



**California/Nevada Section
Bimonthly Update
September, 2017
Sixty Sixth Edition**

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❖ **Cal Poly San Luis Obispo Update**

The Agricultural Engineering Society at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo closed out the previous school year with a bang, and kept busy over summer! Below are some of the club's recent highlights.

Cal Poly Students take second at AgBot Challenge 2017

A team of students from the BioResource and Agricultural Engineering Department, Cal Poly was awarded Second Place and \$15,000 at the AgBot challenge June 23-25, in Rockville, Indiana. The team created an autonomous tractor that could move through a field and plant up to four rows of corn seeds with seeding rate, seeds variety, and fertilizer remote controlled. The team, consisting of BRAE majors Ryan Vyenielo, Charlie Ross, Dillon Beatty, Caleb Fink, Austin Della, Nate McCarthy and Matthew Valentine, was one of seven teams to compete in this national seeding competition. Dr. Bo Liu from the BRAE department advised the students and provided technical guidance. Dr. Peter Livingston, the BRAE department head, strongly supported the team and provided a tractor for the competition. The team was also funded by the IRA, Cal Poly.



FFA Finals

Every year, Cal Poly hosts the California state finals FFA field day, and the BioResource and Agricultural Engineering department is responsible for hosting the ag mechanics competition. This could not be done without all the student volunteers from the department. Besides hosting a great competition for the FFA members, it is a great opportunity to connect with high school students and tell them about our department!

AES Banquet

The end of the year AES banquet is a great way to recognize all of our hard working students. At this annual event, scholarships and awards are given out, the current officer team is retired, and the new officer team is installed.

CAFES Banquet

This year AES earned second place for the Large Club of the Year competition in the College of Agriculture, Food, and Environmental Sciences (CAFES). This event, hosted by the CAFES student council, brought together students and faculty across the college to recognize students' and clubs' accomplishments.



BAE day

A few times throughout the year, Cal Poly hosts the Building an Engineer (BAE) Day, where several engineering departments participate in educating elementary students on engineering basics. AES and the Cal Poly Tractor Pull team are always happy to be a part of this. The students get to pull a sled to calculate how much horsepower they can develop, and also get to see one of the tractor pull tractors fire up!

Quarterly Activity

Each quarter, AES hosts an event for members to relax and blow some steam off from midterms. This year, we had a great time hanging out at the beach and enjoying pizza and games!

**Tractor Pull**

Summer is the busiest time of year for the Cal Poly Tractor Pull team. Nearly every weekend the team is hauling their two pull tractors all across California and Nevada to compete. Below is a picture of our newest addition: the new student built tractor Mustang Legacy!



Precision Ag and Automation Club

The P.A.A.C club recently competed at the ASABE Annual International Meeting in Spokane, Washington! Club members have been working hard all year and had a great time competing in the robotics competition.



BBQ

If there's one thing we know, it's that food brings people together. Every week, AES hosts a Thursday barbeque to bring students great burgers and a nice break between classes.



Student Outreach

AES students love being involved in the community and teaching others about what we do. Recently, students from a local junior high came out to visit and AES students came up with a fun lab to teach them about ag engineering!



❖ California State University, Fresno Update: FFA Leadership Conference

The annual statewide FFA leadership conference, one of Fresno's largest conventions with more than 7,000 participants, wrapped up its four-day event on April 25th. Since the convention began its long-running relationship with Fresno in 1994, the number of participants has grown from 1,500 to more than 7,000. The conference draws students from the state's 330 FFA chapters. The next year's convention will shift south to Anaheim for two years and then up north to Sacramento for two years.



Students attending this year's Future Farmers of America statewide leadership conference in Fresno get a chance to talk with experts on a variety of topics of interest to agriculture at the Fresno Convention and Entertainment Center in downtown Fresno.

❖ UC Davis Update

Dr. Zhongli Pan, a Research Engineer at the Healthy Processed Foods Research Unit, Western Regional Research Center of USDA-ARS and Adjunct Professor in the Department of Biological and Agricultural Engineering, UC Davis, and his research team recently received the 2017 Federal Laboratory Consortium (West) Tech Transfer Award and USDA-ARS Technology Transfer Award of Pacific West Area. The awards recognize successful transfer and high impact of innovative infrared processing technologies that significantly improved energy and processing efficiencies, quality, healthfulness and safety of foods. The new heating technologies have been used for walnut drying and producing fruits and vegetables-based healthy snacks. The research team

members include Dr. Tara McHugh and Mr. Don Olson of the USDA ARS and Drs. Chandrasekar Venkitasamy, Ragab Gebreil and Hamed El Mashad of UC Davis.



Drs. Zhongli Pan, Chandrasekar Venkitasamy, and Hamed El Mashad at the Federal Laboratory Consortium Award ceremony in Pasadena, CA on August 30, 2017.

❖ **Do You Feel A Calling?**

Do you have a desire to get more involved with ASABE? Do you have ideas for Agricultural Engineering Activities? Do you like sharing about the ASABE? If you answered yes to any of the questions, NOW is the time to become an ASABE officer! Call or E-mail Balaji Seth at (559) 321-6826 or balajis@csufresno.edu

- For previous editions of the Update, please visit www.asabecanv.org.
- If you have questions or comments, feel free to contact Balaji (559 321 6826 or balajis@csufresno.edu)
- If you have ideas for Update items or would like to get involved in the leadership team, please let us know!