



Department Head's Corner

Welcome to a new academic year. The fall semester is always a season of excitement. New freshmen are trying to find their way around campus, seniors are anticipating their final classes and job searches, the faculty are preparing new course materials and there is great hope for success by the Aggie athletic teams.



The changes in Scoates Hall bring a new look and much needed updates to the building. The capital improvement project started in June 2013, and will be completed by December 2014. We will have better electrical power HVAC and fewer water leaks; we were able to abate asbestos and meet ADA and fire codes as an opportunity to reconfigure some space to better meet departmental needs.

The combination of the capital improvement project and our work on the departmental history in preparation for our centennial resulted in the rediscovery of the original ornate designs in Scoates Hall that had been lost. When constructed in the midst of the Great Depression, the building was designed to be a showcase for agricultural engineering, and to instill an impression of grandeur for visitors. Through the efforts by several individuals, we have undertaken a restoration of much of that original appearance. Please see the article later in this newsletter for information on what we are doing and how you can learn more about these efforts.

As you read this issue, you will learn about the accomplishments of several of our faculty. I want to end by pointing out an outstanding collective recognition. Since 2009, every year one or more BAEN professors have received a college or university level teaching excellence award. These recognitions are a clear demonstration of the long term commitment of the BAEN faculty to an outstanding educational experience for our students.

As always, you are invited to visit the department when you are on campus

Steve Searcy, Head
s-searcy@tamu.edu

Scoates is getting a face lift!



The new elevator is one of the highlights of Scoates renovation phase I.

The BAEN family has literally been moving around Scoates Hall. Nevertheless, this issue has not slowed down our faculty, students, and staff and they keep us proud with their impressive achievements.

Now that the phase I of the renovation project has been completed, I hope you find this issue of the BAEN newsletter informative and it inspires you to submit news of your own. We would really love to hear from you. Until the fall.

Elena Castell, Editor

Biological & Agricultural Engineering News

- Elena CastellEditor
- Susan Corgiat.....Editorial Coordinator
- Rosana MoreiraPublishing, Graphics & Design
- ContributorsFaculty, Students & Staff

FACULTY NEWS



Guy Fipps

Congratulations to **Brock Faulkner**, BAEN Assistant Professor, and **Guy Fipps**, BAEN Professor and Extension Agricultural Engineer, who were recognized for their leadership and engineering contributions at the ASABE International meeting in Montreal in July. Check the ASABE section of this newsletter for more details.

Stephen Searcy, BAEN Department Head, has been elected to the Texas Plant Protection Association Board of Directors.



Brock Faulkner



Rosana Moreira

Rosana Moreira, BAEN Professor and Assistant Department Head, received the 2014 Institute of Food Engineers, Food Engineering Division, Outstanding Service Award. See more details in the IFT section of this newsletter. Rosana was also named Assistant Provost for Graduate and Professional Studies (OGAPS). She fills a vital position and will help continue the OGAPS mission to provide quality support services to all Texas A&M graduate students, faculty and staff.

Elena Castell-Perez, BAEN Professor, received the College of Engineering Charles Crawford Distinguished Service Award. Elena was also elected for a two-year term as at-large councilor of the Honor Society of Food Science and Technology, Phi Tau Sigma.

Sandun Fernando, BAEN Associate Professor, was named a Barbara and Ralph Cox '53 Faculty Fellow 2013-2014 from the Texas A&M Engineering Program. Being chosen by peers is a testament of his outstanding contributions to Texas A&M Engineering. Sandun also received the Association of Former Students Award in 2014.



Elena Castell-Perez



Stephen Searcy



Sandun Fernando

Vijay Singh, BAEN Professor and Caroline & William N. Lehrer Chair in Water, was awarded the degree of Doctor of Science honoris causa by the University of Guelph.

Binayak Mohanty, BAEN Professor, was appointed as the initial holder of The College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Chair in Hydrologic Engineering and Sciences. The College and AgriLife Research established this Chair to support and recognize a distinguished scholar whose area of study focuses on hydrologic engineering and sciences, including the physical, chemical, geological and biological phenomenon associated with agricultural and



Vijay Singh



Binayak Mohanty

natural systems, water, soil, plants and their interactions. Binayak Mohanty and his research group received a NASA Group Achievement Award for a Successful Pre-Launch Field Campaign (SMAPVEX12) in Support of SMAP (soil Moisture Active Passive) Satellite Algorithm and Applications Development.

R. Karthikeyan, BAEN Associate Professor, and **Saqib Mukhtar**, Professor, Associate Department Head & Extension Program Leader, were members of the Bacterial Source Tracking Team selected to receive a 2014 College of Agriculture & Life Science Dean's Outstanding Achievement Award for Interdisciplinary Research. Other team members include Terry Gentry, Roel Lopez, Raghavan Srinivasan, and Kevin Wagoner.

FACULTY NEWS



Rabi Mohtar

Rabi Mohtar, BAEN and TEES Endowed Professor, joined the BAEN Faculty in 2014. He is the Founding Director of Qatar Environment and Energy Research Institute (QEERI) a member of Qatar Foundation, Research and Development and the Founding Director Strategic Projects at Qatar Foundation Research and Development. He was also the inaugural Director of the Global Engineering Programs at Purdue University, West Lafayette, Indiana. His primary research priority is the development of a framework to quantify the interlinkages of the Water-Energy-Food Nexus that is constrained by climate change and social, political, and technological pressures.



Binayak Mohanty

Binayak Mohanty was invited to attend the Academy of Medicine, Engineering, and Science of Texas (TAMEST) annual meeting (Jan 16-17, 2014) in Lost Pines, Texas as a protégé. This event (by invitation only) was attended by the members of the National Academy of Engineering, the National Academy of Science, and the Institute of Medicine from Texas.



Anish Jantrania

Anish R. Jantrania – Associate Professor and Extension Specialist—Wastewater Engineering located at the Texas AgriLife Blackland Research and Extension Center, Temple joined the BAEN Faculty in August, 2014. He will develop a statewide Extension education and research program related to surface and groundwater quality protection, with specific emphasis on non-point source pollution, on-site sewage facilities (OSSF) and other environmental issues of concern to rural communities, agricultural producers, agri-business, land developers and builders, and individuals in Texas.

STUDENTS NEWS

Aishwarya Mahadevan, BAEN MS student under **Sandun Fernando**, won the first place for graduate students-oral presentation in the Student Research Week held at TAMU in the category of Medicine/Biomedical Engineering/Neuroscience. She presented his research work, which focuses on Glycerol biosensor based on immobilization of glycerol-dehydrogenase on Au using a multi-molecular wiring system.



Walter Oosthuizen

Walter Oosthuizen, BAEN MS student under **Calvin Parnell**, was selected for a 2014-15 Texas A&M Energy Institute Fellowship sponsored by CococoPhillips, to carry out work on a project entitled "Electricity from Cotton Gin Trash Using Fluidized Bed Gasification." The award consists of \$5,000 for a one-year term.

Naga R. Modala, BAEN PhD candidate under **Clyde Muster** and **Srinivasulu Ale**, was part of a team that won first place in the annual "City of Houston Open Invitational Hackathon" competition to solve problems within the city. This was a grueling 24-hour, 18-team competition. The team included students from other departments. You can read

more about this story at <http://baen.tamu.edu/2014/06/hacking-for-a-purpose/>.

The **Aggie Pullers** placed 3rd in pulls and 2nd in the design report at the 2014 IQS competition - ASABE International 1/4 Scale tractor Student Design Competition (see photo top to the right).

Three BAEN hosted three students participated in the Summer Undergraduate Research Symposium held on August 8. One of these students was **Garret Bland** who presented a poster entitled "*The Occurrence and Prevalence of Escherichia coli in College Stations' Fishing Ponds.*" He worked with **R. Karthikeyan**, BAEN Associate Professor. **Susana Cabrera** presented a poster entitled "*Bioprocessing and recovery of recombinant protein Pfs-25.*" under the supervision of **Zivko Nikolov**, BAEN Professor and Associate Head.



Team Photo — with Dr. Lacey and Searcy, Kevin Edwards, Zackary Skrabanek, David Arthur, Nathan King, Tyler Green and Niao Yan.

ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET

Scholarships

Peary Wilemon Awards

David Arthur, Demi Dean, Zackary Skrabanek, Jordan Grier, Walter Oosthuizen, and Daniel Luehrs.

William H. Aldred Endowed Scholarship

Sonja Loy

William E. Beach Memorial Scholarship

Amanda Driewer

Rita and Dannie O. Burk '58 Endowed Scholarship

Aaron Dunavant

Cotton Chair Scholarship

David Arthur and Cody Nedbalek

Dow Aggies Endowed Scholarship Fund in Agriculture

Nathan King, Ezekiel McCreynolds, Ross Weishihn, and Keeley Wagner

George H. Foller Undergraduate Endowed Scholarship

Luke Jimerson

Plain Ginners-Association Scholarship

Jhon Lin Chou, Spencer Corry, and Caleb Shaw

Patricia and Edward Hiler Endowed Scholarship in Biological and Agricultural Engineering

Uday Toodi

Edward A. Hiler Endowed Scholarship

Wade Jimerson, Kayla Rejcek, and Taylor Pinkerton

Price and Merle Hobgood Endowed Scholarship

Josue Hernandez and Luke Laskowski

Mr. and Mrs. Fred R. Jones Scholarship in Agricultural Engineering

Susana Cabrera and Troy Franklin

Verlin and Howard Kruse '52 Endowed Scholarship in Biological and Agricultural Engineering

Courtney Toler and Olivia Koerber

Earl M. Ladd III Memorial Scholarship

Tyler Green

The P.T. Montford Fellowship

Cassian LaDue, Don Bode, and Paige Smith

Calvin and Peggy Parnell Endowed Scholarship in Biological and Agricultural Engineering

David Wolff

James R. "Cobby" Reed '50 Scholarship

Javier Esquivel

BAEN faculty, students, staff, and parents gathered for the annual Awards Banquet (April 2014) during Parents Weekend. This event was very well attended. Please join me in congratulating all those who received Excellence Awards and scholarships.

Undergraduate Scholarships

Hubert O. Roberts, Jr. Agricultural Engineering Scholarship

Emma White, Sarah Davis, and Kevin Edwards

Lambert H. Wilkes Scholarship

Marisa Powell, Taylor Holt, Andrew Harkey, and Darren Siegmund

Student Awards

Price Hobgood Scholarship Award

Tyler Green, Francesca Moos, and David Arthur

W. E. McCune Student Award

Zack Skrabanek

W. Sorenson Student Award

Kevin Edwards, Lauren Hazelrigs, and Demi Dean

Robert E. Stewart Graduate Excellence Award

Duminda Gunawardena

Bill A. and Rita L. Stout International Graduate Student Achievement Award

Zhenlei Yang

Faculty Awards

Departmental Excellence Award in Teaching

Binayak Mohanty

Department Excellence Award in Research

Srinivasulu Ale (six years or less), R. Karthikeyan (more than six years), and Russell McGee (staff)

Departmental Excellence Awards for Extension Education

Fouad Jaber and Dorothy Woodson

Departmental Excellence Award in Service

Ronald Lacey

Inductees to the Academy of Distinguished Graduates –

Terry Howell, Otto Kunze, and Lambert Wilkes

STUDENTS NEWS

Congratulations to all the Spring 2014 and Summer graduates!

Undergraduates - Spring/2014

BAEN

- William Carter
- Luis Cavazos
- Wesley Coleman
- Andrew Dixon
- Chelsea Dixon
- Jose Espinoza
- Vincent Gilliam
- Richard Hatch
- Chayson Holt
- Andrew Itchon
- Ryan Kendrick
- Logan Kostroun
- Garrett Leland
- Christina Leonhardt
- Mark Lutz
- Alexander Nelowet
- Colton Phillipp
- Adan Rangel
- Michael Scholze
- Cole Skinner
- Brenton Stamper
- Katherine Tillison
- Andrew Williams
- Sonia Zamarripa



**Undergraduates - Spring/2014
AGSM**

- Kendall Bennett
- Demi Dean
- Clint Erxleben
- Tyler Gilbreath
- Lauren Hazelrigs
- David Lacey
- Stephen Macaulay
- Cody Marshall
- Brock Moudy
- Leonardo Ordonez
- Trey Parker

Summer/2014

- Michael Benson
- Ryan Cicatello
- Chase Coleman
- Kyle Sealy
- Dillon Clifton
- Cooper Hall
- Diego Suarez-Martinez
- Christopher Trahan

Graduate Students - Spring/2014

- Laura Ellen Hill - PHD BAEN
- Alex Frank Puerta-Gomez - PHD BAEN
- Sa'D Abdel-Halim Shannak - PHD WMHS
- Indranil Banik - MEN BAEN
- Neeraj Nagpal - MEN BAEN
- Ryan Cornett Roessler - MEN BAEN
- Matthew Scott Cantu - MS BAEN
- Jared Dale Murdock - MS BAEN
- Basri Omac - MS BAEN
- Francis Jerome Vanderlick - MS BAEN

Summer/2014

- Eduardo Cano Anzueto - AG MEN BAEN
- Sayali Kulkarni - AG MS BAEN
- Derek Wayne Morrison - AG MS BAEN
- Nina Omani - AG PHD BAEN
- Jordan Lee Grier - AG MS AGSM
- Daniel Robert Luehrs - AG MS AGSM
- Zuri J Dale - AG MWM WMHS
- Shailee Jain - AG MS WMHS
- Afreen Shiraz Virani - AG MS WMHS

EXTENSION NEWS

The Micro-irrigation for Sustainable Water Use Regional Project was recognized with an Award of Excellence from the Western Association of Agricultural Experiment Station Directors at their Western Joint Summer Meeting July 7-10, 2014. **Dana Porter** is a member of this group.

American engineering association cites **Guy Fipps** 'service in the interest of peace'. In eight trips to Iraq from 2008 to 2011, **Guy Fipps**, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service irrigation engineer, provided expertise on various civil work projects. Here he is shown on a mission to modernize pumping and irrigation systems along the Euphrates River. (Robert Burns, 903-312-3199, rd-burns@tamu.edu).



Guy Fipps, was recently named Professional Engineer of the Year at the meeting of the American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers in Montreal, Canada.

Fipps, who is also a professor with the Texas A&M University biological and agricultural engineering department, College Station, received the award "in recognition of his exceptional service in the interest of peace through application of engineering principles in solving water supply and management problems," according to award documentation.

Among Fipps' many accomplishments, the award cited his work as irrigation advisor in Kabul, Afghanistan in 2005, and his efforts from 2008 to 2011 assisting the U.S. Department of Defense task force for business and stabilization in Iraq. While in Afghanistan, Fipps had to travel in armored vehicles with military escort to analyze and conduct water systems planning, according to the award. As a volunteer, he traveled to 14 forward operation bases to design and supervise a variety of water, irrigation, well, pump and subsurface drainage systems for Afghan farmers.

In eight trips to Iraq, Fipps provided expertise on various civil work projects, including canal rehabilitation, drinking water systems and center pivot designs for farming operations.

In Texas, Fipps is better known for his educational programs to enhance irrigation and water use efficiency for urban and agricultural irrigators, said **Dr. Stephen Searcy**, professor and head of the biological and agricultural engineering department at Texas A&M.

Searcy said Fipps is also well known in Texas for his origination and management of the Texas ET Network, the Water My Lawn website, training courses for irrigation designers and installers, as well as his collaborations with water agencies of the state, such as the Lower Colorado River Authority, San Antonio Water System, Brazos River Authority, Rio Grande Valley irrigation districts and numerous municipal utility departments.

Fipps is also has extensive experience in the development of a combination of tools, including the TexasET Network and website, geographic information, land surveys and databases used by irrigators to improve efficiency and reduce irrigation water losses, according to Charles Swanson, AgriLife Extension specialist, College Station, who works closely with Fipps.

Other major awards Fipps has received include the Merriam Improved Irrigation Award from the U.S. Committee on Irrigation and Drainage in 2013, the Award for the Advancement of Surface Irrigation from the American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers in 2012, the ICID Best Paper Award in 2011 and AgriLife Extension's award for Superior Service in 2009.

Fipps helped found the Texas Agricultural Irrigation Association and served as a director from 1991-1992. He also served as associate editor for the Journal of Applied Engineering in Agriculture from 1995 to 1997. He was the founding director of the Texas A&M Irrigation Technology Center.

Fipps is a member of numerous other professional organizations, including the Irrigation Association, American Society of Civil Engineers, the American Geophysical Union and the American Water Resources Association.

Find more stories, photos, videos and audio at <http://today.agrilife.org>

FROM OUR ALUMNI



Richard A. Hyde

Richard A. Hyde, P.E., (AGEN'91) was appointed executive director for the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) in January. Hyde holds a Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Engineering from Texas A&M University and Bachelor of Science and Master of Education degrees from Texas State University. In 2013, Hyde was recognized by Texas A&M and inducted into the Biological and Agricultural Engineering Department's Academy of Distinguished Graduates. This action places BAEN graduates as the Chairman of the Board of TCEQ and the Executive Director, as well as multiple additional graduates in various staff positions.



Wes Chain

Wesley Chain, AGSM'00, was appointed by the TSC Board of Directors as the new General Manager of TSC Group Holdings LTD. Wes has served as the operations manager in China since June of 2013. TSC Group Holdings LTD is a worldwide supplier of capital equipment, consumables, and turnkey solutions for the Oil & Gas Industry. Wes is from Katy, Texas. He was the president of the AGSM ASABE branch and in the agriculture congressional intern program.

David D. Jones, AGEN'84, received the 2014 ASABE Massey-Ferguson Educational Gold medal Award in recognition of "his outstanding contributions to the development and delivery of biological systems engineering education in harmony with an evolving agricultural engineering curriculum." Jones is currently Associate Dean for undergraduate programs of the College of Engineering and professor at the department of Biological Systems Engineering at the University of Nebraska – Lincoln. He is a graduate from our department.



David D. Jones

Dale Whittaker (AGEN'83) was recently named provost at the University of Central Florida in Orlando. He was a member of the BAEN faculty from 1987 until 2002 when he joined the faculty of Purdue University.



Dale Whittaker



WHERE ARE YOU NOW?

We want to know about you. Where you are, your job, your life....Tell us anything we can include in the BAEN newsletter. We want to connect with our former students, former faculty and staff, and include some news related to you. Please drop an e-mail to Elena Castell at ecastell@tamu.edu.

FORMER FACULTY MEMBER ERNEST SMERDON DIES



Dr. Ernest "Ernie" Smerdon died on August 11, 2014 while living in Tucson AZ. Dr. Smerdon was a faculty member in the Agricultural Engineering Department from 1959 to 1968. He was hired as an Associate Professor after completing in Ph.D. in Agricultural Engineering at the University of Missouri. He considered the Texas A&M opening at the urging of a fellow graduate student from Texas A&M. When he arrived for the interview, Price Hobgood met him at the railroad station in Hearne and gave him a tour of the campus and community. In 1959, the agricultural engineering discipline had few Ph.D. holders, but all departments were trying to upgrade their faculty by hiring doctoral engineers. Ernie said that he had 19 offers, but accepted the offer from Texas A&M because of the vision for the department that Professor Hobgood described. Ernie was instrumental in having the federally funded Texas Water Resources Institute be assigned by the legislature to Texas A&M (he served four years as the initial Director), and in proposing and implementing the Ph.D. degree in Agricultural Engineering. Dr. Smerdon left Texas A&M to accept the department head

role at the University of Florida. He subsequently rose through the ranks of academic administration, serving at several institutions, including the University of Texas. He retired in 2003 from the University of Arizona, and was a member of the National Academy of Engineering, as well as Past-President of the American Society for Engineering Education.

FORMER STUDENT NEWS

Father Jim Chamberlain, Ph.D., P.E., is the pastor of Our Lady of Victory in Purcell, and the pastoral administrator of Saint Catherine of Siena in Pauls Valley. He also is a staff research engineer for the University of Oklahoma WaTER Center, which aims to provide safe water and sanitation for emerging regions through education, research and service.

He earned a B.S. in Agricultural Engineering from Texas A&M University. In 1986, he was ordained for the Diocese of Austin.

In 1996, in Austin, he founded a professional chapter of the nonprofit Engineers without Borders, which fosters opportunities for engineers to use their skills to complete service projects in developing countries. Through his affiliation with Engineers without Borders, he began to travel regularly to El Salvador to design water distribution systems for local communities. From 2007 to 2011, he obtained a doctorate degree in environmental engineering from Clemson University in South Carolina. At the end of his time at Clemson, an adviser forwarded him information about the position of staff research engineer at the OU WaTER Center.

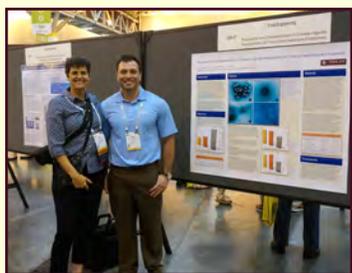


He has been in the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City since August of 2011, pastoring local parishes, working and traveling with the WaTER Center, teaching as an adjunct professor at OU and leading students on service trips to emerging regions – including El Salvador, Ethiopia and Cambodia – as the faculty sponsor of a group called Sooners without Borders.

He most recently returned from a month-long trip to Ethiopia, where he and others affiliated with the WaTER Center have been researching filtration systems to remove excess fluoride – which is harmful in high concentrations – from the community water supply.

For more information about this article see <http://archokc.org/news/3602-father-jim-chamberlain-combines-engineering-expertise-pastoral-ministry>.

INSTITUTE OF FOOD TECHNOLOGISTS (IFT) 2014 INTERNATIONAL MEETING



Elena Castell-Perez and graduate student Andre Loquercio at the poster session

Food engineering faculty, **Elena Castell-Perez**, **Carmen Gomes**, **Rosana Moreira**, and their students participated in the Annual International Meeting which took place in New Orleans.

Carmen Gomes, BAEN Assistant professor, served as co-moderator of a symposium entitled "Nanotechnology Applications in Food Engineering and Processing: Recent Developments and Future Directions." Her research group presented four posters at the Food Engineering Division poster session:

1. Poly (D,L-Lactide-Co-Glycolide) (PLGA) Nanoparticle-Encapsulated Lupeol Extracted From White Oak (*Quercus Obtusata*) Leaves for Antimicrobial Delivery Applications. J. A. Sanchez-Burgos; L. E. Hill; J. A. Gallegos-Infante; C. L. Gomes.
2. Antimicrobial and Antioxidant Poly (DL-Lactide-Co-Glycolide) (PLga) Nanoparticles Synthesized With Hydrophilic Extract of Guabiroba Fruit (*Campomanesia Xanthocarpa* O. Berg). M. C. Pereira; L. E. Hill; R. Zambiasi; C. D. Borges; M. Vizzotto; C. L. Gomes.
3. Effects of Nano-Encapsulated Cinnamon Bark Extract (CBE) Application on Microbial Safety and Quality of Fresh-Cut Romaine Lettuce. L. E. Hill; C. Giacobassi; K. Hills; C. L. Gomes.
4. Characterization of Temperature and pH-Responsive Poly-N-Isopropylacrylamide-Co-Polymer Nanoparticles for Controlled Release of Cinnamon Extract. L. E. Hill; C. Giacobassi; K. Hills; C. L. Gomes.

Elena Castell-Perez served as the Competition Chair of the 2014 IFT Student Competition. Elena assisted with the judging process and announced the winners and finalists at the Phi Tau Sigma & IFT Division Award Ceremony. Hers and **Rosana Moreira's** research group presented seven posters:

1. Quantitative Microbial Risk Assessment for *Listeria monocytogenes* on Fresh Baby Spinach leaves. B. Omac, A.F. Puerta-Gomez, R.G. Moreira, and E. Castell-Perez. Basri Omac's poster was selected as a finalist for the Fruits and vegetables Division of the IFT.
2. Modeling Growth of *Listeria monocytogenes* on Fresh Baby Spinach Leaves under Different Storage Temperatures. B. Omac, A.F. Puerta-Gomez, R.G. Moreira, and E. Castell-Perez.
3. Preparation and Characterization of Chitosan-Alginate Nanoparticles for Trans-Cinnamaldehyde Entrapment. A. S. Loquercio; M. M. Castell-Perez; C. L. Gomes.
4. Rheological Method to Estimate Biopolymer Intermolecular Interactions for Encapsulation Purposes. A.F. Puerta-Gomez and E. Castell-Perez.
5. Visual Spectroscopy Method to Evaluate Entrapment Efficiency of Electrostatically Precipitated Proteins in Combination with OSA-modified Polysaccharides. A.F. Puerta-Gomez and E. Castell-Perez.
6. Rheological Assessment for Microstructure Formation by Electrostatically Precipitated Proteins in Combination with OSA-modified Polysaccharides. A.F. Puerta-Gomez and E. Castell-Perez.
7. The Impact of Thermal History on Vacuum Fried Potato Chips Geometry and Oil Uptake. P.F. Da Silva and R. Moreira



Rosana Moreira receiving the award from the Chair of the Food Engineering division K. Muthukumarappan

During the Food Engineering Division Joint Social event, **Rosana Moreira** was recognized with the 2014 Outstanding Service Award for her longtime contributions to the Division.



The Food Engineering group at the social event: Paulo F. Da Silva, grad. student; Elena Castell-Perez; Ramin Sidhu, grad. student; Daniela Oliveira, visiting scholar; Rosana Moreira; Kate Hills, grad. student; Cassie Giacobassi, grad. student; Jecori Johnson, grad. student; Courtney Toler, undergrad. student; John Abuhamad, undergrad. student; Carmen Gomes.

ASABE - 2014 INTERNATIONAL MEETING

Brock Faulkner, BAEN Assistant Professor, was selected to receive the 2014 Gale A. Holloway Professional Development Award by the American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers (ASABE). Faulkner was chosen for his extensive service and leadership within the society and for his outstanding contribution to the younger members of the Texas ASABE section.



A 12-year member of ASABE, Faulkner has served in various officer positions and also serves as associate editor for the structures and environment division of ASABE. He is chair-elect of the Texas ASABE section.

Faulkner quickly become a recognized expert and leader in the air quality arena and in 2012 he was appointed to the EPE Science Advisory Board panel. He also serves on a National Cotton Ginners Association subcommittee and the USDA Agricultural Air Quality Task Force.

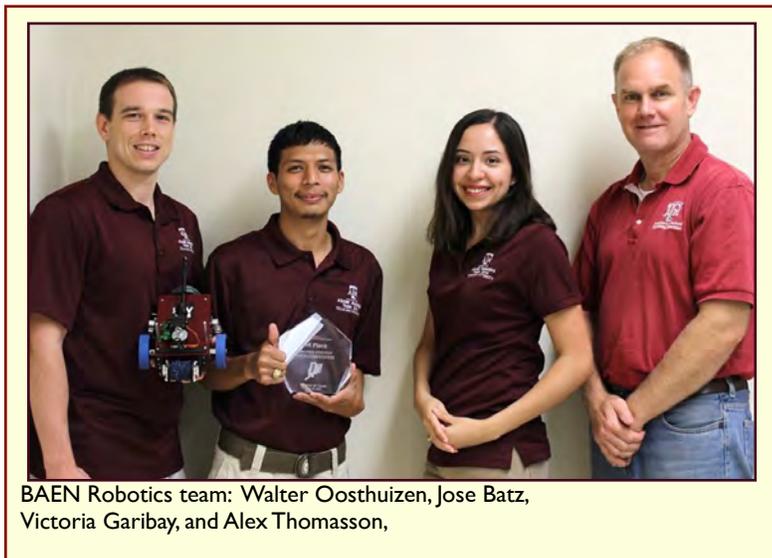
The Holloway award was endowed by the generous contributions from friends, relatives, colleagues and industry. The award, first presented in 2008, was established in memory of Gale A. Holloway, Past President of ASABE, and Past President of the ASABE Foundation and Fellow. The award acknowledges and perpetuates Holloway's dedication to assisting preprofessionals and early career ASABE members to become active members and work diligently to enhance the quality of meetings, technical information and professional development within ASABE at both the national and sectional level.

Guy Fipps was honored with the 2014 PEI Professional Engineer of the Year Award in recognition of “his exceptional service in the interest of peace through application of engineering principles in solving water supply and management problems.”



L. Schwankl, F. Lamm and **Dana Porter**, BAEN Associate Professor and Extension Specialist, received a Blue Ribbon award for their website “Maintenance of Microirrigation Systems.” Her co-authors are from the

University of California-Davis and Kansas State University. The website is available at: micromaintain.ucanr.edu



BAEN Robotics team: Walter Oosthuizen, Jose Batz, Victoria Garibay, and Alex Thomasson,

The BAEN team came in second place in the ASABE **Student Robotic Design Competition**. Pictured are: Alex Thomasson, BAEN Professor and team advisor, and students Victoria Garibay, Jose Batz, and Walter Oosthuizen. Other participants were Sipu Pan and Mario Mendez.

SCOATES HALL ARCHITECTURE RESTORATION



Prior to 1932, the Agricultural Engineering Department of the Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas was housed in a wooden building constructed as a temporary structure during World War I. The discovery of oil on the Permanent University Lands during the 1920's resulted in funding for several new buildings, including the Agricultural Engineering Building. Later renamed Daniels Scoates Hall to honor Professor Scoates, the building was ornately decorated in the entryway, foyer and main lecture hall. Over the years, oxidation, overpainting and maintenance obscured many of the original features. The ongoing capital improvement project provided the opportunity to restore some of those features, and the current focus is on the lecture hall. Due to classroom demand, the lecture hall can only be out of use for the fall, giving us a small window of time to accomplish this work. The photos show the two main features that we are currently restoring. The multi-colored stenciled ceiling tiles in the left photo taken in 1949 and the wooden turntable seen in the right photo (1950s?) will be visible again for classes in the spring semester. For more details on the restoration

effort and how you can help with restoration of additional features (including the chandelier, murals, etc.), go to baen.tamu.edu/100.

Centennial and the Second Century

The planning for the centennial activities in 2015 is ongoing, and we want to share those as they develop so that you can participate in as many of the activities as possible. The planning committee has determined that the activities should be equally focused on celebrating past accomplishments and positioning the department for the future. Just as the department has made major contributions since 1915, we intend to do the same by 2115, and actions are planned to make that happen.

One of the actions underway to enhance excellence in departmental activities and personnel is the establishment of the Second Century Leadership Team. This is a group of departmental supporters who will work to expand to influence and reputation of the BAEN department through membership dues, advocacy and feedback. All BAEN supporters are invited to join the Second Century Leadership Team.

One of the centennial activities that is well underway is the book describing the history of the department. It is currently undergoing copy editing with the Texas A&M Press, with a target publishing date of December 2014. Excerpts on the Texas State Cotton Harvester, rural electrification, the recruitment of Otto Kunze and others can be viewed here.



Editor's Notes

Elena Castell-Perez



On behalf of the Newsletter team, I want to thank those of you who have sent great feedback regarding the BAEN newsletter. Please contact us with any suggestions on topics or if you have any important news to share with the BAEN family.

I am looking forward to hearing from you.

Contributions to the newsletter are due by the 15th of the month before the next scheduled issue.

Newsletter Schedule - 14

- December, 2014
- February, 2015
- August, 2015

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