

June 2005

Special points of interest:

- Awards and Scholarships
- New Faculty and Staff
- Spring Graduates
- Where are they now?

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Biological and Agricultural Engineering News

Engineering Senior Design Projects and Ag Systems Management Senior Projects Complete the Educational Experience

The end of the spring semester always brings about the completion of the senior projects for students in Biological Systems Engineering, Agricultural Engineering, and Ag Systems Management. These projects serve as the capstone experience for the students in our programs and challenge them to utilize all of the material they have learned over the previous three or four years.

For the engineering class there were 17 students and this year's projects included design of a lift station for a dairy in Pampa, Texas (Client: Ms. Anissa Morton, Enviro-Ag); development of a real-time monitoring and tractor shutoff for diabetic operators, (Client: Mr. Ben Weinheimer, rancher); process engineering of an industrial lubricant from cottonseed oil, (Client: Dr. Scot McKenzie, Food Protein R&D); and development of a site plan to put unused land adjacent to a municipal wastewater treatment plant in San Antonio, Texas to a more beneficial use, (Client: Ms. Melissa Bryant, San Antonio River Authority). The engineering projects were also used in last fall's

Freshman design class taught by Dr. Ann Kenimer.

The Agricultural Systems Management class had 47 students with 14 teams working on a wide variety of projects with unique requirements. This year's projects included a water quality monitoring system (Client: Dr. Russell Persyn, BAEN TAMU); protection of module feeder operations (Client: Mr. Kelley Green, Texas Cotton Ginners Association); irradiation quarantine treatment alternatives (Client: Dr. Elena Castell-Perez, BAEN TAMU); green building implementation program (Client: Mr. Greg Stark, BAEN TAMU); equipment cost allocation and recovery (Client: Mr. Verlon Moore, Zachry Construction Company); battery marketing plan (Client: Mr. Ben Smethurst, Battery Concepts International), use of RFID to track dairy products (Client: Mr. Dale Sommerlatte, Blue Bell Creameries), inventory tracking system (Client: Mr. Bobby Hartfield, Rudolph Foods), inventory cycle count process (Client: Mr. Robert Grove, Hines Horticulture), tracking availability of saleable inventory (Client: Mr. Robert Grove, Hines Horticulture), mapping of routine herbicide applications (Client: Mr. Brad Abrameit, Hines Horticulture),.



Daniel Mulvahill, Matt Carpenter, and Stewart Skloss beside a model of their engineering design for site development in San Antonio, Texas.

We much appreciate the contributions of these individuals and their companies to the departmental educational programs. For more details on the Engineering Projects or to suggest a problem for the fall semester contact Dr. Ron Lacey at 979-845-3967 or ron-lacey@tamu.edu. For more details on the Ag Systems Management Projects or to suggest a problem for the fall semester contact Dr. Jim Gilley at 979-458-1428 or gilley@tamu.edu.



**Gerald L. Riskowski,
Professor and Head**

Howdy from the Department Head

The Biological and Agricultural Engineering Department sends greetings to all of our former students and many friends. The past semester has been a busy one and we have much good news to share.

In this issue we celebrate the achievements and successes of our students. We are fortunate to have excellent young men and women in the Agricultural Engineering, Biological Systems Engineering, and Ag Systems Management programs. We are also fortunate to have a number of endowed scholarships and awards in order to recognize the scholastic achievements and leadership of many of these students. Of course, we always seem to have more well qualified students, than

we have awards and scholarships to grant, so if you'd like to help support these fine young people, don't hesitate to contact me.

We are also celebrating an outstanding recognition of Dr. Ann Kenimer for her excellent teaching. Dr. Kenimer was honored by President Bob Gates by being selected as one of the top four teachers at Texas A&M University this past year. She was named runner-up for the Presidential Teaching Excellence Award

We are also pleased to announce that Dr. Sergio Capareda has joined our faculty in the area of bioenergy engineering. Dr. Capareda comes to us from the University of the Philippines at Los Baños, where he was an associate

professor and head of the Biomass Energy Lab. We're also pleased to welcome Monica Cortez as our new Academic Advisor. As many of you know, Jeana Goodson received a well deserved promotion and transferred to Industrial Engineering, but our students will remain in good hands with Ms. Cortez. We also expect to be sharing news of additional faculty hires in the next issue.

I want to thank you for your continued interest and support in the success of our Department. I hope that you find this newsletter informative and interesting.

Dr. Riskowski can be reached by email at Riskowski@tamu.edu or by telephone at 979-845-3931.

Annual Student–Faculty Softball Game

The annual Student–Faculty Softball game was held on May 4, at Penberthy Field #4 to determine the softball bragging rights for the year. This year saw the return of Calvin Parnell in a starting role as pitcher with Russell Persyn in relief for the faculty-staff team.

The faculty team took advantage of new, younger employees to rout the student team. The final score has been withheld to avoid embarrassment. Although the students tried to use the excuse that they were exhausted from Dr. Parnell's tests, these complaints fell on deaf ears. The faculty had heard it before.



John Lyons, 2004-2005 President of the ASAE Preprofessionals, brings the heat as he pitches against the faculty-staff team in this year's battle.



Cady Engler at bat for the faculty-staff team in this year's rout of the undergraduates. Catching for the students is Vince Schielack. Coaching third is Russell Persyn, while Steve Searcy and Cale Boriack discuss strategy.

2005 Student Awards Banquet a Great Success

As a part of the Parent's Weekend festivities, the annual Department Student Awards Banquet was held at Pebble Creek Country Club on Saturday, April 9. After a short reception, dinner was served.

We were honored to have Ms. Sally Shaver, Director of the Emissions Standards Division, Office of Air Quality Emissions and Planning, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, start the night as our keynote speaker. Ms. Shaver stressed the growing importance of air and water quality issues in the future.

Then the outstanding students of the department were recognized as scholarships and awards were presented. A complete listing of recipients and winners can be found on page 4 of this newsletter. Also acknowledged were those receiving the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Senior Merit Award. These students are

Ryan Batla (AGSM), Daniel Mulvahill (AGEN), and Erin Trampe (BSEN). The new members of the Texas Phi Chapter of Alpha Epsilon, the honor society for Biological and Agricultural Engineering, were recognized and inducted. The list of inductees is included in the following story.

The student clubs also presented Dr. Wayne LePori with a plaque in appreciation for all of his years of dedicated service to the students.

ASAE and AGSM Presidents, John Lyons and Ryan Batla, highlighted the events of ASAE and Ag Systems Management Club with a short slide show before the new officers of ASAE were introduced by Marisa Speer. The new officers for Ag Systems Management Club were elected the week following the banquet.

New officers for ASAE for the

2005-'06 school year are Marisa Speer, President; Kendra Johnson, Vice President; Ryan Hill, Secretary; Craig Birkenfeld, Treasurer; Katharine Abild, Philanthropy Chair; David Schulte, Ag Council Rep; Mark Macek, Historian; Jackie Michalka, SEC Rep; Josh Meuth and John Lyons, National AEM Reporters. Dr. Russell Persyn will serve as the senior faculty advisor.

New officers for AGSM for the 2005-'06 school year are Nathan Roberson, President; Shane Kuhlman, Vice President; Ryan Hanel, Secretary; Dustin Dean, Treasurer; Russ Eggemeyer, Historian; David Hejl, Publicity Chair; Ryan Tudyk, Social Chair; and Dr. James Gilley is the faculty advisor

The ASAE Preprofessional website URL is asae.tamu.edu

The AGSM Student Club website URL is agsm.tamu.edu



Ms. Sally Shaver, Director of the Emissions Standards Division, Office of Air Quality Emissions and Planning, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency was the keynote speaker at the 2005 Biological and Agricultural Engineering Awards Banquet

Texas Phi Chapter of Alpha Epsilon Inducts 16 New Members

Alpha Epsilon is an honor society for outstanding biological and agricultural engineers. The objectives of the honor society are to promote the high ideals of the engineering profession, to give recognition to those biological and agricultural engineers who manifest worthy qualities of character, scholarship and professional attainment, and to encourage and support such improvements in the biological and agricultural engineering profession that make it an

instrument of greater service to mankind.

The Texas Phi Chapter was founded in 1976. Seniors are eligible for induction if they are in the upper third of their class, juniors are eligible if they are in the upper quarter of their class, and graduate students are eligible if they have at least a 3.25 GPR with 12 or more credit hours completed.

Seniors inducted were Arin Teague, Mark Macek, Clark Edwards, Jennifer Housman, and Joshua Meuth. Juniors inducted include Jacqueline Michalka, Gary Nolan, Garrett Anderson, Kendra Johnson, Justin Mechell, Tyson Hann, and John Lyons. Graduate students inducted were Lee Hamm, Narendra Das, Bakkiyalakshmi Palanisamy, and Omar Amawi. The Faculty advisor is Dr. Patti Haan. Congratulations to all the new inductees.



Do you recognize this smiling face? HINT: This is lifted from an undated ASAE Student Branch photo, although it's probably from the mid-1980s. The answer is on page 8 of this newsletter.



Ordway Boriack demonstrates this year's tractor from Aggie Pullers to a group of local elementary school students.



Shane Kuhlman, AGSM major, was the 2005 recipient of the "Bo" Higgs Superior Service Award. Shane is president of the Aggie Pullers for 2004-2005 and Vice-President of the AGSM Student Club for 2004-2006.

2005 Departmental Scholarships

The William H. Aldred Endowed Scholarship in Agricultural Engineering was awarded to Justin Mechell (AGEN).

The William E. Beach Memorial Scholarship was awarded to William Vanadore (AGSM).

The George H. Follett Undergraduate Endowed Scholarship was awarded to Craig Birkenfeld (AGEN) and Dustin Dean (AGSM).

The Edward A. Hiler Endowed Scholarship was awarded to Kye Kinzer (AGEN) and Walt Riske (AGSM).

The Price & Merle Hobgood Endowed Scholarship in Agricultural Engineering was awarded to Dustin Moore (AGEN) and Stewart Skloss (AGEN).

The Mr. & Mrs. Fred R. Jones Scholarship in Agricultural Engineering was awarded to Russ Egge-meyer (AGSM) and William Hajdik (AGSM).

The Earl M. Ladd III Memorial Scholarship was awarded to Jared Murdock (AGEN).

The P.T. Montfort Fellowship was given to Jacquelyn Michalka (BSEN) and Jared Murdock (AGEN).

The Hubert O. Roberts, Jr. Agricultural Engineering Scholarship was awarded to Garrett Anderson (AGEN), Lucas Foucault (AGEN), Kendra Johnson (BSEN), Daniel Mulvahill (AGEN), and David Schulte (AGEN).

The Lambert H. Wilkes Scholarship was awarded to Jacob Kalina

(AGSM) and Charles Swanson (AGSM).

The BAEN John Deere Scholarship was awarded to Matthew Britten (AGSM), David Hejl (AGSM), Kye Kieschnick (AGSM), and Adam Wolf (AGSM).

The Plains Ginners Association Scholarship was awarded to Nathan Roberson (AGSM).

The Dow Aggies Endowed Scholarship Fund in Agriculture was awarded to John Lyons (AGEN) and Nicole Pennington (AGEN).

John Deere Dealership Program Scholarships were awarded to John Ebert (AGSM), Chris Aelvoet (AGSM), and Ben Rutland (AGSM).

2005 Departmental Awards

The "Bo" Higgs Superior Service Award was presented to Shane Kuhlman, an AGSM major. This award is given in memory of Bo Higgs, an AGSM student who was tragically killed in a water skiing accident. His father, Lt. Col. Stephan Higgs, (USAF ret.) presented the award.

The Price Hobgood Student Award was established to recognize scholastic achievement and outstanding accomplishments by full time undergraduate students in the department. This year's recipients are Phillip Geiger (AGEN), Phillip Luedecke (AGEN) and Marisa

Speer (AGEN).

The W.E. McCune Student Award was established to recognize scholastic achievement and leadership activities as well as participation in the AGSM Club. This year's recipient is Scott Emsoff (AGSM).

The J.W. Sorenson Student Award was established to recognize scholastic achievement, participation in student activities at TAMU, and active participation in the ASAE Preprofessional Club. We have two recipients this year: Mark Macek (AGEN), and John Lyons (AGEN).

The Robert E. Stewart Graduate Student Award is intended to recognize outstanding achievement by a graduate student in BAEN or AGSM, including active participation in ASAE activities. This year's recipient is Brock Faulkner.

The Bill & Rita Stout International Graduate Award was established to recognize outstanding achievement by international graduate students in Biological and Agricultural Engineering or AGSM. This year we have two recipients; Narendra Das and Oscar Rodriguez.

Congratulations To Our 2005 Spring Graduates

Congratulations to our May 2005 graduates. We wish you the best of luck in all of your endeavors after leaving us here in Aggieland:

Grant Parker Alford, AGEN

Paul Hughes Barker, Jr., AGSM

Jason Allen Brown, AGSM, commissioned as a 2nd Lt. in the U.S. Air Force

Justin Travis Buice, AGSM, working for K2Share, College Station, TX

Aaron Paul Burkett, AGSM

Matthew Harriman Carpenter, AGEN

Michael Stephen Carpenter, AGEN

Cody Lee Cutrell, AGSM

Zachary Taylor Farrington, AGSM, working for Holt Caterpillar, Ervin, TX

Timothy Lee Folk, BSEN

Eric B. Gerberman, AGSM

Claudia E. Granda, M.S. with Dr. Moreira

John Thomas Hickerson, Jr., AGSM

Brian Reed Kainer, AGSM, working as an estimator for Workman Commercial, Houston, TX

Mark Myer King, AGSM

April Lovelady, M.S. with Dr. Lacey, employed at Kennedy Space Center, NASA

Randal Dean Michel, AGEN

Carlo Shay Mariani, AGSM, working for Nextel, VA

Rebecca Hobbs Melton, M.S. with Dr Kenimer and Dr. Rick Weaver (AGRO)

Joseph Thomas Newman, AGSM

Jacob Joseph Powell, AGEN, starting graduate work in the fall at Texas A&M

Garrett Taylor Scanlan, AGSM

Stephen Drue Schwartz, AGSM, working for Texas Utility Mining Co., Martin Lake, TX

Kristie Lynn Sparks, BSEN

Todd Edward Stiggins, AGEN

Jarod Bradley Stojanik, AGSM

Jonathan Le Tran, AGEN

Christopher Charles Tucker, AGSM

John David Wanjura, M.S. with Dr. Parnell, employed with USDA ARS

Dustin Daniel Windham, AGSM, working for Fort Bend Services, Inc., Stafford, TX

William Dane Wright, AGSM

Recent Graduates, if you have an update on your employment, please contact Monica Cortez at mo_cortez@tamu.edu



April Lovelady '02 (B.S. AGEN) recently received her Master of Science degree in Biological and Agricultural Engineering. April is shown here working on NASA funded research into low pressure plant growth.

Where are they now? - Former Student News

Jody Purswell, '98 B.S. AGEN, '01 M.S. BAEN, completed his Ph.D. at the University of Kentucky and is currently working for the USDA Agricultural Research Service Poultry Research Unit at Mississippi State University.

Jan Tijmes, '99 AGEN, is working for the La Plata Conservation District in Durango, CO.

Garrett Chandler, '03 AGEN,

has completed his M.S. in Biosystems and Agricultural Engineering at the University of Kentucky. Garrett is off to a summer job in Trondheim Norway working in wheeled robotic intelligence then will be completing a second M.S. in Electrical Engineering.

Tim Purswell, '01 AGSM, has taken a position with Shepler's in Amarillo, TX.

Wes Chain, '00 AGSM is working

for Seatrax Inc, in Houston, TX

Lisa Porta, '04 BSEN, after a summer internship in Germany, has started her M.S. degree at the Colorado School of Mines in Golden, CO.

Former Students, if you have news you'd like to share, please contact Ron Lacey at ron-lacey@tamu.edu



Dr. Jody Purswell, '98 BS and '03 MS, is now with the USDA ARS Poultry Research Unit at Mississippi State University



Dr. Ann Kenimer, associate professor was named a runner-up for the 2005 Texas A&M University Presidential Teaching Excellence Award.

Dr. Ann Kenimer Named Runner-Up for Presidential Teaching Excellence Award

Dr. Ann L. Kenimer, associate professor in the Department of Biological and Agricultural Engineering, has been named a runner-up for the 2005 Texas A&M University Presidential Teaching Excellence Awards. Dr. Kenimer will receive a \$10,000 stipend for the honor.

Dr. Kenimer, who has been a member of the Texas A&M faculty since 1993, was named an "exemplary teacher" in a 2003 national case study project funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture Higher Education Challenge Grant. The Asso-

ciation of Former Students presented her a college-level Distinguished Achievement Award in Teaching through the Dwight Look College of Engineering, and she also received two teaching excellence awards through the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. "She works hard to present complex knowledge in a manner that students will quickly understand," wrote a nominator in a letter supporting her for this year's teaching excellence award. Ann holds B.S. and M.S. degrees from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and a Ph.D. from the University of Illinois.

Welcome to Dr. Sergio Capareda

Dr. Sergio Capareda has accepted an appointment as assistant professor in Biological and Agricultural Engineering effective May 1, 2005. Dr. Capareda holds a B.S degree in Agricultural Engineering from the University of the Philippines at Los Baños (UPLB, 1982), a Master of Engineering degree with major in Energy Technology from the Asian Institute of Technology, Bangkok, Thailand (1985) and a Ph.D degree in Agricultural Engineering from Texas A&M University (1990). Up until 16 August 2004 he was an Associate Professor at the Institute of Agricultural Engineering, UPLB.

In April 2003, Sergio took a leave from UPLB to assume a post as Visiting Research Scientist with the Center for Agricultural Air Quality Engineering and Sciences at the Department of Biological and Agricultural Engineering, TAMU. For the past two years he has been actively involved in several areas of the air quality program.

Dr. Capareda has more than 15 years of teaching experience at UPLB and an equal number of years of active research work in agricultural machinery,

renewable energy, and environmental quality. He developed several renewable energy courses at UPLB and handled many agricultural machinery courses. In 1997, Dr. Capareda established the Biomass Energy Laboratory at UPLB. This facility, which he headed until March 2003, has been continuously being funded by the Philippines Department of Energy. He has done consulting work in the Philippines involving projects with the World Bank, National Renewable Energy Laboratory of US DOE and USAID among others. For three years Dr. Capareda was the Program Manager of the Philippines Agricultural Mechanization Development Program, a United Nations Development Program project. He had been actively involved in activities of the Philippine Society of Agricultural Engineering and the ASAE.

Sergio is married to Evamarie Pordesimo Capareda and they have two children, Alexa Jean (14) and Karlo Anton (7). Alexa is a scholar at the Philippine High School for the Arts with major in Classical Ballet and also a Royal Academy of Dancing student. Evamarie holds a Ph.D degree in Organic Chemistry from the University of Oklahoma in Norman, Oklahoma.



Dr. Sergio Capareda, a recent addition to the

Molly Griffin shares in the 2005 International Excellence Award

The 2005 International Excellence Team Award was given by the Texas A&M International Programs Office to Dr. Clifton Griffin, Laura Welsh, Brenda Thomas, Rachelle Dudley, Dale and Kristen Kubenka, and Molly Griffin in recognition of their efforts in the design and sale of the International Howdy T-shirts that raised \$44,202 for the Saquib Ejaz family, victims of the University Apartment fire in summer 2004. The award was presented by Dr. David Prior, Provost and Porter Garner, Executive Director of the Association of Former Students on April 12 at the Stark Gallery. Molly is currently a Texas Cooperative Extension Extension Assistant working on the North Central Texas Water Quality Project Rio Grande In-home Conservation Project.



In the picture from left to right are Porter Garner, Exec. Director of the Association of Former Students; Dr. Clifton Griffin, Asst. Dean of Office of Graduate Studies; Dr. James Calvin, Executive Associate Vice President For Research; Molly Griffin, Extension Assistant; Rachelle Dudley, Office of Graduate Studies; Dr. Rick Giardino, Dean of Office of Graduate Studies; Laura Welsh, Office of Graduate Studies; Dr. David Prior, Executive Vice President And Provost



International Howdy T-shirts were sold to support the Ejaz family, victims of the July 31st fire at Texas A&M's University Apartments. The T-shirts feature "Howdy. We are the Aggies" on the front and "The Aggies are We" on the back with the block T formed with greetings in multiple languages. Molly Griffin was part of the team that designed and sold the shirts.

Welcome to Monica Cortez, new Academic Advisor

[Editor's note: When I asked Monica for a bio on herself she sent me the following. She did such a great job, I decided to print it verbatim. She's a great addition to our department.]

Howdy! I'm Monica Cortez, the new Academic Advisor for the Biological and Agricultural Engineering Department. I was born in Houston, Texas and lived there until I was 3. My family moved to Caldwell, Texas and has remained there. My grandfather operates a small scale ranch there. In his good ole' days he operated quite a few ranches there and that gave me an appreciation of agriculture from a young age. I'm a small town girl, married to a Chef and have 3 cute kids. My hobbies are: fresh water fishing (since I was 4 yrs. old), loud music, and going to South Padre Island, Texas. Before kids I loved to read, one hobby I had to drop for now. My future goal in the hobby area is to pick up deep-sea fishing and try not to get sea sick. My future goal in life is to own a family restaurant (could be a taco stand, could be an upscale eatery) so I can pass that on to my children. My other grandparents owned a Mexican food restaurant in San Antonio, Texas for 30 years and passed away before they could give it to someone in the family who wanted it. I don't want

history to repeat itself, so that's what I want to achieve in life.

Before working here, I worked for the English Language Institute, Texas A&M University. I advised international students there for 7 years. I would have to say that was the best experience of my life. Coming from a small town, I had no idea how big, yet small this world really is. I never stopped learning about life and other cultures in that job, right up to my last days there. I formed some of the best friends in my life meeting some of the students who attended ELI. In fact, when my children get older I can visit many countries and have a friend to stay with in each one. During your time here, try to meet at least one student from another country and you gain admiration in others and yourself.

I want to thank all the faculty, staff, and students of this department for the support and kind things you have done to make this big transition in my life as easy as possible. I'm at the best place to experience such a big step, and that I'm thankful for. I look forward to making my place here for as long as possible. Gig'em, Thanks, and Gracias!



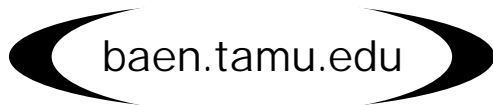
Monica Cortez joins the Biological and Agricultural Engineering Department as the new Academic Advisor.



**TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY
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A photograph of the west side of Scoates Hall, probably taken in the late 1930s. If you have any old photos of the department, we'd like to copy them for our archive. Contact Dr. Ron Lacey at 979-845-3967 or ron-lacey@tamu.edu.

Mark Your Calendar

International ASAE Meeting
Tampa, Florida

July 17 - 20

Texas Section ASAE Meeting
Grapevine, Texas

October 12-13

*Please pass this newsletter along to your friends. If you received this from someone else, you can sign up at
<http://baen.tamu.edu/newsletter> to receive your own copy*