



**California/Nevada Section
Bimonthly Update
November 1, 2012
Forty First Edition**

- * **ASABE CA/NV Meeting – February 13, 2012**
- * **UC Davis BAE Department Update – Raul H. Piedrahita, PhD, BAE Department Chair**
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- * **Pierce High School Career Fair, Arbuckle, CA**

- * **ASABE CA/NV Meeting – February 13, 2012**

Mark your calendars for our next meeting! Our ASABE President, Tony Kajewski, with John Deere, will be attending and we're just now solidifying an exciting speaker! Please consider whether you would like to participate on the next officer team since we're looking for a few new members on the leadership team. Your officer team looks forward to seeing you there!

- * **Cal Poly BRAE Department Update – Ken H. Solomon, PhD, PE, BRAE Department Head**

This year the BioResource & Agricultural Engineering Department welcomed 159 students into the BRAE major and 127 into the Agricultural Systems Management major. We also initiated a "Unique Perspectives in Agriculture" speaker series. Alumnae professionals illustrate for students, by example, what their own careers could become. Our goals are to expand students' awareness, energize them, and, most importantly, help them envision their future success so that when they are slogging through a particularly difficult day (in a class such as differential equations, perhaps) they will be able to call up an inspiring image of why they are doing what they are doing. The first speakers in the series have included: Kris Beal, Director of Central Coast Vineyard Team (CCVT); Amy Wolfe, President & CEO of AgSafe; and Valerie Huff, PE, Civil Engineer for The Wallace Group.

- * **UC Davis BAE Department Update – Raul H. Piedrahita, PhD, BAE Department Chair**

Our department welcomed 142 Biological Systems Engineering majors back to campus this year, 36 of which are freshmen, 44 are seniors, and almost 50% are female. The academic year is off to a good start. One of our goals for the year is to improve the design experience for our undergraduate students. We have dedicated lab space to be used as an undergraduate design area where students can work on their projects, whether they are in the Foundations of Biological Systems Engineering (EBS1) or the senior design courses (EBS170 series). Our research activities have been very strong. Our newest faculty member, Dr. Stavros Vougioukas, has hit the ground running and already has several grant-funded projects!

- * **Pierce High School Career Fair, Arbuckle, CA – Carolyn M. Jones, PE**

I attended the Pierce High School Career Fair on October 19th. Six classes rotated through a set of six stations where a variety of careers were discussed, primarily by local community members and graduates of Pierce High School. I split my section with a Mechanical Engineer

from Boeing who encouraged the students to dream big, work hard, and persevere to reach their goals after showing the students two inspiring YouTube videos about Boeing and one of their recent jets. I showed the students photos of the variety of projects that USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) participates in within the Bay-Delta Cluster where I work. The students were able to flip through design docket examples of a concrete project for a dairy and a stream crossing project for a cattle rancher. The students asked some great questions and many answered correctly when I asked what major by-product is produced at a dairy. Yes, manure! After the presentations, I toured the impressive new Pierce High School (and Arbuckle FFA) ag shop and saw some familiar ASABE faces on awards plaques on the wall. That's a program to be proud of!

- For previous editions of the Update, please visit www.asabecanv.org.
- If you have questions or comments, feel free to contact Carolyn at 707-678-1655x117 or carolyn.jones@ca.usda.gov.
- If you have ideas for Update items or would like to get involved in the leadership group, please let us know.