



**California/Nevada Section  
Bimonthly Update  
July 1st, 2015  
Fifty Seventh Edition**

- ❖ **Congratulations to our National ASABE Award Winners and Fellows!**
- ❖ **CASI's Diener and Mitchell, and CalCAN's Renata Brillinger on Drought Resilience Panel at the Berkeley Food Institute**
- ❖ **MJC Receives Grant from National Science Foundation!**
- ❖ **Visual Challenge 5**
- ❖ **Fresno State - Precision Agriculture Technology Minor Update**
- ❖ **ASABE Annual International Meeting in New Orleans, LA**
- ❖ **Northern and Southern California SAF Summer Meeting**
- ❖ **Save the Date!**
- ❖ **¼ Scale Competition A Success!**
- ❖ **ASABE International ¼ Scale Competition Gets Some Media Attention!**

❖ **Congratulations to our National ASABE Award Winners and Fellows!**

Congratulations to our own CA/NV Section members who will be recognized at the Annual International Meeting in New Orleans! Congratulations to the Class of 2015 Fellows member, David C. Slaughter! Also congratulations are in order for Durham Ken Giles on receiving the Cyrus Hall McCormick-Jerome Increase Case Gold Medal!

❖ **CASI's Diener and Mitchell, and CalCAN's Renata Brillinger on Drought Resilience Panel at the Berkeley Food Institute**

CASI members, John Diener and Jeff Mitchell, both of Five Points, CA, and Renata Brillinger of CalCAN, were part of a panel that discussed farming practices to reduce risks tied to drought that was put on by the Berkeley Food Institute on April 13. A video recording of the panel discussion including the question and answer session that followed can be seen at the following link: <http://food.berkeley.edu/event-video-recordings/>

❖ **MJC Receives Grant from National Science Foundation!**

Modesto Junior College has received an \$833,175 federal grant to start a new Agriculture Irrigation Technology Program! The program will start this fall and students will work towards a two-year degree that will prepare them for the industry. A great article featured in *The Modesto Bee* can be found [here](#).

❖ **Fresno State - Precision Agriculture Technology Minor Update**

Article submitted by Dr. Balaji from CSU Fresno

Precision Agriculture Technology (PAT) minor has been in Fresno State catalog for one year now and already two undergraduate students from the Jordan College of Agricultural Sciences and Technology are almost ready to graduate with BS in IT (PAT) minor. The students followed the curriculum of the PAT minor and completed the 4 required courses and are currently working on the final culminating experience through internship/project/independent study. The students are quite excited about the minor as job opportunities are plentiful. There is also a special major BS in IT (Mechanized Systems Management and Precision Agriculture) undergraduate student who is making significant progress towards his special major degree. All the three students attended the American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers (ASABE) California/Nevada section and the World Ag Expo in Tulare this year and learned quite a bit about the agricultural technology industry where industrial technology students play a key role. In fact, most of the food processing, packaging and agricultural machinery industries allied to agriculture in the Central Valley are home to several of the Industrial Technology alumni. The alumni also sponsor our IT banquet generously to let their alma mater and college students to benefit for a career with them. The interest for PAT minor is increasing with several students from Plant Science, Viticulture & Enology, Agribusiness, Food Science and Nutrition, Animal Sciences and Agricultural Education are enquiring about the program. Please feel free to contact Dr. Balaji Seth ([balajis@csufresno.edu](mailto:balajis@csufresno.edu)) for more information about this exciting program.

❖ **Visual Challenge 5**

*Resource* Magazine is holding its fifth Agriculture and Biological Engineering Visual Challenge and wants YOU to enter! The theme is visual communication of agricultural and biological engineering, and the Challenge is open to all. To participate, submit one or more entries in any/all of three categories: photographs/captured images,

illustrations/drawings, and informational/explanatory graphics. We urge you to participate! Submit your entry as an e-mail attachment in jpg format (300 dpi or higher) to [Sue Mitrovich](#), Resource managing editor. Enter "Visual Challenge" in the subject line, and include your full name, professional affiliation, contact information, and a title with a brief description of your entry in your message. The winning entries will be selected by Resource staff and published in the January/February 2016 issue of *Resource*.

❖ **ASABE Annual International Meeting in New Orleans, LA**

It's not too late to register! Less than a month before the ASABE Annual International Meeting will be held in New Orleans, LA. 2015 Meeting highlights include networking opportunities, poster presentations, professional development sessions guest speakers, technical and cultural tours, and more! Visit [www.asabemeetings.org](http://www.asabemeetings.org) for more information!

❖ **Northern and Southern California SAF Summer Meeting**

Come join the Society of American Foresters for a meeting focused on water, trees, and forest management. The meeting will be held August 21-22, 2015 in Auburn, California. There will be an exciting tour of the Sierra Pacific sawmill in Lincoln and a social hour complete with a silent auction/raffle fundraiser. The activities will be followed by a dinner with guest speakers from SAF and UC Merced. Early registration closes on August 7<sup>th</sup>! Find out more [here](#).

❖ **Save the Date!**

UC Davis BAE is celebrating 100 years! Come join the Centennial Gala celebration on Saturday, October 3<sup>rd</sup> at 6:00PM. The program will be honoring the past and looking forward to the future. Attend and learn about where the industry is going, meet the people making engineering breakthroughs, and be a part of the next century of BAE. If you attend, you will be joining alumni, faculty, staff, students, and friends for an evening gala with fine food and drink, guest speakers, and historical displays.

More information available at: [bae.ucdavis.edu](http://bae.ucdavis.edu) or [give.ucdavis.edu/ABAE/323396](http://give.ucdavis.edu/ABAE/323396)

❖ **¼ Scale Competition A Success!**

Article submitted by Dr. Gregory Schwartz, Cal Poly BRAE

This year the quarter scale competition was awesome (my first year as advisor, so I did not know what I was in for). Cal Poly's team was stacked with 1st and 2nd year students along with a few 3rd year students. As advisor I saw some incredible leadership and teamwork. We had many issues to overcome and we did. The highlight of the trip for us was the new durability contest that we were on pace to win (as the last tractor in the field). Unfortunately, on the last lap we exceeded the 4mph speed limit for the third (and last) time and were disqualified. The entire crowd let out a gasp! They were really rooting for us! Part of the durability test was pulling a weighted trailer through 12 inches of sand. To prepare for that, one of the members spent the entire night modifying our tires to make them "CA sand tires" that worked great!



Cal Poly Quarter Scale Team 2015

Overall we placed 9th out of 26 teams. Our young team is really excited about next year and they are already making plans for how to improve for next year. As a side note, we are no longer the team traveling the furthest as there was a team from Israel there, so we can no longer brag about that!

The team is very appreciative of all our sponsors and we know that it takes a lot of effort from more than just our students, but also from alumni and industry. Thank you everyone!

❖ **ASABE International ¼ Scale Competition Gets Some Media Attention!**

This year's competition received some national media attention from [Huffingtonpost.com](http://Huffingtonpost.com)!

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- For previous editions of the Update, please visit [www.asabecanv.org](http://www.asabecanv.org).
- If you have questions or comments, feel free to contact Noelle at 661-978-9452 or [nopenner@gmail.com](mailto:nopenner@gmail.com)
- If you have ideas for Update items or would like to get involved in the leadership team, please let us know!