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## BAE department salutes retirement of six

The OSU Biosystems and Agricultural Engineering Department experienced a significant loss this winter. A total of six BAE faculty and staff took advantage of a special retirement incentive program offered by the Division of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources.

While the department is very pleased for those individuals who opted to capitalize on the retirement incentive, it was quite a loss for the department to absorb.

Those faculty retiring were Bill Barfield, regents service professor; Sam Harp, associate professor and extension agricultural engineer; Glenn Kranzler, professor; and Ron Noyes, professor and extension agricultural engineer. On Feb. 28, the department hosted a well-attended banquet to recognize and celebrate the many contributions of these four faculty members. They combined for over 80 years of outstanding service to OSU. To learn more about their careers, see Pages 6 and 7 in this newsletter.

“One measure of a person’s mark on an organization is the size of the void that he or she creates upon leaving,” said Ron Elliott, department head. “It’s very clear these four faculty and two professional staff members have left some very big holes that will be difficult to fill. We will certainly miss them.”



Retiring professors, Bill Barfield, Sam Harp, Glenn Kranzler and Ron Noyes, enjoy taking a quick photo at a special reception honoring their devoted work in the department.

Staff member Tom Underwood, research technician, dedicated 26 years to the department, working with faculty and students in the BAE laboratory. Underwood tackled a wide range of projects, often involving the collection of experimental data. He was known for the thoroughness with which he pursued his work.



Tom Underwood

Phil Norton, area extension technology transfer specialist, spent more than a decade in helping to meet the technology transfer needs of small manufacturers, primarily in southeastern Oklahoma. Teaming with the OSU Applications Engineering program



Phil Norton

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# Where are they now?

## Tracking Fall 2003 Graduates

**Saleh Ashagarathra, M.S.**  
Ph.D. student at Oklahoma State

**Mary Crawford, B.S.**  
M.S. student at Oklahoma State

**Cash Maitlen, B.S.**  
VMI  
Cushing, Okla.

## BAE Clothes Line

Biosystems and agricultural engineering's ASAE student organization is selling polos and T-shirts. They look great and would make a wonderful gift.

**Polos: \$25.00**

**T-shirts: \$12.50**

You can purchase these items from 111 Agricultural Hall or contact the department at (405) 744-5431.

## Moved?

Keep the BAE Update updated so you don't miss a single issue.

Please contact us at:

**BAE Update**

**111 Agricultural Hall  
Stillwater, OK 74078-6016**

**(405) 744-5431**

**baenews@okstate.edu**



# A Word from the Department Head

**Dr. Ron Elliott**  
relliot@okstate.edu

Departmental greetings to our alumni and friends! Spring has sprung in Oklahoma and we're already into end-of-semester activities. Our BAE Advisory Committee will be on campus at the end of April and will view the final project presentations by our senior design students. On the weekend of May 8, another outstanding group of BAE seniors and graduate students will be walking across the stage and entering the alumni ranks. We're very proud of each of our graduates.

The careers of four outstanding faculty are highlighted in this issue. Although we still see them around the department, and their legacies certainly live on, we definitely feel the loss of professors Harp, Kranzler, Noyes, and Barfield. The state economy is beginning to improve, and we're hoping that before long we'll have an opportunity to replenish our depleted faculty and staff numbers.

Our annual spring banquet was again a big success, with more than 130 in attendance. We're especially pleased with the number of parents who attend this event. An important part of the program was watching the second half of OSU's Final Four appearance on big screens (darn! – we lost a close one). At the risk of jinxing the Cowboys, next year's banquet has been scheduled to avoid the Final Four weekend.

At the banquet, we were privileged to award over \$30,000 in scholarships to incoming and continuing students. Boosted by contributions in honor of our faculty retirees, this is likely a departmental record in terms of total scholarship awards. Since our enrollment has grown and the quality of our students continues to be exceptional, we have many more deserving students that merit scholarship support. So, as always, we would welcome your contributions (payable to the OSU Foundation, and sent to the BAE Department). We also would be glad to work with donors on named scholarships in honor of a person or organization that's important to you.

One of the best aspects of my job is the opportunity I have to announce award recognitions for our faculty, staff, and students. And with the types of people we have in BAE, that opportunity comes up often. Some of our most recent awardees are: Candice Johnson, ASAE Student Engineer of the Year (top student nationally); Dr. Harry Field, Teacher Fellow in the North American Colleges and Teachers of Agriculture; Derek Storm, Member of the Year for the ASAE Student Branch; Elizabeth Casey, Top Sophomore Award; and Dr. Glenn Brown, Alpha Epsilon Distinguished Service to Students Award. Congratulations to these and all our other award winners.

My boss, Dr. Sam Curl, has served for more than seven years as Dean and Director of the Division of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources. He has announced his retirement effective June 30, and a search for his successor is under way. I've been privileged to work with Dean Curl and appreciate all that he has done for DASNR and OSU. Being the agricultural dean at a land-grant university is no easy task, and he has served with distinction. We wish Sam and Mary the very best in retirement.

You might want to mark your calendar for some upcoming departmental events. Our second annual Alumni and Friends Social will be held on the evening of August 3 at the ASAE International Meeting in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada. For details, contact Becky Ostermann (rosterm@okstate.edu) or me. September 18 is the date for our fall tailgate party, when we'll gather at the BAE Lab for food and fellowship prior to the OSU football game. Finally, next year's student banquet will be held on the evening of April 9, 2005.

I hope that you will take the time to read the variety of stories in this newsletter. Erin Harris, our agricultural communications intern, has done a great job with both of this year's issues. We thank Erin for her contributions. If you have comments or suggestions regarding the BAE Update, or about the department in general, we'd love to hear from you. Best wishes, and Go Pokes!

# Student experiences internship while abroad

An experience of a lifetime combined with unforgettable memories is not what you would expect to obtain from a college internship. But that was the case for one biosystems and agricultural engineering undergraduate.

Mary Elizabeth Womack, a first-year senior in the department, recently completed an internship with Yamatake Building Systems in Tokyo, Japan.

Womack spent five months living and working half a world away from her family, friends and home in Stillwater, Okla. She lived in a small apartment in Higishi-Matsubara, supplied by Yamatake and located one hour from her work.

“The trains were one of the most difficult things I had to conquer in Japan,” said Womack. “By the time I got to work I already felt like I had done half a day’s work.”

As an intern, Womack tested her perseverance as she learned many engineering proficiencies, team work and communication skills.

“Aside from learning all of the skills necessary in an engineering job, I was responsible for starting something and completing it and having them be pleased with a job well done,” said Womack, “in terms of rewarding, that was very rewarding.”

Womack performed duties ranging from research used for heating, ventilation and air conditioning units to serving as an English editor for her boss and co-workers.

“Yamatake is a huge company in Japan,” she said. “I was the first female to intern for them, so that came with a lot of pressure. I worked on research with VAV valves and also provided reports on construction of a new facility.”

Outside of work, Womack experienced life in a new culture by spending time with a co-worker’s family, visiting many points of interest, and making new friends.

“They [co-worker’s family] took me on small side trips in Japan,” said Womack. “A couple of times I would spend the night and get to see how a Japanese family interacts, how they live, and what they eat. That was the only real way I got to see how Japanese lived outside of work.”

Womack’s experience in Japan spanned from work and the Japanese lifestyle to many rewarding life lessons.

“Just knowing I could go anywhere, even Japan,” Womack said, “and not just make it, but make it and enjoy it, all by myself. That

was the most rewarding part overall.”

After participating in the College of Engineering, Architecture and Technology Scholars trip to Japan in May 2002, Womack set her mind to interning with Yamatake and took all the necessary steps to accomplish her goal with help from Karl Reid, CEAT dean.

“I became very interested in an internship with Yamatake,” Womack said. “I talked with the contact lady and Dean Reid. He was a great facilitator and supporter of the entire internship.”

Womack’s advice on obtaining an internship is to keep trying until you achieve what you want. “Persistence and follow up are very important,” she said.

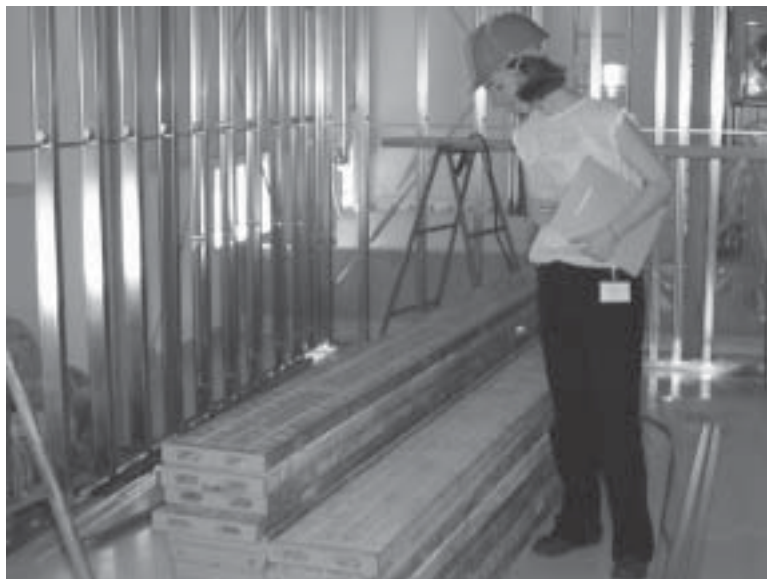
Womack said the best way to succeed on any internship would be to ask questions and never assume anything. When in another country it is important to be patient, learn to adapt, and observe how the people around you behave.

Womack learned much more than on-the-job working experience, she learned the importance of controlling her attitude and mindset and the true value of a French fry.

“There was one particular lady in this vegetable stand near my apartment who was always very nice to me. She couldn’t speak English and I couldn’t speak Japanese, but somehow we communicated,” Womack said. “One evening after a really long day, she offered me some of her French fries from her McDonald’s meal. Maybe she thought I would like them since I was an American, but it was still a small random act of kindness that really made my day and helped me realize how special those small actions can be.”

Not only has Womack excelled as an intern, she is actively involved in the department and the community.

Womack recently showcased her research



Mary Elizabeth Womack observes the beginning stages of construction on a facility as one of her many duties for her internship with Yamatake Building Systems in Tokyo.

on silt fences for Undergraduate Research Day at the State Capitol. Research Day is sponsored by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education, the Oklahoma Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research and the National Science Foundation.

Using her experience at Yamatake Building Systems as a foundation, Womack applied for and received one of only two national Reuben Trane Scholarships given by the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers. The scholarship is awarded based on outstanding scholastic ability, character, leadership, and potential service to the profession.

## **BAE Welcomes ...**

**Chang-Xing Jin**, assistant researcher  
**Maifan Silitonga**, Water Quality Education project coordinator  
**Sandeep Yeri**, research engineer

## **And says Farewell to ...**

**Bill Barfield**, regents service professor  
**Sam Harp**, associate professor and extension agricultural engineer  
**Glenn Kranzler**, professor  
**Phil Norton**, area extension technology transfer specialist  
**Ron Noyes**, professor and extension agricultural engineer  
**Tom Underwood**, research technician

# Student honor society inducts new members



*BAE students inducted into the Alpha Epsilon honor society are, front row from left: Meagan Armstrong, Rachel Oller, J. K. Evicks and Vania Pradipta. Back row from left: Adam Steinert, Joe Dvorak, Joe Biggerstaff and Ryan Haar. Not pictured: Elizabeth Casey and Buck Melton. (Photo by Reid Christianson)*

The members of Alpha Epsilon, the honor society for agricultural, food and biological engineering, held their annual initiation ceremony at Bennett Chapel at Oklahoma State University on April 15, 2004.

David Thompson, Associate Dean of Instruction and Extension of the College of Engineering, Architecture and Technology, spoke at the ceremony describing what makes engineers successful. His speech highlighted the importance of lifelong learning and his observance that many members of Alpha Epsilon are successful because they are able to implement this learning technique.

The members took the society oath and received their membership certificate.

After the initiation, the members elected the 2004-2005 society officers while enjoying dinner at Hideaway pizza.

# Scholars highlighted at awards banquet

The Department of Biosystems and Agricultural Engineering hosted the 2004 American Society of Agricultural Engineers Student Banquet on April 3, 2004, at Meditations in Stillwater, Okla.

Yes, that was the night of the Cowboys' Final Four game against Georgia Tech. While eating dinner, banquet attendees were able to watch the second half on big screens, but unfortunately the outcome of the game didn't help folks' appetites!

Students, faculty and staff were recognized for individual achievements and honors.

The ASAE Member of the Year Award was given to **Derek Storm**, BAE senior from Owasso, Okla., by his peers for his hard work and positive attitude within the society.

**Elizabeth Casey**, BAE undergraduate, received the Top Sophomore Award from the Alpha Epsilon honor society. This award recognizes an outstanding student who demonstrates campus leadership and academic achievement during his or her sophomore year.

## Thank you, donors!

The scholarship program of the Biosystems and Agricultural Engineering Department is entirely dependent on contributions to the OSU Foundation and designated for the Biosystems and Agricultural Engineering Development Fund.

The Department and its scholarship recipients are sincerely grateful to all donors. The following is a list of donors contributing \$50 or more to the BAE department since last year's banquet:

Bill and Annette Barfield  
 Dani and Jeff Bellmer  
 Brent and Gina Bolay  
 Fred and Leatrice Bouse  
 Wendell and Dottie Bowers  
 Glenn and Barbara Brown  
 Bob and Betty Day  
 Floyd and Gayle Dowell  
 Ron and Judith Elliott  
 Mark and Sabra Farabee  
 Barry and Catherine Frey  
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 Jim and Ruby Garton  
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 Scott and Jeannine Henderson  
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 W. B. Johnston Grain Company  
 Mike and Sheryl Kizer  
 Glenn and Kelley Kranzler  
 Dennis Kuhlman  
 Pat and Earline Lewis  
 Min Li and Tianbing Xu  
 Otto and Betty Loewer  
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 Ronnie and Sharon Morgan  
 Oklahoma Association of Electric Cooperatives  
 Oklahoma Grain and Feed Association  
 Oklahoma Municipal Power Authority  
 Rob Pollock  
 Jay and Ernestine Porterfield  
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Charles and Ladonna Rice  
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 Harold and Norma Springer  
 V. Rao and Gayathri Sridhar  
 Marvin and Bonnie Stone  
 Al and Regina Sutherland  
 Warren and Martha Taylor  
 Bill and Caren Tollner  
 Aditya Tyagi  
 Abdunnassar Usman  
 Jodie and Joyce Whitney  
 Elizabeth Willoughby  
 Bruce Wilson  
 Dean Yoder  
 Jinhui Zhang and Jiansheng Yan

If we have inadvertently omitted anyone from the list, please accept our apology and gently remind us of that fact. We realize some friends gave less than \$50 and we also appreciate those gifts.

**Glenn Brown**, BAE professor, was honored with the Distinguished Service Award, given by students to recognize the faculty member of the year.

Graduating seniors were recognized with an engraved picture frame presented on behalf of the department by Ron Elliott, department head. Spring 2004 graduates are **Kent Evatt**, **Kody Featherston**, **Steven Fowler**, **Monica Johnston**, **Matthew Steinert** and **Derek Storm**. Fall 2004 graduates are **Travis Guy** and **Candice Johnson**.

Over \$30,000 in scholarships were awarded to deserving BAE students. The large number of excellent scholarship applications made the job of the selection committee very difficult. Those students receiving departmental scholarships for the 2004-2005 academic year were:

*BAE Development Fund*

Incoming recipients: **Andrew Fiegenger**, Clinton, Okla.; **Josh King**, Zachary, Okla.; **Claire Obee**, Edmond, Okla.; **Michael Oliver**, Edmond, Okla.; and **Kendra Pelz**, Viola, Kan.; continuing recipients: **Laura Christianson**, Stillwater, Okla.; **Jacob Hamburger**, Weatherford, Okla.; and **Buck Melton**, Lawton, Okla.

- W. B. Johnston Grain Company Scholarship*
- Oklahoma Grain and Feed Association Scholarship*
- Samuel Alton Clayton Memorial Scholarship*
- Jay G. Porterfield Scholarship*
- Billy J. Barfield Scholarship*
- Glenn A. Kranzler Scholarship*
- Ronald T. Noyes Scholarship*
- Sam L. Harp Scholarship*
- Oklahoma Association of Electric Cooperatives Scholarship*
- Oklahoma Municipal Power Authority Scholarship*
- Glenn Morgan Memorial Scholarship*
- Lawrence O. Roth Scholarship (Endowed)*
- McKay Brothers Scholarship*
- Leon Crain Memorial Scholarship (Endowed)*
- E. W. Schroeder Scholarship (Endowed)*
- Gerald Brusewitz Scholarship*
- Tom and Jan Haan Scholarship (Endowed)*
- Dudley Barefoot Memorial Scholarship*



*From Left, BAE graduating seniors: Kent Evatt, Steven Fowler, Candi Johnson, Matt Steinert and Derek Storm. Monica Johnston, Kody Featherston and Travis Guy are not pictured.*

- Cortney Timmons, Ada, Okla.
- Andrew Brown, Stillwater, Okla.
- Craig Spencer, Stillwater, Okla.
- Hannah Bruce, Wichita, Kan.; Sarah Edens, Ponca City, Okla.
- Rebecca Hoey, Sand Springs, Okla.
- Matthew Braun, Hobart, Okla.
- Seth Gilstrap, Stilwell, Okla.
- David Crossley, Okarche, Okla.
- Amanda Nida, Tulsa, Okla.
- Colby Funk, Weatherford, Okla.
- Brian Dillard, Caney, Okla.
- David Bevill, El Dorado, Ark.
- William (Ryan) Haar, Elkhart, Kan.
- Taylor Miller, Chandler, Okla.
- Rachel Cancienne, Broken Arrow, Okla.
- Kristin Stephens, Kingfisher, Okla.
- Meagan Armstrong, Tulsa, Okla.
- Joseph Biggerstaff, Medford, Okla.



*From Left, incoming scholars: Cortney Timmons, Sarah Edens, Andrew Fiegenger, Hannah Bruce, Michael Oliver, Rebecca Hoey, Craig Spencer and Andrew Brown.*



*From Left, continuing scholars: Jacob Hamburger, Buck Melton, Laura Christianson, Colby Funk, Amanda Nida, Joe Biggerstaff, Kristin Stephens, Brian Dillard, Rachel Cancienne, David Bevill, Meagan Armstrong and Ryan Haar.*

# Four outstanding BAE faculty retire



**Bill Barfield**

Billy J. Barfield, regents service professor in the biosystems and agricultural engineering department, retired on Jan. 5, 2004, after a distinguished career spanning 24 years at the University of Kentucky and more than 11 years with the BAE department and Oklahoma State University.

Born in Louisiana, Barfield grew up in Texas and received bachelor's degrees in both agricultural engineering and civil engineering from Texas A&M University in 1961. After serving as a meteorologist with the United States Air Force in Germany, Barfield returned to Texas A&M, where he earned his doctoral in agricultural engineering in 1968.

Barfield joined the University of Kentucky's agricultural engineering department in 1968 as an assistant professor; he was promoted to associate professor in 1971 and to professor in 1977. At Kentucky, he conducted research and taught undergraduate and graduate courses, and also directed the Kentucky Water Resources Research Institute and the Environmental Systems Graduate Program.

He and his wife, Annette, raised two children, Michelle and Will, and they have one grandson.

In 1992, Barfield was recruited to the OSU Department of Biosystems and Agricultural Engineering as department head

and professor. He served with distinction in that role for eight years, providing leadership for the department's name change along with many other initiatives and programs. Barfield stepped down from the department head position in 2000. Following a sabbatical leave at Clemson University, he served as a regents service professor until his retirement.

In addition to his many contributions in classroom instruction, Barfield has been a productive researcher and extension educator, with interests in hydrology, sediment control, storm water management, and manufacturing extension and technology transfer.

Barfield is a registered professional engineer. He has been recognized by the American Society of Agricultural Engineers with the Young Researcher (1978), Hancor Soil and Water Engineering (1993) and John Deere Gold Medal (2001) Awards. Barfield was inducted as an ASAE Fellow in 1994 and currently serves on the Foundation board of directors.



**Ron Noyes**

Ronald T. Noyes, biosystems and agricultural engineering professor and extension agricultural engineer, retired on Jan. 5, 2004, following more than 18 years of outstanding service to the BAE department and to Oklahoma State University with a professional career spanning 40 years.

Noyes was born at Leedey, OK, and received a B.S. degree in agricultural engineering from Oklahoma State University in 1961. Following service in the U.S. Army, he returned to OSU and earned a M.S. degree in agricultural engineering in 1964.

Noyes worked for four years as an extension agricultural engineer on the faculty

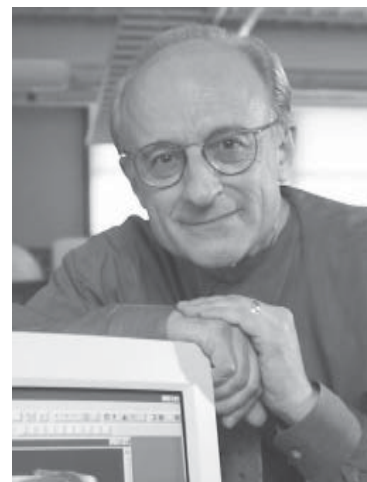
at Purdue University. He then joined Beard Industries in Frankfort, IN, where he served as chief engineer and vice-president of engineering. During his 17 years at Beard Industries, Noyes's work focused on design, research and development of grain dryers and pneumatic conveyors. He was awarded six U.S. patents. Noyes and his wife, Zona, raised three children, Cynthia, Scott, and David, and they now have five grandchildren.

Returning to his home state, Noyes joined the OSU faculty in 1985 as an associate professor and extension agricultural engineer. He was promoted to professor in 1988 and completed his doctoral degree in higher education at the University of Oklahoma in 1998.

Noyes's extension program has been focused on the management of stored products, including grain and seed storage, handling, drying, and fumigation practices. His expertise encompasses insect and dust control at grain elevators, pesticide and fertilizer containment systems, and aerial application of pesticides. He played a key role in the establishment of OSU's Stored Product Research and Education Center.

During his career, Noyes has traveled to 15 countries to work on engineering aspects of grain storage and management. He is a registered professional engineer and has been very active in the American Society of

Agricultural Engineers. He received the ASAE Young Designer Award in 1975 and was inducted as a Fellow of the Society in 1993. Noyes was presented the USDA Distinguished Service Award in 1992 and the Sarkeys Distinguished Professorship Award in 2001.



**Glenn Kranzler**

Glenn A. Kranzler, biosystems and agricultural engineering professor, Kranzler retired on Jan. 5, 2004, after nearly 22 years of distinguished service to the BAE department and Oklahoma State University with a professional career totaling over 38 years.

A native of North Dakota, Kranzler



## Sam Harp

Sam L. Harp, biosystems and agricultural engineering associate professor and extension agricultural engineer, retired on Dec. 31, 2003, after nearly 33 years of outstanding service to the BAE department and to Oklahoma State University.

Harp was born at Coweta, OK, and served in the U.S. Army following high school. He received an associate's degree in drafting and design from Oklahoma State Tech and in 1971, began work as a draftsman in the OSU BAE department. He pursued additional education while at OSU, earning a bachelor's degree in Technical Education in 1978 and a master's degree in agricultural engineering in 1982.

earned bachelor's and master's degrees in agricultural engineering from North Dakota State University in 1963 and 1965, respectively. He worked in research at Virginia Polytechnic Institute for five years before attending Iowa State University, where he taught and conducted research. Kranzler received his doctoral degree in agricultural engineering from Iowa State in 1977.

Kranzler then accepted a faculty position in the agricultural engineering department at Washington State University, where for six years he had an active research program and taught courses in agricultural engineering and agricultural mechanization. Kranzler was promoted to associate professor while at Washington State.

Kranzler was recruited to the OSU Department of Biosystems and Agricultural Engineering in 1982 and was promoted to the rank of professor in 1985. For the past two decades, he has contributed significantly to the department's research and teaching programs.

Over the years, Harp assumed progressively greater responsibilities in the department, including the role of manager of the Farm Building Information Service. He became an assistant professor and extension agricultural engineer in 1983 and was promoted to associate professor in 1988.

Harp met his wife, Sheila, when they both worked in the department. They have a daughter, Samantha, who is a student at OSU.

Harp has been a very familiar and highly respected figure in the Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service. He worked on a variety of outreach programs and projects, particularly in the areas of residential and commercial energy auditing, agricultural energy management and farm safety. In recent years, he has provided leadership for OSU's manufacturing extension efforts through the Applications Engineering and Technology Transfer programs.

Harp is a registered professional engineer. He is a longtime member of the American Society of Agricultural Engineers, earning numerous Blue Ribbon awards for Educational Aids. He received the National Food and Energy Council's Distinguished Service Award in 1993 and OSU's campus-wide Faculty Excellence Award in University Extension in 2003. In the community, Harp has served two terms as the chair of the Payne County Excise/Equalization Board.

He met his wife, Kelley, in the department.

Kranzler's major fields of research have included digital image processing and machine vision, microelectronics and instrumentation, and food and crop processing. He has taught a variety of courses, particularly in the areas of process/properties engineering, electricity, and instrumentation. His list of graduate student advisees includes two current BAE faculty – Marvin Stone and Paul Weckler.

Kranzler has been very active in the American Society of Agricultural Engineers, including service as a member of the board of directors and as chair of the electrical and electronic systems division. Kranzler was elected as an ASAE Fellow in 1996. He also served on the board of advisors for the Machine Vision Association and as the program committee chair for the International Society for Optical Engineering.

# BAE faculty acknowledged for service

OSU Service Awards were presented to **Hector Cumba**, research engineer for the department, and **James Friesen**, applications engineer, for five years with the university.

Awards for 10 years of service were presented to **Wayne Kiner**, BAE lab manager, and **Mike Veldman**, research equipment specialist.

**Jean Hite**, a BAE extension senior secretary, and **Tom Underwood**, research technician, received awards for 25 years of service. Congratulations and thank you for your time and devotion to OSU.

## Santa joins the BAE party

The biosystems and agricultural engineering department once again celebrated the Christmas holiday season together during a lunch on Dec. 10, 2003.

As the holiday spirit filled everyone present, the need to give also flooded the air.

Santa Kizer (a.k.a. **Mike Kizer**, BAE professor) joined the party with a big "Ho, Ho, Ho" and strangely stuffed belly that didn't quite jiggle like jelly. He brought with him a bundle of peculiar gifts and awards, mostly to be given to **Glenn Brown**, BAE professor.

The party provided a great opportunity for faculty, staff, spouses, and emeritus faculty to socialize and reflect on the fun of the past year.



Santa presented Glenn Brown many gifts at the BAE Christmas party, and along with those gifts came humorous discussion between the two.

# Meet The Doctoral Students



BAE students seeking a doctorate, from left: Gim Ng, Rupal Choudhary, Jeyam Subbiah, Mengish Geza and Rajesh Soni.

is near completion of his studies in water quality, on track to receive his doctorate from the BAE department in the field of environment and natural resources. Demissie plans to pursue a research or industry career in the United States to further

his experience for researching and/or teaching hydrology, storm water control management, water resource use, GIS application and remote sensing in his home country.

**Mengistu Nisrani Geza**, native of Ethiopia, is working in the field of environment and natural resources for his doctoral studies. When completed in fall 2004, he hopes to return to Ethiopia and continue his work and research in watershed management.

Originally from Malaysia, **Gim Ng**, one of the department's newest doctoral candidates, continues his studies at Oklahoma State University in the biomechanical field, studying advanced control systems. He previously received both his bachelor's and master's degrees from OSU in mechanical engineering.

**Rajesh Soni**, from India, is seeking a doctoral degree in food processing. Soni has 15 years of research experience in biomass

gasification at the School of Energy Studies at Punjab Agricultural University, where he also taught university level undergraduate engineering courses. His earlier degrees, both from PAU, were in agricultural engineering and farm power and machinery.

**Saleh Ashghathra**, from Saudi Arabia, continued in the department this semester by studying for a doctoral degree after receiving a master's degree in the BAE department last fall. He will concentrate on precision agricultural management of pecan groves.

Environmental Science doctoral students, **Carol Crouch**, of Washington state, **Peter Kish**, of Connecticut, and **Maifan Silitonga**, of Indonesia, have completed their defense of their dissertations and will graduate this spring. Environmental Science is a multidisciplinary program in which many departments, including BAE, cooperate in the students' choice in field of study.

Research engineers, **Jeyam Subbiah**, from India, and **Bruno Cateni**, from France, will graduate with their doctorate in the coming months. Research engineers, **Roshani Jayasekara**, of Sri Lanka, and **Carol Jones**, of Kingfisher, Okla., are current doctoral students.

The master's degree candidates featured last semester welcomed two new students in January.

**Mary Crawford**, from Broken Arrow, Okla., received her bachelor's degree in the department in the fall of 2003 and is continuing her studies in the field of food processing.

Also joining the master's program is **Dimple Kundiyana**, of India. He worked in the dairy industry in Saudi Arabia before applying to the BAE department and OSU to study fermentation systems.

In each issue of the *BAE Update*, the biosystems and agricultural engineering department features a group of students, faculty or staff as a way of introducing our alumni and friends to faces in the department. This semester we are proud to highlight our current doctoral candidates.

**Houssam Alost**, from Lebanon, is researching the fungal production of riboflavin (vitamin B2) for his doctoral studies in the biosystems and agricultural engineering department. He is investigating the possibility of using this fungus to convert agricultural waste or waste from food industries to vitamin B2. He received his master's degree from the department in 2002.

Seeking a doctoral degree in the food processing field, **Rupal Choudhary**, of India, is researching means of testing the levels of lycopene concentration in certain fruits. He hopes to complete his studies and dissertation for graduation at the end of summer 2004.

A citizen of Ethiopia, **Tesfaye Demissie**

## ..... Congratulations! .....

Edwina and **Ted Kersten** are the proud parents of a baby boy, Matthew Edward Wallace, born on April 12, 2004, weighing 7 pounds and measuring 20 and a half inches long. Ted Kersten was a recent Master of Science graduate in 2002.

Ryan Charles Cook entered the world on March 16, 2004, at 5 pounds 2 ounces and 19 inches long welcomed by the proud parents, Keith and **Erica Cook**. Along with Doug Hamilton, associate professor in biosystems and agricultural engineering,

Erica Cook has worked with the Poultry Waste Management Education project.

**Laura Kennedy**, a BAE senior, married **Reid Christianson**, a BAE research engineer and doctoral candidate in Stillwater, Okla., on Dec. 13, 2003. The couple met through the departmental recruiter, Becky Ostermann, at the ASAE meeting in Chicago, Ill., in 2000.

**Sheila Youngblood Myers**, 1999 BAE bachelor's graduate, and husband Aric welcomed their daughter, Grace Kyler, into

the world on March 27, 2003. She celebrated her first birthday this spring. They live in Lexington, Ky.

**Bhaskar Rao**, biosystems and agricultural engineering graduate research assistant, proposed to Sangeetha Cathapu, a mechanical engineering student, on Jan. 2, 2004. She accepted the proposal in the presence of parents and elders of both families. The engagement took place in Rao's hometown, Bombay, India.

# “Oh, Canada” host of upcoming International ASAE meeting



Plan to join us for the Second Annual BAE Alumni and Friends Social at the International ASAE Meeting in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada. This event was a great success last year with 75 alumni, faculty, students and department friends enjoying an evening of fellowship and great food.

This year's event will be held **Tuesday, August 3, 2004**. We will meet at the Westin hotel in the New Brunswick room at 8 p.m. From there, we will take a short walk to Byward Market where we will be dining at one of Ottawa's excellent restaurants. The cost of the evening will be \$20 per person.

Please contact Becky Ostermann at (405) 744-8394 or by e-mail at [rosterm@okstate.edu](mailto:rosterm@okstate.edu) by July 23, 2004, to reserve your spot.

## BAE student recognized with national scholarship

By Carol Flautt, ASAE public relations

**Candice L. Johnson**, a senior in biosystems and agricultural engineering, was selected to receive the 2004 Student Engineer of the Year Scholarship from the American Society of Agricultural Engineers.

The scholarship grant is presented annually to an outstanding engineering undergraduate ASAE student member enrolled in an ABET or CEAB accredited agricultural/biosystems engineering program in the United States or Canada. Applicants are required to prepare a paper detailing their engineering goals.

Johnson will receive the \$1,000 scholarship during the American Society of Agricultural Engineers and Canadian Society of Agricultural Engineers International Meeting in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada. This scholarship is made possible by the generosity of the late Dr. Roger R. Yoerger and Mrs. Laura M. Yoerger through the ASAE Foundation.

Johnson, from Ankeny, Iowa, plans to receive her undergraduate degree in December 2004 and then pursue a master's degree in machinery design. Her goal is to find employment with an agricultural equipment manufacturer contributing to the advancement of farming practices. Having

grown up on a farm, Johnson says she realizes the need for the development of new machinery technology to help farmers gain more control over their destiny.

While attending classes, Johnson obtained practical experience by working with a department research engineer on projects ranging from electronic control systems and sensors to mechanical transmissions and engines.

During her freshman year, she worked with Deere and Company as a cooperative education student, which exposed her to various aspects of the agricultural equipment industry including marketing, quality, production and design engineering.

Johnson currently serves as president of the ASAE Preprofessionals Council, the highest elected student office of the society. The Preprofessionals Council represents ASAE Student Branches at universities throughout the United States and Canada. The student branches promote professional relationships for engineering students and provide a basis for professional aspirations.

The runner-up for this honor was another Oklahoma State University BAE senior, **Laura Christianson**.

# Graduate Update

**Autumn Hood**, 2002 BAE graduate, Master of Business Administration student and graduate assistant for the New Product Development Center, and her case team took first place in the University of Oklahoma Price College of Business case competition.

The contest was held in Norman in late February 2004. Hood's team competed against five other university teams from the central United States. The team had one day to prepare the case for "Avon.com" then present their analysis the following morning.

This competition prepared the team for the international competition in Washington, D. C., in March, where under similar guidelines, the team developed a five year strategic plan for National Public Radio.

**Curtis Washburn**, a bachelor's graduate in 2000, recently accepted a position with the Natural Resources Conservation Service in Clinton, Okla. He was previously working with the NRCS in Iowa.

**Yu Zou** has accepted a new position with the Vitasoy Company in Ayer, Mass. She was a master's graduate in 2000 in the department. The company produces soymilk and tofu.

## Student Spotlight

Two biosystems and agricultural engineering students were inducted and initiated into The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi on April 8, 2004. **Joe Biggerstaff** and **Elizabeth Casey**, BAE juniors, were invited to join the society based on their academic achievements and exemplary character. Phi Kappa Phi members represent the best and brightest students from all academic disciplines.

**Joe Dvorak**, BAE senior, and his family were recently featured in *American Profile*, a magazine inserted in local Sunday newspapers across the central region of the United States. The family was highlighted due to each member's active involvement in the FFA program. The Dvoraks own and operate a wheat farm near Perry, Okla.

# Alumni Success Stories

## Brandon Claborn 1996, 1998

Brandon Claborn, a biosystems engineering bachelor's graduate in 1996 and master's graduate in 1998, is currently working as a consulting engineer for Meshek and Associates, Inc., in Sand Springs, Okla.

Claborn is responsible for analysis and design of projects relating to storm water including the design of a regional detention pond and various storm sewer systems. Much of his job has involved working with a master drainage plan for communities.

"Using future land use projections," Claborn said, "design alternatives are evaluated using a cost benefit analysis, and recommendations are made to communities to mitigate potential problem areas."

After graduation from Oklahoma State University, Claborn began working for the

United States Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service where he worked to solve natural resource problems including projects related to stream stabilization and lagoon design. In 2001, he went to work for Meshek and Associates.

Claborn is a registered professional engineer and a certified floodplain manager. He served on the Board of Directors for Claremore Habitat for Humanity from its inception in 1999 through the completion of a house in 2001. He recommends it as a rewarding experience for others to try.

Claborn lives in Claremore, Okla., with his wife Kym and two daughters, Kenlee, 3-years-old, and Ella, 10-months-old. Their extended family includes a Lhasa Apso puppy named Baxter.

## Richard (Phil) Brown 1965

Prepared with a Bachelor of Science degree in agricultural engineering from Oklahoma State University in 1965, Richard P. Brown began his career as an engineer with the USDA Soil Conservation Service where he worked for six years.

Beginning in 1971, Brown changed careers to the Farmer's Home Administration as a chief engineer in its civil engineering department. He continued in this position for over 20 years.

In 1995, Brown established Brown

Engineering, PC, of Stillwater, Okla., to provide civil engineering consulting to the surrounding community.

He and his wife Jean have two children, daughter Jana Phillips, OSU bachelor's degree, architecture, and son Mike Brown, OSU bachelor's degree, civil engineering, both of whom work for his company.

Brown is the proud grandfather of six grandchildren. He and his wife reside in Stillwater, Okla.

## Charles Rice 1960, 1961

Former agricultural engineering faculty member, Charles E. Rice resides with his wife LaDonna in Stillwater, Okla., after a full and productive career. He retired in 1998 from the USDA Agricultural Research Service.

Rice, a 1960 bachelor's and 1961 master's graduate in agricultural engineering, served as an engineer for five years with the USDA-ARS where he conducted research.

Rice returned to Oklahoma State University as a faculty member in the agricultural engineering department in 1966.

During this time, he completed his doctoral degree from the University of Minnesota in agricultural engineering.

In 1978, Rice left the faculty and returned to the USDA-ARS to continue his research on the design and analysis of structures and channels for the control, conveyance, storage and measurement of run-off water from natural watersheds.

Charles and LaDonna have two sons, Paul and Curtis.

## James (Jim) Young 1966

Jim Young received his doctoral degree in agricultural engineering from Oklahoma State University in 1966 after completing his bachelor's and master's degrees at the University of Kentucky.

Since leaving OSU, Young has been conducting research and teaching at North Carolina State University. He has been serving as department head for the Department of Biological and Agricultural Engineering for the past four years.

Young's primary research projects focus on peanut and tobacco growth and curing. He authored a textbook for educational use in these specific areas.

His honors and awards reach beyond his success in the university. Young is recognized as a Fellow in the American Society of Agricultural Engineers as well as the American Peanut Research and Education Society, and has received multiple ASAE paper awards.

Young and his wife Adrienne Lou Scott live in Raleigh, N.C., and have two children – Leigh Ann Young Sanders and James Scott Young. They have three grandchildren – Katie, Christian and Grace.

## Mickey Friedrich 2003

Mickey Friedrich completed his Bachelor of Science in biosystems engineering from Oklahoma State University in May 2003.

After six months of training in Duncan, Okla., at the Halliburton Technical Excellence Center, Friedrich began working full-time as an associate technical professional for Halliburton Energy Services in Burns Flat, Okla.

Friedrich attended the United States Air Force Academy for two years before he came to OSU.

He currently lives in Clinton, Okla., where he spends time working with his blue heeler, Rosin.

# We Want to Know About You ... Your News is Good News!

Return this form to:  
BAE Update  
111 Agricultural Hall  
Oklahoma State University  
Stillwater, OK 74078-6016  
*baenews@okstate.edu*

We would like to include you in our "Alumni Success Stories." If you want to participate, please send a letter or e-mail to us describing your career (where you work and what you do on a daily basis), as well as any personal information you would like to share. If you have recently participated in the success story feature, we would still like to hear from you and about any changes you have had in your life.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Home Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_  
Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_  
Business Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_  
Business Title \_\_\_\_\_  
Business Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_  
E-Mail Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Work Description \_\_\_\_\_

What year did you get your biosystems and agricultural engineering or mechanized agriculture degree(s)?  
BS \_\_\_\_\_ MS \_\_\_\_\_ Ph.D. \_\_\_\_\_  
Other Information \_\_\_\_\_

## Ted Kornecki 1997

"My point is that if you work hard and you are persistent in reaching your goals, it does not matter how old you are or how much money you have, or where you came from," said Ted Kornecki, adjunct assistant professor at Auburn University and Louisiana State University, and a research scientist for the USDA-ARS National Soil Dynamics Laboratory in Auburn, Ala. "What matters is how much you want to reach your goals!"

Kornecki personally labeled himself as a "late bloomer" when he completed his doctoral degree in biosystems and agricultural engineering in 1997 at the age of nearly 47.

Kornecki came to the United States in 1980 from Poland. He spent a difficult first five years in the U.S. without his wife, Margaret, and two children, Anna and Peter, due to the political situation in his home country.

Despite the early challenges, Kornecki and his wife, a registered nurse working for a home health agency, now have successful careers. Their daughter received her degree from Covenant Community College in Chattanooga, Tenn. She is married and has a three-year-old son. Kornecki loves being a grandfather and has already started to teach his grandson to be an engineer.

Kornecki's son graduated from OSU with a Bachelor of Science in business and marketing and lives and works in Oklahoma City.

### **Retirement continued**

in delivering these services, Norton had a special focus on manufacturing cost analysis and other business-related issues. His efforts made a consistent, positive, economic impact on the state's economy.

## Our condolences ...

The department offers their condolences to former faculty member and department head, Jay Porterfield, and his family on the recent loss of his wife, Ernestine. She passed away at their retirement home in Tahlequah, Okla., on March 25, 2004.

The department also wishes a quick recovery to Charles Rice, former faculty member, after his recent illness.

"Our 2004 BAE retirees were excellent colleagues and touched many lives," Elliott said. "We wish each one a happy, healthy, and fulfilling retirement."

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## Mark Your Calendar

<b>International ASAE Meeting, Canada</b>	<b>August 1-4, 2004</b>
<b>Alumni &amp; Friends Social, Canada</b>	<b>August 3, 2004</b>
<b>Fall Semester Begins</b>	<b>August 23, 2004</b>
<b>BAE Tailgate Party</b>	<b>September 18, 2004</b>
<b>Fall Break</b>	<b>October 11-12, 2004</b>
<b>OSU Homecoming</b>	<b>October 16, 2004</b>
<b>Fall Commencement</b>	<b>December 18, 2004</b>
<b>ASAE Student Banquet</b>	<b>April 9, 2005</b>

*BAE Update* is published each semester. It informs alumni and friends of the activities in the Department of Biosystems and Agricultural Engineering.

We invite you to submit questions, comments, articles, ideas, etc. to:

### *BAE Update*

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