Madison, WI 53706
or e-mail information to:
BSE@facstaff.wisc.edu

BIOLOGICAL SYSTEMS ENGINEERING UPDATE

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Madison, WI 53706

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UPDATE

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

Vol. 3

No. 3

—The Chair's Chips

Very fall many exciting things happen as a new semester starts and students return to campus. Our faculty remained very active in research and extension activities during the summer and our building at 460 Henry Mall is still undergoing some changes. Along with the excitement, we must also report some sad news with the passing of a former long-time employee, Alan Remus, and two people who were friends of the department faculty and staff, Larry Hodges and Gene Shove.

This fall we have eighty undergraduate students and about twenty-five graduate students. More than half the undergraduate students attended our annual fall Student-Faculty Mixer meeting. We look forward to a busy year with the quarter-scale tractor team getting organized and some early preparations for the biennial Engineering Expo scheduled for the spring semester.

We have been preparing for an ABET (Accrediting Board for Engineering and Technology) visit this fall. The accreditation criteria have changed from counting the number of credits in an area such as, math, to a system of outcome based evaluations. Gary Bubbenzer, who has served as an ABET evaluator at other institutions, has been a very valuable resource during our preparations for the visit on November 13-14. The other engineering programs at the UW-Madison are going through the same process.

Our BSE Campaign, *Creating Solutions for the 21st Century*, has reached its goal of \$1.75 million

in gifts, pledges and deferred gifts. We greatly appreciate the support provided by our alumni, friends and retired faculty. A celebration of reaching our goal will occur at the Annual Dean's Breakfast scheduled for May 12 in Madison at the Edgewater Hotel. All those who contributed to the campaign will be invited to attend and will be recognized. You will receive more information as the date approaches. Even though we have met our goal, we have additional needs such as support for student activities, scholarships, fellowships and facility improvements.

The building remodeling, which started as an asbestos abatement project in October 1999, has led to several additional projects. The building at 460 Henry Mall will be ADA accessible with the addition of a ramp in the basement and restroom modifications. The back door of the building will be modified to meet ADA standards. The interior of the building has a new look with respect to paint and floor tile that is red and white. New air handling systems are being installed which will create a much better working environment for all faculty and staff.

In closing, we thank you for your support for our campaign and wish you a Happy New Year 2001. Please visit our website, <http://bse.wisc.edu>, to stay up on the latest information.

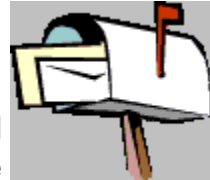
Sincerely,
Ronald T. Schuler
BSE Department Chair



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(BS96) works on water quality related projects with the US Geological Survey and is pursuing an MS at the University of Illinois. He recently married Alison Coil who is a research associate in the Family Studies Lab in the Psychology Department at the U of I. They reside in Champaign.



Don Erbach(BS65 and MS66) is now the National Program Leader for Engineering/Energy at the Agricultural Research Service in the USDA. He moved to Alexandria, VA from Auburn AL where he was Research Leader at the National Soil Dynamics Lab located at Auburn University. He now lives at 5907 Berkshire Ct., Alexandria, VA.

Brian Hitt(BS98) works as a design engineer at the John Deere Horicon Works, where he is involved in the design of the LT series lawn tractors. Last June, Brian married and now lives at 1024 Riverbend Drive, Hartford, WI.

Frederic Hoppert(BS38) is retired and resides at 2824 Georgia Ave., Sheboygan, WI.

Paul Meyer(BS96) works as a test engineer for Caterpillar in Peoria, IL, where he does transmission development for

large off-highway trucks that are used in mining applications. Paul works closely with the design team to improve reliability and durability of the machine's transmissions. His address is 909 East Norwood Boulevard, Peoria, IL.

Heidi Nickel(BS96), formerly Otto, has been working for Kraft since graduating. Currently, she is in project management for Capri Sun Beverage Division near St. Louis. Her address is 11986 Charter House Lane, St. Louis, MO.

Jeffrey Norem(BS86) is a consulting engineer hired to oversee and manage Wisconsin Department of Transportation projects. Currently, he is working in Waukesha County on I-94 and County G. His employer is R. A. Smith and Associates in Brookfield. He resides at 217 Rawlins Drive, Waukesha, WI.

Joseph Schraeder(BS74) is attending UW-Whitewater pursuing a MBA in Management. His address is 147 Hyer Lane, Whitewater, WI.

Michael Stelzle (MSAE, 1994) has accepted a new position as Senior Design Engineer with Caterpillar Agricultural Products in DeKalb, IL. Since completing his degree, he had been with Case-IH, now CNH Global.

Steve Weiner(BS85) has been a process engineer with M&M Mars for the past ten years. He and his family reside at 338 Martindale, Albany, GA.

John Wilke(BS65 and MS67) is involved in the development of a multigovernment stormwater system which includes ordinance and development guidelines that apply to all new development. Winnebago County is currently developing stormwater management for the entire county. John's address is 7350 Murray Road, Neenah, WI.

Richard Witz(BS39 and MS41) retired in 1982 from the Agricultural Engineering Department at North Dakota State University. Dick and Marj are still active in scouting and reside at 1525 North 8th Street, Fargo, ND.

Julie Wood(BS86) is now employed by J. H. Findorff and Son as a project engineer. Previously, she worked as a construction coordinator with Habitat for Humanity and completed her construction management coursework at the Milwaukee School of Engineering. She lives at 439 Hayes Ave., Racine, WI.

Fang Zhang (MSAE, 1995) has accepted a position at Computer Associates in the Chicago area. Her husband, Haibo Guo (Ph.D., 1993) continues to be employed in the Drivetrain Section of CNH Global (formerly Case-IH) in Burr Ridge, IL.

THANK YOU

to our contributors
June 1, 2000 -
October 15, 2000

Ervin W. Schroeder

Ronald T. Schuler

John A. Teisberg II

John A. Thiesenhusen

Turner Corporation

Patrick W. Walsh

Fang Zhang

Huenink Receives ASAE Student Award

At the October 11 meeting of the student club, Brian Huenink received the ASAE Student Honor Award from Mark Purschwitz, chair of the Wisconsin Section of the ASAE. Brian, a senior/graduate student in the Machinery Systems area from Cedar Grove, Wisconsin, received the award for his leadership in the student club and on the tractor team along with his scholarship.



Brian Huenink receives the ASAE Student Honor Award from Mark Purschwitz.

Janssen Receives Distinguished Service Award

Leon Janssen (BS64) received the Distinguished Service Award from the College of Engineering (COE) at the University of



Pictured left to right: Gail Janssen, 1991 Distinguished Service Award Recipient and Leon Janssen, 2000's Distinguished Service Award Recipient.

Wisconsin-Madison for his accomplishments at General Electric Medical Systems and his contributions to the college. As general manager of GE's academic accounts, he was responsible for commercial relationships with major medical schools and hospitals.

After Leon received his bachelor of science degree in agriculture and mechanical engineering, he entered the U. S. Army before joining GE in 1967. He started with GE's Aerospace Business and later moved to the Medical Systems Product Sales Operations and Global Education Solutions Business. Nearly 200 of COE's graduates are employed at GE partially due to Leon's work.

During the past four years, Leon has served on the COE Advisory Board providing very valuable advice during rapid expansion and change. He served as chair of the board. He also served on the search committee for the College's new dean in 1999.

In addition, Leon is a member of the board of directors of the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra; St. Aemilian, Inc., a social service provider; and Waukesha Memorial Hospital Foundation. For his service to the community, Leon received the Waukesha Chamber of Commerce Leadership Award in 1999.

Leon received the Distinguished Service Award from Paul Percy, Dean of COE, at the Engineer's Day for 2000 which was held October 20 at the Monona Terrace Convention Center in Madison. Leon's brother Gail received the award in 1991.

Congratulations!

Student Pre-Professional Club

Our pre-professional club, formerly student branch, has been very active planning activities for the school year. At the initial meeting of the year, a student-faculty mixer took place in the laboratory building with 45 students attending. During their October meeting, four students reported on their engineering employment during the summer. Twelve students traveled to DeKalb, IL, to attend the Wisconsin ASAE Section Meeting and tour the Caterpillar Tractor manufacturing plant.

Members of the club participated in the homecoming parade with their quarter-scale tractors and a full-sized tractor. Their big money-making event is the Lawn



Mower and Snow Blower Clinic where they winterize about 100 machines from CALS faculty and staff and people in the neighborhood. At \$25 per machine, the club is able to support a number of their activities.

Planning has begun for their 2001 quarter-scale tractor.

The tractor team has been meeting weekly to start the new design. They will be designing tractor number four. The first three tractors (1998, 1999, and 2000 models) can be seen in our lab.



The quarter-scale tractor brought attention to the BSE display at the World Dairy Expo held in October.

Bruhn Wisconsin Distinguished Graduate Fellowship

On September 7, 2000 the Department of Biological Systems Engineering celebrated the Bruhn Wisconsin Distinguished Graduate Fellowship with a recognition program and reception for 91 faculty, staff, students and friends.

Hjalmar Bruhn, known as "Ham" to his friends and colleagues, was associated with the department for more than six decades. He received his degree in agricultural engineering from the department in 1931 and was appointed instructor in 1934. Ham was later promoted to Assistant Professor in 1940, Associate



Pictured left to right: Dean Elton Aberle, Ron Schuler, Graduate School Dean Virginia Henshaw, Managing Director Carl Gulbrandsen, Richard Straub, and Janet Bruhn.

Professor in 1946 and Professor in 1948. His research on agricultural machinery led to a large number of practical and economically significant applications. Paramount among these was his pioneering work on the mower-conditioner now used on virtually every forage-producing farm in the U.S. and Europe. After retirement in 1978, his engineering activities included the development and manufacture of equipment to extract alfalfa protein, which, when mixed with other foods, can reduce the effect of a protein-deficient diet. This has been used to improve the diet of children in Mexico and other Third World countries.

Janet Bruhn is also a graduate of UW-Madison, earning her degree in Chemistry from the College of Letters and Sciences. During her time on campus as an undergraduate, Janet worked in the lab of Dr. Harry Steenbock as a student stenographer. After graduation she returned to the lab as part of the Lever Brothers Industrial Fellowship Program, which was directed by Dr. Steenbock. Interestingly, it was during this same time when Steenbock discovered that ultraviolet irradiation enriched foods and feedstuffs with vitamin D.

Speakers at the recognition program included Elton Aberle, Dean of the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences, Carl Gulbrandsen, Director of the Wisconsin Alumni Research Foundation, Virginia Hinshaw, Dean of the Graduate School, Ron Schuler, BSE Chair, and Dick Straub, Director of the Agricultural Research Stations. At the presentation ceremony, Dean Aberle thanked Janet on behalf of the faculty, staff, alumni and the entire biological systems engineering industry, especially the generations of students who will benefit from her generosity.

Other News

Alan Remus died in early September, 2000. Al was an instrument maker in the department for nearly forty years, retiring in 1987. He helped many graduate students design and fabricate their research equipment. For that matter, he helped numerous faculty. He was always readily available to faculty and graduate students.

Gene Shove died on October 9, 2000 in Urbana, IL. During the 1970s, Gene was on a twelve-month sabbatical to the University of Wisconsin where he researched low-temperature drying at the Biotron and at the Arlington Agricultural Research Station. He was an avid fisherman. While living in Urbana, IL, Gene would frequently travel to Wisconsin to do his fishing.

Larry Hodges died August 27, 2000 at his home in Racine, WI. For most of his professional career, Larry worked at Case. His BS degree in Agricultural Engineering was from Texas A&M while his BS degree in Mechanical Engineering was from the University of Wisconsin. While at the University of Wisconsin, he taught a farm shop course in the department and worked on the flywheel cutterhead for forage harvesters. He served as ASAE President in 1973-74 and received the Wisconsin ASAE Engineer of the Year Award in 1975 and the ASAE Cyrus Hall McCormick Medal in 1985.

Past Chair's Son Visits Department



"Noble are the works of that man who, nurtured by the soil, labors to make it forever fruitful."

Mr. R. W. (Dick) Jones, son of Edward Richard Jones visited the department on September 2, 2000. E. R. Jones was chair of the department from 1918 until his death in 1937. A mural depicting the career of E. R. Jones hung on the wall in the lecture room (101) until this year when it was moved to the hallway on the first floor. We estimate the mural may have been on the classroom wall for 60 years. Dick Jones recalled visiting his father in the department chair's office which is the current office for the chair.



Students Scholarships

In the last issue of the newsletter, a number of scholarships were listed. Some additional scholarships are listed below. Our students received nearly \$20,000 in scholarships for the 2000-2001 school year.

Charles Ream Memorial

Jaslyn Dobrahner, Northfield, MN

E.W. Schroeder

Daniel Gernant, Mequon, WI

Peter Young Student Assistance

Jill Grodecki, Madison, WI

John Deere Foundation

Jacob Holl, Juneau, WI

Wisconsin Soybean Association

Russell Herschleb, DeForest, WI

Albert J. and Adelaide Riker

Karen Mandl, Madison, WI

Vic Burcalow

Nathan Sleiter, Madison, WI
Thomas Snyder, Slinger, WI

Wisconsin Rural Opportunities Foundation

Shaun Van Deurzen, DePere, WI