



Honoring the Newly Elected

Twelve new ASABE Fellows were recognized at the Annual International Meeting in Boston, Massachusetts, in July. *Resource* is proud to highlight these recent honorees.

Fellows must have a minimum of 20 years of active practice in, or related to, the profession of engineering, the teaching of engineering, or the teaching of an engineering-related curriculum. The designation Fellow has honorary status, to which members may be elected but may not apply.

As the ASABE Constitution states, Fellows are “of unusual professional distinction, with outstanding and extraordinary qualifications and experience in, or related to, the field of agricultural, food, or biological engineering.” Election to Fellow is one of the highest distinctions an ASABE member can achieve, and *Resource* looks forward to acquainting you with more of ASABE’s best and brightest.



John R. Fisher, retired Vice President of Technical Affairs and Safety, Alamo Group Incorporated, Seguin, Texas, is honored for his long dedication to the development and application of industry standards and encouragement of off-road equipment safety.

At Alamo Group Incorporated, Fisher was responsible for providing senior management with leadership and direction regarding the organization’s safety culture, proactive safety training, status of product liability, employee safety injury investigations, and compliance with environmental laws and regulations. Fisher has been a leading figure in the development of agricultural equipment safety standards in the ISO forum, later introduced and adopted by ASABE, and has spent time encouraging colleagues to work with his educational vision for engineers in the future through various training initiatives. Fisher has increased the understanding and importance of Alamo Group’s employee workplace safety mission through education and implementation of employee safety programs and reviews, significantly reducing work-related injuries. OSHA recordable and lost time injuries at Alamo Group have continually decreased to the lowest levels in 20 years.

Pictured above: John and Louann Fisher with their grandson, Gareth MacAllister. Gareth was 8 months old at the time of this picture and is now a 2-year-old with lots of never-ending energy.



Tony E. Grift, Professor of Agricultural and Biological Engineering, University of Illinois, Urbana, is recognized for his contributions in teaching, research, and service.

Together with graduate students and post-doctoral researchers, Grift has conducted extensive research on the development of uniformity controlled granular fertilizer spreaders using a unique optical feedback system. He spearheaded the measurement of energy requirements for various operations in biomass feedstock production. In the area of high-throughput phenotyping, Grift developed a Corn Root Imaging Box (CRIB) which enables imaging of 100 corn roots per hour. He developed innovative methods of characterizing corn root complexity, as well as a new definition of root angle. Currently, Grift is pioneering On-The-Implement-Intelligent-Soil-Sensing (OTIISS) methods that include acoustics, shear wave technology, and electrical impedance measurement. Additionally, Grift has taught thousands of undergraduate and graduate students in the areas of agricultural machinery, electro-hydraulics, instrumentation, and machine vision. Grift initiated the ASABE Student Robotics Design competition in 2007 and led it for nine years. This competition started with three teams and over the years has seen remarkable growth in both participation and technical sophistication.

Pictured above: Tony (back row, far right) and colleagues from the University of Illinois, during a visit to the Nelson Mandela Capture Site memorial, Durban, South Africa, June 2019.