



Alumnus makes generous donation to support research

In August 2008 Ron Elliott, department head of Biosystems and Agricultural Engineering, announced to the faculty and staff that the department had received a \$100,000 contribution from Oklahoma A & M graduate James Bradley.

"To my knowledge, the James E. Bradley Renewable Energy Endowment fund is the largest contribution the department has seen," said Elliott.

The use of the endowment is very flexible. The money can be used in several different ways; the only stipulation is it has to relate to renewable energy. The funds can be used to purchase equipment, as student support, or for research and educational activities.

"I strongly feel that renewable energy is the one thing that will free our planet of so many unfortunate happenings," said Bradley.

Bradley was born and raised in Stillwater, Okla. His exposure to agriculture started early, and his love for it followed years later. He developed his work ethic on his family farm that was located west of

town. He began work on the farm at a young age and continued working on it throughout his childhood.

"When I was young agriculture was the least of my desires because it was disguised as hard work," Bradley said.

In his early childhood, Bradley's family harvested cotton, which was a popular cash crop in Oklahoma. They also grew and harvested alfalfa. In later years, his family grew watermelon, cantaloupe, black eyed peas and corn, and became a produce provider for several grocery stores in the area.

Bradley was also involved in the National Guard where he was part of the 45th Division Thunderbird. He became a Master Sergeant when he was 20 years old. Bradley served in Japan but was eligible for discharge before he experienced any combat. Bradley then returned to Stillwater where he finished college on the G.I. Bill.

"Without that GI Bill, I would not have been able to finish my degree," said Bradley.

Bradley graduated in 1955 with a Bachelor's in Agricultural Engineering. While he was completing his degree, Bradley became interested in soil and water conservation. Bradley was active in the student branch of agricultural engineers. He also pledged Sigma Tau, the honorary engineering fraternity.

Upon graduation, Bradley got a job with the Ralston Purina Company where he worked 12 years as the plant engineer and superintendent. He then worked four years in feed mill construction and sales.

While working for Purina, Bradley was transferred to Pocatello, Idaho. Bradley enjoyed this transfer

because he was close to Yellowstone National Park.

"We would travel to Yellowstone one or two times a year, Bradley said.

"We would follow the road that meandered through the park and stop and fish. It was really nice."

After his stint in Idaho, Bradley worked eight years with the Denver Recycling Company, manufacturer

continued on page 9...



"I strongly feel that renewable energy is the one thing that will free our planet."

James Bradley

Congratulations to:

John Solie

John Solie was one of the eight OSU faculty members appointed Regents Professor by the Oklahoma State University A&M Board of Regents. The appointment took effect on July 1. Solie is also a Sarkeys Distinguished professor in the department.

The regents professor position is the most prestigious of all scholarly appointments. The professor must excel in all areas.

Glenn Brown

Glenn Brown was awarded the 2008 Regents Distinguished Teaching Award on Sept. 12 by the Oklahoma State University A&M Board of Regents.

Brown was one of nine who received the award. A selection committee composed of an undergraduate and graduate student, two department heads and the provost made the decision.

Our Condolences...

The department offers our condolences to the family and friends of Silvio Echaverry who passed away at his home in Nicuragua in July, 2008. Echaverry was a 1958 Biosystems and Agricultural Engineering graduate.



A word... from the department head

Ron Elliott
ron.elliott@okstate.edu

Howdy from Stillwater! As I write this, we're winding down the fall semester, with students busily finishing up projects, making presentations, and preparing for final exams. Some will be graduating. This fall we welcomed a good number of new freshmen in biosystems engineering. Faculty and staff are fortunate to have the opportunity to celebrate the accomplishments of our graduates and to be re-energized by the arrival of new students. Such is the "cycle of life" on a university campus.

Our campus continues to undergo an unprecedented building transformation. Of most importance to BAE is the brand new Bioenergy Laboratory that has been constructed west of campus at our "BAE West" complex. Biofuels are a key area of emphasis for us, and we're very excited about the additional space and research capabilities that this facility will provide. On the main campus, construction activity along Monroe Street (north to south) includes a recently completed parking garage and transportation facility, a classroom building, a \$70 million interdisciplinary science building (immediately east of Ag Hall), and a complete remodel of Murray Hall. Farther east, the architecture building is being enlarged considerably and completely refurbished. The seating in the new west end zone of Boone Pickens Stadium was available for fans this fall.

The cover story of this BAE Update highlights the incredibly generous gift that we received from alumnus Jim Bradley. It's been a delight to have Jim and his wife Judy on our campus two

different times this year. Jim is passionate about the need for the U.S. to move more aggressively into renewable energy options. He has studied various technologies and was impressed by our research in biofuels including cellulosic ethanol and "sorganol" (ethanol fermented from the juice of sweet sorghum plants). Jim's donation of \$100,000 created the James E. Bradley Renewable Energy Endowment Fund. We believe that it's the largest gift ever received by our department, and we're extremely grateful to Jim for remembering and honoring his alma mater in this way. The Bradley Endowment will be a real difference-maker!

In October we were very fortunate to host Don Yarbrough, 1973 Ag Engineering graduate, as he interacted extensively with students, faculty, and administration over the course of a couple days. Don was the fourth in our annual series of Distinguished Visitors and we worked him pretty hard. Serving as the Director of Worldwide Combine Engineering for John Deere, and with engineers on four continents, Don coordinates the global design and development of Deere's "factories on wheels." He and his wife Kim enjoyed getting back to campus at Homecoming time.

As you interact with family, friends, and co-workers, please be on the lookout for students who are potential candidates for biosystems and agricultural engineering. They may be the future Jim Bradleys and Don Yarbroughs. Please refer those students to us – we're always willing to follow up. Thanks, and best wishes for the holidays.

BAE'S 2008 distinguished visitor

Don Yarbrough, B.S. 1973

Combines are a common sight across Oklahoma. What most of us don't realize is combines are just as common a sight in Europe and South America as they are in the United States. Alumnus Don Yarbrough, combine use worldwide is his main



From left: Son, Michael Yarbrough, Boone Pickens, Don Yarbrough, and wife, Kim Yarbrough at the OSU Homecoming game.

focus.

Yarbrough grew up outside Shawnee, Okla., and attended Bethel High School. He graduated from Oklahoma State University in 1973 with a Bachelor's degree in Agricultural Engineering. While at OSU, Yarbrough was a member of the Kappa Alpha Fraternity and was involved with ASAE and played on an intramural basketball team. He put himself through school by working at the library on campus and he also worked one summer for the BAE Department.

Yarbrough met his wife, Kim, while they were both going to school at OSU. They have a son Michael, and a daughter Steva. Michael is currently attending OSU and is pursuing a Masters in Business Administration. Steva works for Proctor and Gamble

as a brand manager for Pringles.

After graduation, Yarbrough worked 5 years at Caterpillar as a design and test engineer before he began working for John Deere, where he is currently employed.

Yarbrough began work at John Deere in 1979 as a test engineer. He then went on to design work and hold different leadership positions in the company.

While working for John Deere, Yarbrough was given the opportunity to move to Germany.

Yarbrough and his family moved to Zweibrucken where they lived and worked for two years.

"Honestly, it was a great experience that I would do over again if I was given the chance," said Yarbrough.

Yarbrough's family was accepting of the trip. Steva spent her junior and senior years of high school in Germany and she made several friends. She had a great experience, said Yarbrough. The family was given the opportunity to have new experiences, travel, and see different things.

"I definitely underestimated how neat it would be to learn about the culture and language, it was eye-opening," said Yarbrough.

Yarbrough admitted that living in Germany was stressful. It was difficult for the family to learn all the new things they needed to learn and to pick up on the cultural habits of their host country.

In Germany, Yarbrough worked as the project leader for the design group. Because most of his group only spoke German, he had to learn the language extremely fast. John Deere put him through a three week immersion course where he worked seven days a week in one on one training to learn the language.

"I would speak German all day and then learn it at night," said Yarbrough. "It was intense."

When Yarbrough returned to the U.S. in 1994 he was in charge of the major combine development for North America. But when John Deere turned into a worldwide organization in 1999 his role with the company changed.

Not only was he concerned about North America, but also Europe and South America.

Yarbrough was appointed worldwide director of engineering. He managed all combine and

header development. Throughout his tenure he has consolidated engineering, reduced the budget and has taken on more projects.

China was added to the world-
continued on page 4...

"To be successful in the field, assuming you have a good work ethic, you must be willing to try new things and have a positive attitude."

Don Yarbrough

Department welcomes new faculty members

The Department of Biosystems and Agricultural Engineering is excited to welcome new faculty members Robert Scott Frazier and Hasan Atiyeh.

Frazier is no stranger to OSU. In addition to receiving all three of his degrees in industrial engineering from the state's university, he has also served as a visiting assistant professor in industrial engineering and management for the past year and a half. Frazier officially joined BAE as an assistant professor in June 2008.

Frazier works in energy management extension and research. This involves rural and industrial energy management and process optimization, energy education and training, renewable energy systems and utility demand management programs.

Before his move to BAE Frazier



R. Scott Frazier

served as the assistant director of the Oklahoma Industrial Assessment Center. He also worked in the electric utility industry as a customer service engineer. Frazier is a member of the Association of Energy Engineers, is a certified energy manager, and has performed over 400 industrial and commercial energy audits.

Assistant professor Hasan Atiyeh specializes in bioconversion engineering. He joined the department in July of 2008. His appointment includes 75 percent research and 25 percent teaching. Atiyeh has held several academic and industry positions throughout his career.



Hasan Atiyeh

He received his bachelors and masters degrees from Jordan University of Science and Technology in Jordan. He then went on to receive his doctorate in chemical engineering from the University of Ottawa in Canada.

Atiyeh is a current member of the OSU multidisciplinary, multi-college, and multi institutional biofuels team studying novel technologies for production of biofuels. The team's goal is to produce biofuels from non-food sources.

Atiyeh is a senior member of the American Institute of Chemical Engineers in the food, pharmaceutical, and bioengineering division. He is also a licensed professional engineer by the Professional Engineers of Ontario.

Yarbrough *continued from page 3...*

wide operations three years ago after John Deere bought out the partnership they had. Although progress has been slow, China is definitely making advances. But because of their small farm size, they are less likely to relieve the full benefit of large scale combines.

Because Yarbrough has to keep up with engineers in all four regions he travels quite a bit. He is overseas 30 percent of the year and also has to travel across the U.S. to each John Deere office.

"I am for sure gone one week out of each month," said Yarbrough.

Yarbrough believes that the more experiences a person gets in life, the more understanding they will be.

Learning about and being exposed to different cultures definitely changes one's outlook on life, said Yarbrough. It allows that person to be flexible and understand other people's point of view.

"To be successful in the field, assuming you have a good work ethic, you must be willing to try new things and have a positive attitude," said Yarbrough. "You have to be looking for ways to be more efficient at doing your job. And you must reach out for more responsibilities."

Yarbrough offered that an engineer must take on tough assignments and be good at completing them to stand out among his peers. You must also

be willing to listen to other's ideas. It is easy to assume your idea is perfect, but if you listen to your peers' input you might find a way to make your perfect idea better, said Yarbrough.

It is also important that a young engineer enjoys trying new things said Yarbrough.

"I was always looking for new opportunities and new things to do and accomplish," said Yarbrough.

"The changes keep me energized," said Yarbrough. "If you do something that is unexpected the boss will be impressed. Passion for your work is also important. Don't be afraid to make decisions and offer suggestions. But you better be prepared to back them up."

SUNUP agricultural television program returns *By Trisha Gedon*

For nearly two decades, SUNUP helped Oklahoma's agricultural producers start their day off right. The television show returned to airways this fall with a new look, a new crew and a renewed purpose.

The news magazine format program includes the latest in market analysis and feature stories on the multiple facets of agriculture and natural resources.

Robert E. Whitson, vice president, dean and director of Oklahoma State University's Division of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources, said the program will provide an exciting opportunity for OSU to have a positive impact on the people of Oklahoma.

"Agriculture is the backbone of this state, and we're here to do whatever we can to make a difference in the lives of our producers," Whitson said. "From

cattle producers to wheat growers to all other crop and livestock producers, SUNUP will feature informative segments to help each farmer and rancher in his or her own operation."

The segment "Shop Talk" features two of BAE's own, associate professor Randy Taylor and also BAE lab manager Wayne Kiner. Their segment provides tips on how to complete repairs around the farm and home. Unknown facts about equipment and machines are also provided.

"We hope to help people and make them more aware," said Kiner. "Some people might already know what we are talking about, but hopefully there will be viewers who learn something from our segment."

"Shop Stop" has covered topics such as winterization, gauge selection, battery tests, and copper pipe repair.

Another weekly segment highlights the Oklahoma Mesonet and Ag Weather. Okla. Mesonet is a cooperative between OSU and The University of Oklahoma

The segment provides a long range weather perspective that is more in-depth than network weather coverage. Mesonet data on rainfall and drought conditions in the state will be used to determine soil moisture. Al Sutherland, an Assistant Extension Specialist on Mesonet and ag weather will discuss Mesonet data concerning range and soil moisture. Deke Arndt from the Oklahoma Climatological Survey provides the climate outlook for the segment.

Visit the SUNUP Web site at SUNUP.okstate.edu to obtain additional information or view the program online.

BAE Class of 2012



The BAE class of 2012 includes:

Andrew Bamford, Mary Kate Barnhouse, Aaron Brigge, Alex Dewald, Jordan Foster, Travis Greenburg, Tanisha Hamm, Madison Heide, Sydney Herlocker, Steven Imgarten, Ryan Johnson, Alexandra Jones, Brandon Madden, Dillon Madden, Mitchell Malone, Emily Matlock, Jason McLarty, Magdalena Mendez, Nathan Moyer, Brian Payne, Duke Potter, Haley Ransom, Kevin Roewe, Dillon Satterwhite, Ethan Schulze, Jared Swart, George Tietz, Jordan Tucker, Kaden Wanger, Wes Wegener, Claire Wilson.

In the Fall 2008 BAE introductory course there were 29 freshmen, 5 from other classifications and also 31 BAE majors. Three students with other majors were also included.

Huhnke receives Sarkeys Distinguished Professor Award *By Don Stotts*

Oklahoma State University's Ray Huhnke has been named the 2008 recipient of the Sarkeys Distinguished Professor Award by the OSU Division of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources.

The Sarkeys award is based on outstanding contributions to agriculture through teaching, research or extension efforts. The award was established by the Sarkeys Foundation in 1980 to honor Elmo Baumann, an agronomist who worked with the foundation after his retirement from OSU.

Huhnke serves as director of the DASNR Biobased Products and Energy Center. The main activity of the center is to coordinate and provide leadership for the division's nationally recognized bioenergy programs and serve as a liaison with the bioenergy industry.

The center also is a catalyst for identifying multi-disciplinary priorities and enhancing the development of grants, contracts and cooperative agreements with government agencies, private industry, tribal nations and communities, thereby streamlining efforts to provide solutions to bioenergy issues.

"We've been a national leader in examining and developing key aspects of bioenergy development since the early 1990s, and Ray has provided outstanding leadership

through the years in helping to form and promote our vision of a decentralized renewable energy system, a key component in creating a viable biobased economy," said Robert E. Whitson, DASNR dean and director and vice president of OSU agricultural programs.

In addition to his center duties, Huhnke serves as coordinator of the multi-college, multi-institutional OSU Biofuels Team. The

program established to create new biobased solutions for America's energy needs and to revitalize rural communities.

An OSU faculty member since 1980, Huhnke is a Fellow of the American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers, an honor that only 2 percent of the organization's members achieve in their lifetime.

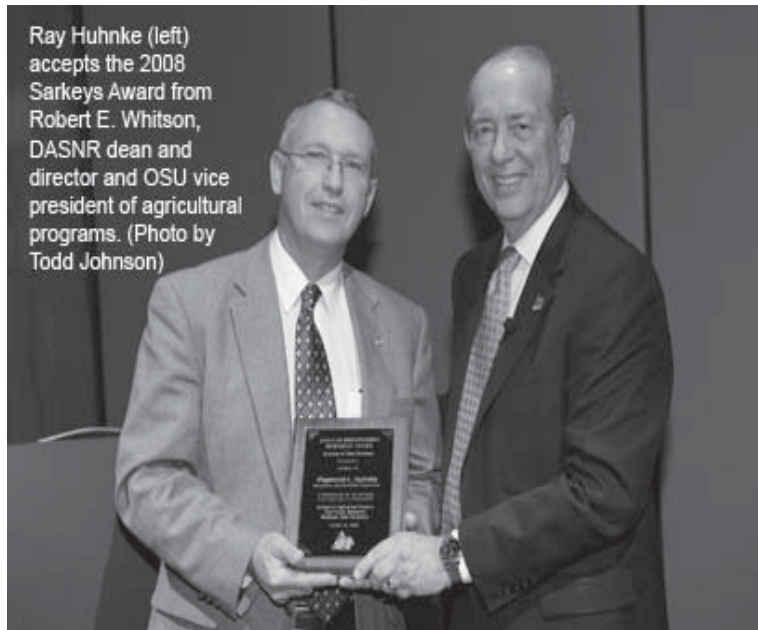
He is the principal or co-principal investigator on grants and contracts exceeding \$20 million. His extensive research and Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service programs have been honored by such diverse organizations as OSU, professional engineering societies and the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Prior to joining OSU, Huhnke was a plan service engineer with Midwest Plan Service of Ames, Iowa, from December 1976 to May 1980. He served as an instructor in Iowa State University's department of agricultural engineering from September 1974 to December 1976.

Huhnke earned his bachelor's degree in agricultural engineering from Purdue University in 1973, master's degree in agricultural engineering from the University of Illinois in 1974 and doctoral degree in agricultural engineering from Iowa State University in 1980.

team is comprised of scientists and engineers within DASNR; the OSU College of Engineering, Architecture and Technology; the University of Oklahoma; Mississippi State University and Brigham Young University.

Huhnke also serves as assistant director of the Sun Grant Initiative's South-Central Region, headquartered at OSU's Stillwater campus. The Initiative is a national



Ray Huhnke (left) accepts the 2008 Sarkeys Award from Robert E. Whitson, DASNR dean and director and OSU vice president of agricultural programs. (Photo by Todd Johnson)

International ASABE conference highlights

Oklahoma State University's Biosystems and Agricultural Engineering Department was successful at the ASABE conference held in June.

In the M.S. category of the Graduate Student Research Award competition John Fuchs and Ryan Woolbright placed first and second respectively. The competition was based on a written paper and also an oral presentation. Fuchs was advised by Dr. Garey Fox, and Woolbright by Dr. Greg Hanson.

Cortney Timmons, Rachel Carson, and Sarah Rowland entered the Undergraduate Project Poster Competition with Timmons taking home first place.

The student branch of the ASABE at OSU won second

place in the Association of Equipment Manufacturers competition. They won based on the activities they have participated in and their achievements from the past year.

Alumna Laura Christianson received the Robert E. Stewart Engineering-Humanities award and Ph.D. alumnus, Dr. Steve Searcy was inducted as an ASABE fellow.



Congrats to Fall 08 Grads!

Bachelor's Degree

Rebecca Hoey,
Sand Springs, Okla.
Kyle Dollins, Perkins, Okla.

Graduate Degrees

Masters

Amit Sharma, India
E. Evans Chambers, IV,
Enid, Okla.
Ryan Woolbright,
Altus, Okla.
Ron Tejral, Nebraska

Ph.D.

Stewart Reed, Coalgate, Okla.
A. Dean Monroe, Kiowa, Okla.

ASABE Student Officers

President

J.D. McElhaney
Ponca City, Okla

Vice-President

Taber Midgley
Durant, Okla.

Secretary

Rachel Carson
Stilwell, Okla.

Treasurer

Jessica Lay
Broken Arrow, Okla.

Historians

Stephen Eller
Haskell, Okla.

Kevin Stunkel
Bethel, Conn.

Chase Vencil
Garber, Okla.

Parliamentarian

Karl Garbrecht
Yukon, Okla.

CEAT Student Council Rep

Brittany Looke
Edmond, Okla.

CASNR Student Council Rep

Grant Graves
Tishomingo, Okla.

Social Directors

Scott Clark
Kiowa, Okla.

Seth Menefee
Artesia, N. Mex.

Advisor

Dr. Garey Fox
Assistant Professor

Junior Advisor

Dr. Tim Bowser
Associate Professor

Oklahoma State University's pre-professional branch of ASABE meets bi-monthly on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m.

Pistol Pete Goes to China

Oklahoma State University is putting more emphasis on study abroad trips. While classes can be taken on campus to enrich the international study understanding, OSU hopes one day this requirement will only be satisfied with a study abroad trip. Professors Ning Wang and Glenn Brown are doing their part to provide trips to engineering students.

Fifteen students from different departments across the university joined Wang and Brown on a trip to China.

"This trip was an eye opening experience for several students," said Wang.

The students were given the opportunity to interact with other students who were attending universities in China and who were also engineering majors. They also went on several technical tours and saw the sights of China.

They first arrived in Beijing, where they spent the first week. The group was a guest of China Agricultural University. The students interacted with other students from the College of Engineering and also the College of Electrical and Electronic Engineering at the university. They also were given two parties in their honor while they were in Beijing. This provided them with an opportunity to experience the social life of a Chinese college student.

"When we got to hang out and interact with the Chinese students

we were able to notice all the little similarities and differences," said BAE student, Ryan Woolbright.

Several students noticed that the Chinese students played the same video games and watched the same sports on T.V. Our students were even able to help teach a few students how to play baseball.

"A few Chinese students were playing what looked like baseball, our students just ran over and jumped right in," said Wang. "I think our kids taught them a thing or two."

Along with social interaction, the technical tours were a big part of the trip. The group had a very tight schedule in order to fit in everything they experienced. While in Beijing, the students toured two universities, a brewery, and a waste water treatment plant. They were also able to tour the Hyundai Motor Company and John Deere Tianjin factories.

They also toured several cultural sites including the Great Wall, Ming Tomb, the Forbidden City, the Temple of Heaven, and also the Olympic Venues.

The tour then led them to Yi Chang. While there, they toured the China Three Gorges Univer-

sity, the Three Gorges Dam and the Three Gorges Power Plant. They also visited the Shen Nong stream and the Three Gorges.

"The Three Gorges Dam was amazing, it's the largest in the world," said Woolbright.

It was a very unique experience for several of the students who were not used to the different food and language barrier, said Wang. Some of the students embraced it but others were a little apprehensive.

One of Woolbright's biggest concerns was the language barrier. In fact, communication was a worry of most students who went on the trip, said Wang. The students at the university spoke some English which made things easier on our students.

"A lot of the students were surprised at how modern Beijing was," said Wang. "That made a big impact on them."

The students were able to experience different and advanced technology that really surprised them.

Woolbright was surprised by the mix of very old technology and the new high tech devices they had.

Overall, the students' perception of China changed drastically and they learned how to survive in a completely different environment than what they were used to.

Dr. Carol Jones also led a group of fourteen students on the fourth study abroad trip to Italy.



Bradley *continued from page 1...*

of animal feeds. He then worked 12 years for the state of Colorado as a boiler plant and physical plant supervisor before retiring in 1995.

Retiring is not a term that Bradley is fond of, he refers to it as "retreading".

"I think he does more now than when he worked full time," said Judy, Bradley's wife.

Since Bradley began his "retreading" he has taken on several different projects. Bradley has been involved in real estate, farming, and politics.

"I enjoy retirement," said Bradley. "I do what I want when I want, unless my wife has other plans of course."

Since retiring, Bradley went back to his roots of production

agriculture. He bought 160 acres of farm land from his son in the valleys of Colorado to cultivate. The land must be irrigated and is used to raise alfalfa and soft white winter wheat. Potatoes are also a profitable crop in the part of Colorado where the land is located. Bradley argues they are the best in the world.

Political activism is also important to Bradley. He has placed phone calls to Washington to the President and also to several Congressmen to let them know his thoughts on different situations. Bradley feels that we should all work together to solve problems. And if he has an idea or two about how to solve problems in the United States, he will share them with the ones making the decisions.

Bradley feels that his endowment will provide great things for OSU and the nation.

"Finding a renewable energy source will empower us, Bradley said. "It will change the dynamics of the globe tremendously."

Bradley is also a supporter of the Pickens Plan. This plan involves different steps to decrease the United States' dependency on foreign oil.

"You see what things have come to when the oil men are talking renewable energy," said Bradley.

Bradley is very enthused about OSU's biofuel development program. The work that OSU has done impressed Bradley and he is excited about what will be developed in the future.

BAE Personnel Changes

Departures

Stacey Bridges,
Sr. Administrative Support Assistant

Mike White, Research Engineer

Phil Busted, Research Engineer

Dr. Ladonna McCowan,
Assistant Extension Specialist

BAE Welcomes

Cara Laverty, Sun Grant Coord.

Melissa Moore, Sr. Admin. Sup. Asst.

Matt Steele, Research Engineer

Derek Heeren, Research Engineer

Martha Delome, Post Doc Research
Fellow, Bioenergy

Where are they now

M.S. Graduates • Spring 2008

Rachel Cancienne

Phillip Williams and Associates
Sacramento, Calif.

Steven Fowler

Instructor, Rose State College
Engineering Science Division
Oklahoma City, Okla.

Ph. D. Graduates • Spring 2008

Saleh Ashaghatra

Assistant Professor, Engineering
King Saud University
Saudi Arabia

Mike White

USDA, NRCS
Temple, Texas

B.S. Graduates • Spr. & Sum. 2008

Kevin Chancey

Talon LPE
Tulsa, Okla.

Sarah Edens

Bliss Industries
Ponca City, Okla.

Michael Matousek

BAE Graduate School
Stillwater, Okla.

Monica Murie

Okla. Dept. of Environmental Quality
Oklahoma City, Okla.

Sarah Rowland

BAE Graduate School
Stillwater, Okla.

Jason Unruh

Civil Engineering Graduate School
Stillwater, Okla.

ASABE Honors Smolen with Award *By Don Stotts*

When it comes to enhancing water quality, the nation's eyes were on Oklahoma recently as Oklahoma State University's Mike Smolen was honored by the American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers.

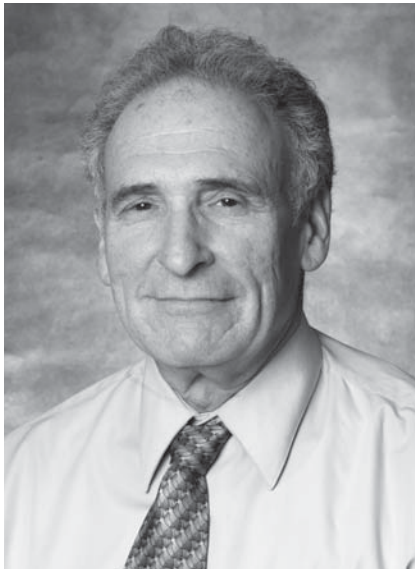
Smolen was presented the G.B. Gunlogson Countryside Engineering Award during the society's annual international meeting on June 29. The award is one of the most prestigious presented by the organization, and honors outstanding engineering contributions to the development and improvement of the countryside.

Smolen serves as water quality coordinator for the Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service, one of the division's two statewide agencies.

"Mike has an exemplary record of annual professional achievement, providing very real benefits year in and year out to Oklahoma, the region and the nation," said Ron Elliott, head of DASNR's department of biosystems and agricultural engineering.

Elliott said one of Smolen's most noteworthy contributions in Oklahoma was his work addressing the Environmental Protection Agency Region 6 Permit for

Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations in 1993, the first EPA CAFO permit in the nation.



"Mike was instrumental in the creation of a non-confrontational educational program that was a turning point for agricultural environmental programs in Oklahoma, and has helped to reduce adverse water quality effects of animal feeding operations," he said.

To accomplish this, Smolen led an interagency workgroup comprised of the Natural Resources Conservation Service; Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service; Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry; Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality; Oklahoma Water Resources Board and Oklahoma Conservation Commission, among others.

"He coordinated an educational program that developed and used question-and-answer publications, satellite video conferences and public meetings that calmed producer fears and convinced almost every animal operator to apply for

the permit," Elliott said. "Mike and the interagency group showed the nation how to get buy-in from producers."

Smolen and his colleagues with OSU Cooperative Extension and the Oklahoma Agricultural Experiment Station system, the division's other statewide agency, also provided the science-based educational impetus behind many of Oklahoma's accomplishments in riparian management and in introducing water quality education to poultry producers.

"Oklahoma cattle producers were initially sensitive about restricting livestock access to streams; today, virtually all of the state's producers are familiar with the term 'riparian area' and are receptive to best management practices designed to protect these valuable water resources," said Bob Westerman, DASNR assistant vice president for program support. "Oklahoma producers recognize

"Mike Smolen was a pioneer in water quality research and education when many agricultural engineers were focused on other aspects of soil and water engineering."

Bob Westerman

the need to be both economically viable and environmentally sound, and our scientists and Extension educators are showing them how to accomplish that."

Both the riparian management and poultry education programs have been recognized repeatedly by the American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers, as well as the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Smolen has generated more

we want to know about you... your news is good news!

Return this form to:
BAE Update
111 Agricultural Hall
Oklahoma State University
Stillwater, OK 74078-6016
baenews@okstate.edu

We would like to include you in our "Alumni Success Stories." If you want to participate, please send a letter or e-mail to us describing your career (where you work and what you do on a daily basis), as well as any personal information you would like to share. If you have recently participated in the success story feature, we would still like to hear from you and about any changes you have had in your life.

Name _____

Home Address _____

City _____ State _____ Postal Code _____

Home Phone _____ Fax _____

Business Address _____

City _____ State _____ Postal Code _____

Business Title _____

Business Phone _____ Fax _____

E-Mail Address _____

Work Description _____

What year did you get your biosystems or agricultural engineering or mechanized agriculture degree(s)?

BS _____ MS _____ Ph.D. _____

Other Information _____

than \$9 million in funding for Cooperative Extension and research programs in agricultural water quality while at OSU. He has been cited by his peers as being instrumental in the success of National and Regional Extension Water Resources programs during the past seven years. He was the first chair of the Extension National Water Quality Leadership Team.

"Use of Oklahoma's water resources is vital to the quality of life

for all state residents," Westerman said. "Mike Smolen was a pioneer in water quality research and education when many agricultural engineers were focused on other aspects of soil and water engineering. State residents are fortunate to have a professional of his caliber working on their behalf."

Prior to joining OSU, Smolen was a faculty member at North Carolina State University and served as director of the National

Water Quality Evaluation Project.

Smolen earned his doctoral degree in environmental science and engineering from Virginia Tech University in 1976. He earned his master's degree in botany and biochemistry from the University of Tennessee and his bachelor's degree in biology from the University of Rochester in 1970 and 1967, respectively.

BAE Update

Department of Biosystems and Ag Engineering
111 Agricultural Hall
Stillwater, OK 74078-6016

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Stillwater, OK
Permit No. 191

Address Service Requested

CALENDAR

Dec. 24- Jan 2: University Closed
Jan. 12: Spring Semester Begins
Jan. 19: University Holiday
Mar. 16-20: Spring Break
Mar.28: Student Scholarship Banquet
April 30- May 1: Annual Advisory Committee
May 9: Spring Commencement
May 28-31: ASABE 1/4 Scale Tractor Competition
Peoria, Ill.
June 21-24: ASABE International Meeting,
Reno, Nev.

BAE Update

*BAE Update is a publication of OSU's
Department of Biosystems and Agricultural Engi-
neering and is published each semester to inform
alumni and friends of activities in the department.*

We invite you to submit comments,
story ideas or alumni updates to:

BAE Update
111 Agricultural Hall
Stillwater, OK 74078
(405) 744-5431
baenews@okstate.edu

Editor: Katie Allen