



The BULLETIN

January 27, 2015

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."

Departmental Updates

MONDAY LUNCH FACILITATOR SCHEDULE

Following is a list of the Monday lunch facilitators for the 2015 spring semester. Please make note of the scheduled dates on your calendar and contact Jana Lenz in the main office if you will be unable to moderate on your scheduled date.

2/2	Prasanta Kalita
2/9	Joe Harper
2/16	Yuanhui Zhang
2/23	Luis Rodrigues
3/2	Kent Rausch
3/9	Alan Hansen
3/16	Prasanta Kalita
3/23	Joe Harper
3/30	Yuanhui Zhang
4/13	Kent Rausch
4/20	Alan Hansen
4/27	Prasanta Kalita
5/4	Joe Harper

STUDENT AWARDS BANQUET

The ABE Student Awards Banquet will be held Sunday, April 12, 2015 at the I-Hotel. Students will receive notice to begin submitting their applications around Feb 9th.

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD NOMINATIONS

ABE seeks nominations for its Distinguished Alumni Award. Nominees must be graduates of (at least) one of the department's programs, either undergraduate or graduate, who have made great contributions to the field and have maintained ties to the department and university. Nominations are due Feb. 20 by 5 p.m. Current faculty and staff are not eligible. Detailed information can be found on the [ABE webpage](#).

SWOT ANALYSIS

Please remember to participate in the "Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats (SWOT) Analysis" [questionnaire](#). You are not required to answer all questions, but we are looking for as many faculty responses as possible. If you have already provided input to the SWOT Analysis, we appreciate your participation. If you have not responded to the questionnaire, please do so at your earliest convenience. We look forward to your feedback!

Departmental Updates (cont.)

SPRING 2015 ABE i4 SEMINAR SERIES “INSPIRING, INTRIGUING, INTERACTIVE, INTERESTING (i⁴)”

Speaker	Topic/Title	Seminar Date
Yuanhui Zhang	“Responsible research conduct”	1/23
Bruce Eliot-Litchfield	“The global cooking problem: storing solar thermal energy”	1/30
Dale Stierwalt	Farming issues	2/6
Rohit Bhargava	“From novel chemical imaging to a new education model”	2/13
Ann Witmer	“Navigating the challenges of engineering for international service”	2/20
Lulu Rodriguez	Public perceptions and attitudes toward wind energy: Implications for communication efforts	2/27
Colleen Murphy	ethics in engineering	3/6
Irfan Ahmad	“Building multidisciplinary partnerships in a resource constrained environment”	3/13
Maria Chu	research program	3/20
Kishore Rajagopalan	The Billion Gallon Water Challenge	4/3
Bob Aherin	safety and health programs	4/10
Jennifer Bernhard	Sensing and Tracking Challenges: Where Can You, or Should You, Put An Antenna?	4/24
Kari Wozniak	Developing a Coursera course	5/1

SPRING CONFERENCE TRAVEL AWARDS

The Department of Agricultural & Biological Engineering is now accepting applications for the Spring Conference Travel Awards for Graduate Students. The deadline for applications to be turned into the department is February 13, 2014. Please use the Travel Grant Request Form found on the [ABE Wiki page](#).

Congratulations to...

Dr. Richard Cooke received “Life Membership” in the Illinois Land Improvement Contractors Association, on January 17, 2015. This honor is awarded for lifelong commitment, dedication and service to Illinois LICA. Congratulations, Dr. Cooke!

Ana Artiaga (an undergraduate student in Soil and Water) was a member of a team that won first place in the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers (SHPE) Nissan Design Competition. While attending the 2014 SHPE national conference, 24 “extraordinary” students were chosen to tackle a global challenge in 72 hours. Ana’s team chose the issue of water; more specifically, preserving more water through a new design for drip irrigation. This was the first year the competition was held, and Ana and her teammates received \$10,000. Congratulations, Ana!

Important Dates

March 21	Spring Vacation Begins
March 30	Instruction Resumes
April 12	ABE Student Award Banquet
May 6	Instruction Ends
May 8	Final Exams Begin
May 16 & 17	Commencement
May 18	Summer Term 1 Begins
May 25	Memorial Day
June 13	Summer Term 1 Ends
June 15	Summer Term 2 Begins
July 3	Independence Day observed
August 6	Summer Term 2 Ends
August 7	Final Exams Begin

Future ABE Bulletins

Please contact or copy **Leanne Lucas (llucas@illinois.edu)** with any information to be included in a future ABE Bulletin. Thanks!