**ABE Values, Vision and Mission**

"The mission of the Department of Agricultural and Biological Engineering is to integrate life and engineering for enhancement of complex living systems."

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### I^4 Seminar Series

View upcoming seminars [here](#).

- **March 22** - No I^4 Seminar — Spring break
- **March 29** - Presented by: Lance Schideman, ABE

#### Maximizing Bioenergy and Water Quality Benefits in Novel Wastewater Treatment Systems

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### Monday Brown Bag Topics

Join us for the ABE Brown Bag at 12 p.m. in 217 AESB.

- **March 25th** Undergraduate Advising
  - Presented by: Anne Marie Boone and Joe Harper
- **April 1** Faculty Support for student clubs
  - Presented by: P. Kalita and Joe Harper

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### GSA Basketball Tournament-March Madness

GSA would like to congratulate Team Captain Jason Motsinger and fellow teammates Paul Davidson, Sid Verma, Natasha Bell, Carlos Bulnes, and Kevin White on their Basketball tournament win. The victory occurred on Saturday, March 2nd at ARC. Thank you to everyone who participated in the tournament as well as those who came to cheer on the teams! Don’t forget to spot the winning team’s photo in the AESB lounge, as well as congratulate players.

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### Congratulations

Congratulations goes out to Kent Rausch and his wife on their first grandchild! Ezekiel Lloyd was born on March 18th at 10:20 p.m. He weighed in at 8 lb. 13 oz. and is 20 3/4 inches long. He is the first child of Kent and Tina’s daughter Andrea and her husband Aaron. Congratulations from all of us!
**ABE Graduate Program Ranked #2**

The ABE Graduate Program has once again been ranked #2 by the U.S. News and World Report. Our score was 4.6 with Purdue being ranked #1 with a score of 4.7. For full rankings, GRE scores, and student debt data, sign up for [U.S. News Engineering School Compass](#).

**ABE External Advisor Committee**

**ABE External Advisory Committee Meeting** ... Mark your calendars! The ABE External Advisory Committee meeting has been scheduled for Monday, April 15th. The meeting will be held in LIAC in the Heritage Room from 9 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. Coffee and pastries will be available at 8:30 a.m. Specific details will be announced at a later date.

**Election Results**

*Dr. Prasanta Kalita* was re-elected to the Urbana-Champaign Faculty Senate for the 2013-15 term. The Senate is comprised of 200 elected faculty representatives and 50 elected students. There are 19 standing committees within the Senate.

*Dr. Kaustubh Bhalerao* was recently elected to the ACES Executive Committee for the 2013-15 term. Kaustubh will be representing ABE on the committee.

**Awards, Awards, and More Awards!**

Congratulations to the following Grad Students!

Ravi Challa won First Place in a poster competition at the 2012 American Institute of Chemical Engineers Annual Conference in Pittsburgh, PA. The poster was titled “Fouling Rates of Synthetic Thin Stillage”.

Mitchell Minarick’s status as an ARCS Foundation Scholar, was renewed by the ARCS Foundation, Chicago Chapter, for the academic term 2012-2013 for his continued outstanding progress. ARCS Foundation Scholars are selected from among the most promising and capable students who are committed to the pursuit of scientific excellence.

Liangcheng Yang was selected by the College of Engineering to receive the Mavis Future Faculty Fellows Program (MF3) in May. This award is for advanced PhD students who plan to become teachers. The MF3 program was developed to provide the opportunity for those doctoral students interested in engineering teaching as a profession to gain experience in the focus areas of research, teaching and mentoring.

**ABE Graduate Student Reception**

National Graduate Student Appreciation Week is the first week in April. ABE Graduate Students will be honored with an Appreciation Reception on Thursday, April 4th from 2-4 p.m. in Room 217 to show our appreciation for everything they do for our department. Please plan to attend!

**Pulling for ABE@ Illinois**

Watch the bulletin for more details regarding “Pulling for ABE@Illinois”. This is a great time for friends and alumni of ABE to reunite, socialize and celebrate the success of the Illini Pullers Quarter-Scale Tractor Design Team. The event will be held on Saturday, June 1st at the Expo Gardens in Peoria, IL. A Barbeque-style lunch will be served.

**New Website for ASABE**

The new website, currently being developed, has the officer list, links to related clubs, links to other websites, upcoming events and other information. There is also an option to join and request more information about ASABE. Check it out often!

**ASABE Lawnmower Summerization**

Let the Ag Engineers of ASABE prep your lawn mower for spring! The American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineering Student Branch will be holding its annual Lawnmower Summerization Days fundraiser on April 5th and 6th. $30 includes a blade sharpening, mower clean, oil change, air filter cleaning and test run. New spark plugs add a $2 charge. Pickup and drop-off services is available for $10. Registration forms must be returned by mail or e-mail by Monday, April 1st!

If you have any questions, please contact Leigha Curtin at (815)488-3966, curtin3@illinois.edu or Austin Roepke at (618) 322-9357, roepke1@illinois.edu.

**Grant Award to Aherin**

Robert Aherin was awarded $60,000 from Purdue University for his project entitled "Assistive Technology Program for Farmers with Disabilities National AgrAbility Program Evaluation Sup-Award". The project dates are 1/1/13 to 8/31/13.
**Undergrad/Graduate Travel Grant Awards**

*Sponsored by the Office of Research (OR) College of ACES*

The travel grant awards program is designed to help students conducting research attend both national and international scientific meetings. This research is focused on the mission of the College and societal priorities in Agriculture, Food and the Environment defined by the USDA. The program is open to all students in ACES. The criteria can be found on the Research@ACES [website](#). To apply download the [Request Form](#) and submit to Dr. Graham at kingdom@illinois.edu.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>March 16-24, 2013</td>
<td>Spring Break</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 5, 2013</td>
<td>Last day to take final exam for May Doctoral Degree</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 12, 2013</td>
<td><strong>ACES Faculty Meeting</strong>, LIAC Heritage Room; Noon-1pm. Last day to submit name for May degree list</td>
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<td>April 13, 2013</td>
<td><strong>ACES Student Awards Banquet</strong>, Hilton Garden Inn, 2-4pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 14, 2013</td>
<td><strong>ABE Student Spring Awards Banquet</strong>, I-Hotel and Conference Center, 4:00-7:30 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 15, 2013</td>
<td><strong>ABE External Advisory Committee Annual Meeting</strong>, Heritage Room 8:30-3:00 p.m.</td>
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<td>April 15, 2013</td>
<td><strong>ABE Professor for a Day</strong>, Seminar presentation at noon, location TBA</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 15, 2013</td>
<td><strong>ACES Alumni Association Award of Merit Luncheon</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>April 15, 2013</td>
<td><strong>College of ACES and Paul A. Funk Recognition Awards Banquet</strong>, I-Hotel</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 15, 2013</td>
<td>Students removed from the current Graduation list can be readded</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 19, 2013</td>
<td>Last day to deposit May doctoral dissertations</td>
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<td>April 26, 2013</td>
<td>Last day to deposit May master’s theses</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 11, 2013</td>
<td><strong>ACES Convocation</strong>, Assembly Hall, 3:30-7pm</td>
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<td>May 12, 2013</td>
<td><strong>Campus Commencement Ceremonies</strong></td>
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<td>May 27, 2013</td>
<td><strong>Memorial Day Holiday</strong> - Offices Closed</td>
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<td>June 1, 2013</td>
<td><strong>Pulling for ABE@Illinois</strong>, Expo Gardens, Peoria, IL</td>
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