

ASABE CANV Section Update

March 1, 2006

Dear ASABE CANV Section members,

The February 15, 2006 Section meeting in Tulare drew approximately 110 people and was anchored by a great talk by Jim Usher on Bently Agrowdynamics' biodiesel work. The packed program included biannual officer elections, with Carolyn Jones now Program Chair and me, Victor Duraj, now Section Chair. One thing that we would like to try this year is a quarterly or possibly bimonthly Section update. So, here's the first Update, and your feedback is most welcome.

The Update:

- * Section Meeting draws ~110
- * Professional license issues
- * Industry sponsors of Section activities
- * Section grants \$ to CalPoly 1/4 Scale Team
- * Bill Chancellor named to National Academy of Engineers
- * Some potential topics for upcoming Updates

- * Section Meeting draws ~110

The annual Section meeting, held during the World Ag Expo in Tulare, drew approximately 110 people, including members, guests, and a strong showing of students. Jim Usher delivered a very well-received presentation on his company's work with biodiesel, namely their processing plant and conversion of hauling trucks and farm pick-ups for year-round operation on biodiesel. There were many questions and a very engaged audience. (www.bentlyagrowdynamics.com) The group included strong showings from Butte College's Mechanized Ag program and Cal Poly's Bioresource & Ag Engineering Dept, and a smaller than normal turnout by UC Davis' Biological & Ag Engineering Department. The poster competition featured Cal Poly Undergraduate posters only this year -- the first time Cal Poly out-postered UC Davis. The dinner hour included an auto-looping PowerPoint recognizing our dinner sponsors, showing some pictures from last year's meeting, acknowledging UCD Emeritus Prof. Bill Chancellor's induction into the National Academy of Engineering, and some pictures from the recent ASABE Historic Landmark dedication of the UC-Blackwelder Tomato Harvester at UCD (read more about it in the current issue of Resource). The evening's social hour also included a poster, created by Carolyn Jones, of the numerous Historic Landmarks related to our Section over the years, and a video of the Great Tractor Race projected on the large screen.

- * Professional license issues

Carolyn Jones has been following, in earnest, the current California Senate Bill 246 (http://www.aroundthecapitol.com/Bills/SB_246) that proposes to significantly change professional engineering licensing in California. At primary issue to our members is the elimination of the Ag Engineering license. Currently, there are three "Practice Act" engineering disciplines (civil, mechanical, electrical) that have the authority to practice engineering, i.e. stamp and sign designs. The rest fall into the "Title Act," which means you can call yourself an Ag Engineer, a Fire Protection Engineer, a Traffic Engineer, a Chemical Engineer, or a few others, but you don't have authority to practice engineering. The current legislation proposes to eliminate the "Title Act" and to elevate most of the current "Title Act" disciplines up to "Practice Act." The ones proposed to be eliminated,

based in part on how few Californians have been taking the particular exams, are Metallurgical Engineer, Industrial Engineer, and Ag Engineer.

Carolyn is gathering letters from members of our Section who want to make a statement in support of Agricultural Engineering on the issue. Because this is a time-sensitive issue we will likely send out follow-up

email(s) pertaining specifically to this topic. Until we do so, feel free to respond to me or to contact Carolyn or both. At some point in the near future we will draft a letter to submit to the Legislature.

* Industry sponsors of Section activities

The Section is very grateful to our industry sponsors who help subsidize the cost of dinners for students as well as fund the student poster competition awards. In alphabetical order, the sponsors for this last meeting were: Ag Industrial Manufacturing (Claude Brown and Paul Burkner), Bently AgrowDynamics (Donald Bently and Jim Usher), Hydratec (Fred Hamisch), Irrigation Design & Construction (Michael Conrad), Rain For Rent (Mike Grundvig), and Roberts Irrigation Products (Paul McFadden).

* Section grants \$ to CalPoly 1/4 Scale Tractor Team

At the Section Meeting, the CalPoly 1/4 Scale Tractor Team presented a report of their successes and a thank you to the Section for providing their team with funds to help participate in last year's ASABE competition. Last year's Section support of \$1000 plus an additional \$500 each from Ag Industrial Manufacturing and Hydratec was particularly helpful with their travel costs. Although the team finished overall in the middle of the pack, they did win the Team Presentation element of the competition scoring 500/500 points. The Section moved and approved to again provide financial support toward this project. For more information about CalPoly's showing in last year's competition, see www.asabe.org for the spreadsheet of final results. (Note: It just came to my attention as we were ready to send this out that Modesto Junior College's new Student Mechanization Branch led by ASABE member Steve Amador also participated in last year's 1/4 Scale Tractor Competition. In the next Update, we'll write-up how that went and whether they are back at it again this year.)

* Bill Chancellor named to National Academy of Engineering (NAE)

[The following is copied from a departmental email by Bruce Hartsough, Chair of UC Davis BAE.]
Professor Emeritus William J. Chancellor has been elected to the National Academy of Engineering (NAE). According to today's announcement from NAE, Professor Chancellor was recognized "for contributions to the understanding of, and engineering innovations for, agricultural technology in the United States and developing countries." The press release also notes, "Election to the National Academy of Engineering is among the highest professional distinctions accorded an engineer. Academy membership honors those who have made outstanding contributions to 'engineering research, practice, or education, including, where appropriate, significant contributions to the engineering literature' and to the 'pioneering of new and developing fields of technology, making major advancements in traditional fields of engineering, or developing/implementing innovative approaches to engineering education.' "

* Some potential topics for upcoming Updates

Modesto Junior College Student Mechanization Branch; student enrollments in UCD/CalPoly/MJC/Butte College ag programs; tomato harvester Historic Landmark dedication (there is an article in the current issue of Resource); Joe Heidrick Western Center for Ag Equipment facility dedication; Ag Engineer PE issue; grain combine Historic Landmark progress; where are graduating students finding their first jobs in California and Nevada; National Meeting in Oregon...

Feel free to respond with ideas and items for subsequent editions of the Update.

Regards,
Victor Duraj
ASABE Section Chair