

Alumni Update

Name: _____

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

Home Address: _____

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. 2

No. 2

—The Chair's Chips—

Much has happened in the Biological Systems Engineering Department since you received your last newsletter this past summer. We have had a change in the leadership, we have new staffing opportunities, our students have received additional awards and honors, our campaign, "Solutions for the 21st Century" is progressing well, and some remodeling projects are ongoing.

Effective July 1, 1999, Dick Straub assumed the position of the Director of the Agricultural Research Stations in the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences (CALs). He will be responsible for managing thirteen stations from Ashland to Lancaster. He will retain an appointment in the department and continue some research and student advising activities. Dick's new office is located about block away, so he will be readily available. We wish him success in his new position. Also, we thank Dick for serving a chair and for initiating many new projects and activities in the department.

Through an election procedure, I, Ron Schuler was selected as the new chair and officially appointed by the CALs Dean. For those who may not know me, I have been in the department since 1984 in a machinery systems extension and research faculty position. From 1970-84, I held faculty positions at North Dakota State University, University of Minnesota, and the University of Wisconsin-Platteville. All my degrees were obtained at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

This summer, the department received approval to add a new natural resource and environment position focusing on water quality. The closing date for applications is December 1. If you know of any candidates, please contact me. The position description is available on our website. Please contact me if you want additional information. With the departure of Dick Straub, we plan to request that CALs Administration allow us to fill a machinery systems position next year.

Due to new computer registration program problems, it is unclear how many students are registered in Agricultural Engineering. We expect our enrollment to remain near 90. Our student branch, now called the PreProfessional Club, has been very active and successful this year. They placed second in the ASAE ¼ Scale Tractor Contest out of 28 teams from universities across the country. They placed first in their tractor display at Engineering Expo. More details are found elsewhere in this newsletter. Again they have planned a lawnmower and snowblower clinic where they provide routine maintenance on this equipment for a fee. University staff and people in the community bring in their equipment to be serviced.

With regard to our BSE campaign, we continue to make progress to our goal of \$1.75 million. We are approaching the midpoint and greatly appreciate the support of our alumni and friends. New support has allowed us to provide more scholarships and plan for some additional facilities upgrades.

Some facility projects in progress are enlargement of the overhead door for our machinery laboratory, CURB project which involves redoing the woodwork, floors and walls in our building, and remodeling the conference room on the second floor. Plans are in progress for remodeling our primary classroom (room 101), restrooms and some office areas.

In closing, we thank our alumni and friends for their continued support. If you are in the Madison area, please stop for a visit. Also, if you have any comments, concerns or observations you want to share, please feel free to call, write or e-mail. My e-mail address is rschuler@facstaff.wisc.edu. Be sure let us know any news or address change by completing the update form in this newsletter.

Sincerely,

Ronald T. Schuler
Professor and Chair

Alumni Update continued from page 5...

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Norval Rather retired from Sears Roebuck and Company in 1980 where he had been a parts buyer in the plumbing-heating-air conditioning department.

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Steve Rohleder has drilled oil and gas wells throughout the world. He marvels at seeing stone age people in New Guinea. Steve is married with two little boys.

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THANK YOU to our contributors April 15-September 30, 1999

Mark L. Hambrecht
Gerald T. Hamilton
Jason A. Heindel
Gregory L. Heinsch
Myron L. Hillestad
Gary L. Hoerth
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Bradley R. Igl
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William J. Pick
Pillsbury Company
Robert J. Pofahl
Janet N. Priesz
Phillip H. Punswick

BSE student receives Hilldale Research Award

Leah T. Sibley, a senior in Biological Systems Engineering, received a 1999-2000 Wisconsin/Hilldale Undergraduate/Faculty Research Award April 21, 1999. Working in collaboration with Professor Sundaram Gunasekaran, Sibley will use the \$3,000 award to continue her research of using natural plant and wood fibers to remove pollutants from the environment. Sibley's research is based upon the fact that our water resources are susceptible to contamination from a variety of sources, such as fertilizer and oil spills. Many synthetic materials and removal techniques have been developed to combat this pollution, however their use is often

costly and, in some cases, may produce additional toxic wastes. Natural fibers are abundant, inexpensive and absorbent.

Sibley is working with research teams at Biological Systems Engineering and the Forest Products Laboratory who are investigating methods to improve the absorption capabilities of natural fibers. Sibley is specifically looking at quantifying the effectiveness of different fibers in absorbing various contaminants from water.

The Hilldale Research Awards give undergraduates the opportunity to become involved in a reserch project and encourage collaborative research between undergraduates and faculty.

BIOLOGICAL SYSTEMS ENGINEERING SCHOLARSHIPS-1999

During 1999, over \$8000 in scholarships were awarded to Agricultural Engineering students. The funds for these scholarships were provided through our campaign administered by the UW Foundation. We thank our alumni and friends for this support. The list of scholarship funds and recipients are as follows:

GAIL EDWIN AND JANICE FAYE JANSSEN BIOLOGICAL SYSTEMS ENGINEERING SCHOLARSHIP
Laura Delaney, Trempealeau, WI (Sophomore)

LYNNDON AND NORMA BROOKS SCHOLARSHIP
Timothy Dittrich, Schaumberg, IL (Senior)

HAM BRUHN BIOLOGICAL SYSTEMS ENGINEERING SCHOLARSHIP
Crystal Hanks, Waseca, MN (Senior)

FOOD ENGINEERING(PILLSBURY) SCHOLARSHIP
Nathan Sleiter, Monroe (Senior)
Silvia Kosasih, Indonsia (Senior),

Stephen Meer, Milwaukee, WI (Senior)
Leah Sibley, Madison, WI (Senior)

ERVIN W. SCHROEDER SCHOLARSHIP
Ali Senn, Minnetonka, MN (Senior)
Anthony Russo, Poynette, WI (Sophomore)

JOHN DEERE SCHOLASHIP
Jacob Holl, Juneau, WI (Junior)
Matthew Holl, Juneau, WI (Junior)

WALSAA OUTSTANDING SOPHOMORE AWARD
Jennifer Schwantz, Plainview, MN (Junior)

WISCONSIN AGRICULTURAL ENGINEER
Brian Huenink, Cedar Grove, WI (Senior)

Alumni information not included here will appear in future newsletters.

THANK YOU

to our contributors
April 15-September 30, 1999

Mark A. Purschwitz
Dale A. Quam
Ahmad Rafi
Norman G. Reicherdt
Douglas J. Reinemann
Ross A. Rehfeldt
David L. Reinhardt
Alexander N. Renk
Philip E. Risser
John E. Rodell
Paul F. Roidt
Matthew J. Ryan
David J. Schaefer
Robert J. Schmitz
Ervin W. Schroeder
Ronald T. Schuler
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Lawrence J. Wiest
Anthony W. Willems Van Dijk
Cythia M. Williams
Thomas M. Zeier

Students Receive First Place Organization Competition at Engineering Expo

The Pre-Professional Club had four exhibits at the Engineering Expo held April 16-18, 1999 on the engineering campus. Their exhibits were ¼ Scale Tractor, Cheese Stretcher, Chocolate Surface Area on the Surface of a Chocolate Chip Cookie and Use of Lignocellulosics and Air-lift Pump for Intensive Aquaculture. This three-day event was attended by over 20,000 people.

The ¼ Scale Tractor display had the tractors for both the 1998 and 1999 plus computer program showing an animated assembly of the 1998 tractor. Expo attendees were able to determine how far heated mozzarella cheese could be stretch before breaking. Machine vision was used to determine the percent of the surface area that was chocolate for a freshly baked chocolate chip cookie. For the aquaculture exhibit, organic fibers were used to filter the water with living fish and the air-lift pump was used to move the water.

The students participating in the exhibits learned a great deal by interacting with people of all ages with little or no knowledge of engineering. The award included a plaque and \$1000, which proved to be useful in their many activities.

"SOLUTIONS FOR THE 21ST CENTURY" CAMPAIGN UPDATE



Make your contribution today! See page 7 for pledge information.

Alumni Update

Thank you for continuing to send your business cards and information updates. We appreciate hearing from you! The business cards from our alumni are mounted in a display in the hall of Biological Systems Engineering. If you haven't kept in touch, please send us your business card and/or complete the form at the end of this newsletter.

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David Lindsay has operated his company for 35 years, representing 25 manufacturers of sawmill and woodworking machinery. This equipment is marketed largely in the Northern Lake States.

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Alumni Update continued on page 6...