Iowa State University

College of Agriculture and Life Sciences
College of Engineering

Department of Agricultural & Biosystems Engineering

Dr. Steven Mickelson
Chair & Chuck R. and Jane F. Olsen Professor of Engineering

Nuffield International Contemporary Scholars 2019 Conference
My Story
ABE Department Vision

ISU’s Department of Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering: The premier team serving agriculture, industry and society through engineering and technology for agriculture, industry, and living systems.
The mission of the Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering Department is:

• to **promote undergraduate student learning** in agricultural and biosystems engineering and industrial and agricultural technology,

• to **promote graduate student learning** in agricultural and biosystems engineering and industrial and agricultural technology,

• to **discover and improve new technologies** for all stakeholders, and

• to **provide engineering and technology expertise** in the fields of agriculture, industry and biosystems for the state, nation, and world.
ABE Program Overview – Fall 2018

• Faculty: 34 Tenure/Tenure-Eligible, 8 NTE
• 807 undergraduates, 84 graduate students
• 4 Undergraduate Degree Programs
  • Agricultural Engineering
  • Biological Systems Engineering
  • Agricultural System Technology
  • Industrial Technology
• 2 MS and PhD programs
  • Agricultural Engineering
  • Industrial & Agricultural Technology
ABE Overview Continued

- 6.5 main office support staff
- 4.5 student services staff
- 4 teaching lab coordinators
- 6 faculty and two staff have cooperative extension appointments
- 20 external advisory council members
- Home of the Midwest Plan Services (MWPS)
- Home of the NSF Center for Bioplastics and Biocomposites (CB²)
- Home of the Egg Industry Center (EIC)
New Facilities : ISU Biorenewable Complex

- Moved in date: June 3, 2014
- Focus on Sustainable Design
  - Goal of LEED Gold
- $76.5 Million Project
  - Private Gifts : $14.5 million
  - State funding over a four year period: $62 million
- Approximately 106,000 Net Square Feet
- $0.5M in public art
- Sustainable features/efforts
BioCentury Research Farm
2018/2019 Departmental Highlights

- 1st place US News - graduate programs
- 3rd place US News - UG programs
- Record student numbers (891 total)
- Grant awards: $12.5M (211 grants)
- International study abroad programs (Brazil, Taiwan, Poland, Argentina, Scotland, France, Uganda, and China)
ABE Educational Programs

- Programs emphasize practical hands-on learning
- Laboratories have modern engineering tools and equipment
- Key laboratories include: diesel engines, fluid power hydraulics, biomaterials, biofuels, plastics and metals, manufacturing, automations/robotics, electronic controls, precision ag, electronics, dyno
- Programs accredited by ABET and ATMAE
- Outstanding living/learning communities
Examples of Teaching Equipment:

- Waterjet, CNC lathes/mills, dynos, water flume, 3D metal printer, robots, fluid power trainers, 3D plastic printers, 185 double screen PCs, diesel engines, etc.
Research/Extension/Outreach

• Department Focus Areas:
  o Land and Water Resources Engineering
  o Animal Production Systems Engineering
  o Biological and Process Engineering and Technology
  o Advanced Machinery Engineering and Manufacturing Systems
  o Occupational Safety Engineering
Land & Water Resources Engineering

Matt Helmers
Professor

Adina Howe
Asst Prof

Amy Kaleita
Assoc Prof

Ramesh Kanwar
Professor

Steve Mickelson
Professor, Chair

Michelle Soupir
Assoc Prof

Sunday Tim
Assoc Prof

Josh Peschel
Asst Prof
LWRE Research Areas

- Water Quality (surface and groundwater)
- Subsurface drainage
- Conservation decision support systems
- Hydrologic modeling
- Soil conservation
- Environmental monitoring
- International rural water resources
- Microbial drivers of and responses to environmental health
- Fate and transport of pathogens & emerging contaminants
- Remote sensing
- Virtual reality decision making
Current project highlights

**Drainage Water Quality Impacts of Nitrogen Management and Land Use**
Matt Helmers, Michelle Soupir, & Dan Andersen and collaborators
~$750K from IDALS, TFI, Iowa Pork Board, Leopold Center for Sustainable Ag, Iowa Nutrient Research Center, Calcium Products, Koch Agronomic Services

**Antibiotic bacteria and their persistence in the environment**
Adina Howe & Michelle Soupir & collaborators
~$1.2M from USDA and National Pork Board

**Hydrology, water quality dynamics, and economic impacts of farmed potholes**
Amy Kaleita & Michelle Soupir and collaborators
~$470K from EPA, Iowa DNR, Leopold Center for Sustainable Ag, Iowa Nutrient Research Center.
Animal Production Systems Engineering

Dan Andersen  
Asst Professor

Jay Harmon  
Professor

Steve Hoff  
Professor

Jacek Koziel  
Assoc Prof

Charles Sukup  
Adj Assoc Prof

Brett Ramirez  
Asst Prof

Jim Shahan  
Adj Asst Prof

Hongwei Xin  
Distinguished Prof

Mike Anderson  
Sr Lecturer

Tim Shepherd  
Lecturer
APSE Research Areas

- Air quality/odor control
- Animal behavior
- Animal health and well-being
- Animal-environment interactions
- Bio-secure carcass disposal
- Disease detection
- Precision livestock farming
- Heat stress mitigation
- Visual data sensing and analytics
- Robot assisted environments
- Manure management and treatment
- Nutrient cycling in agroecosystems
Using Visual Sensing and Sensemaking for Animal Health Prediction
Advanced Machinery Engineering and Manufacturing Systems

Stuart Birrell
Professor

Shweta Chopra
Asst Prof

Matt Darr
Assoc Prof

John Haughery
Asst Prof

Russ Hoffman
Lecturer

Ron Leonard
Adj Assoc Prof

Norm Muzzy
Lecturer

Tim Shepherd
Lecturer

Brian Steward
Professor

Lie Tang
Assoc Prof

Mehari Tekeste
Asst Prof

Josh Peschel
Asst Prof
AMEMS Research Areas

- Machine design, testing and manufacturing
- Sensing and perception systems
- Field automation, machine intelligence, and field robotics
- Biomass harvest, storage, and transportation
- Vehicle systems integration
- Physical systems modeling
- Precision agriculture
- Electronic systems integration
- Physical systems modeling
- Applied soil dynamics & traction
- Fluid power
ISU- Soil-Machine Systems Engineering Innovation and Support

Tire
Performance

Indoor Controlled Tests

Simulation and Modeling

Soil compaction and Yield Study
Tekeste et al., 2016

Machine Field Scale

Wear
Tekeste et al., 2019

Tillage Analytics

Tekeste et al., 2016
Real-Time Measurement of Water Flow

Using UAVs to Physically Manipulate Objects

13% average absolute error in stem width estimation

Robots in the Field for Sorghum and Corn Phenotyping
Carl Professor
Tom Brumm Assoc Prof
Shweta Chopra Asst Prof
Sam Cook Lecturer
Charlie Hurburgh Professor
Dirk Maier Professor
Manjit Misra Professor
Gretchen Mosher Assoc Prof
Raj Raman Professor
Kurt Rosentrater Assoc Prof
Chenxu Yu Assoc Prof
BPET Research Themes

- Food security
- Worldwide post harvest losses
- Grain quality, marketing and distribution
- Integrated process-based compliance
- Process technology and life-cycle analysis
- Seed science and technology
- Food preservation technologies
- Risk assessment
- Business processes in ag supply chains
- Analytical technologies
- Renewable chemicals
- Bionanotechnology
- Post-harvest engineering
Current project highlights

**Measurement Systems for Grain and Grain Product Analysis.**
Charles Hurburgh, Erin Bowers and collaborators

-$450K from USDA-GIPSA, 7 instrument manufacturers, and commercial testing/analysis clients

**BioPolymer Development**
David Grewell and group

National NSF Center
26 industry partners
Renewable coating, composites, adhesives and plastics
+$1M/year for 5 years
+$1M for 3 years USDA bio-adhesive project

**Post Harvest Engineering and Feed Technology**
Dirk Maier, Sam Cook and group

~360K from USDA and USAID to reduce post-harvest loss and improve feed value chain in Ghana and Rwanda.
Occupational Safety Engineering

Steven Bell  Lecturer
Steven Freeman  University Prof
James Wright  Lecturer
Nir Keren  Assoc Prof
Gretchen Mosher  Assoc Prof
Charles Schwab  Professor
OSE Research Themes

- Agricultural health and safety
- Safety decision making
- Interaction between safety and quality
- Safety management
- Risk analysis and mitigation
- Scholarship of safety education
- Loss prevention
- Virtual reality applications for safety (behavioral)
- Farm safety
- Occupational safety
- Food systems safety
Current project highlights

**Safety Training in the Republic of Georgia**
Steve Freeman, Gretchen Mosher, & Stephen Simpson, and collaborators
~$190K from Millennium Challenge Account Georgia, (MCA Georgia)

**Prevention of Grain Dust Explosions**
Gretchen Mosher and collaborators
~$266k from Susan Harwood Targeted Topics Training Department of Labor, OSHA

**Utilizing Virtual Reality to Explore Crash, Near Miss Scenes, and Roadway Infrastructure**
Nir Keren
~$142k from US Department of Transportation

**Agro-ecosystem Approach to Sustainable Biofuels Production .....(AFRI-CAP)**
Charles Schwab, Mark Hanna & Gretchen Mosher and collaborators
~$25M from National Institute of Food and Agriculture - USDA
New Facilities Coming Soon!

- Chassis Dynamometer Laboratory
- Feed Mill and Grain Science Complex
- Soil-Machine Dynamics Laboratory
- Poultry Teaching/Research Facility
## US New and World Report Rankings

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Key Elements in Becoming #1

• Obtaining modern facilities and laboratory equipment
• Maintaining and recruiting outstanding faculty and staff
• Growing our undergraduate and graduate student numbers and degree programs
• Increasing industry engagement
• Communicating our impacts successes internally and externally
• Adding a National Academy of Engineering faculty members
• Award winning faculty, staff, and students
• Support from the colleges and university administration
• Dreaming and living big!
ABE’s Five Year Goals

• Maintain the #1 ABE department status in the US for both undergraduate and graduate programs
• Hire faculty to keep student to faculty ratio below 25:1 for all degree options
• Hire quality tenure-track faculty in key research/teaching/extension areas (precision livestock farming, advanced manufacturing, biomanufacturing, ecological engineering, animal production biosecurity, applied big ag data analytics)
• Have three ABE faculty member in the National Academy of Engineers
• Increase graduate student numbers to 4 students/TT faculty member