

Purpose and Impact

Proposed Event

ABE Graduate Industrial Research Symposium – February 8, 2018 “Pairing Potential to Practice”

Venue: Krach Leadership Center; CoRec Feature Gym; and St Thomas Aquinas Church

Purpose:

The Agricultural and Biological Engineering Graduate Student Association (ABE-GSA) is dedicated to providing our graduate students with opportunities to grow personally and professionally. An integral objective is to create and foster experiences relevant to developing and refining skills pertinent in the future careers of graduate students. Given that many of these skills may necessitate knowledge acquired outside of the classroom and lab, we propose to continue a departmental annual industrial roundtable and research symposium lead by ABE-GSA with support from the department and industry representatives. The event goals are to 1) encourage leadership, mentorship, and general collaboration among students in planning, organizing, and executing the event, 2) to promote networking and career opportunities with a diverse group of professionals, 3) to allow direct feedback in improving written and oral communication skills, 4) to enhancing graduate student understanding of professional responsibility and expectations, and 5) to provide an opportunity for prospective graduate students to learn about on-going research in the university and mingle with current students. ABE-GSA will develop and host the fifth annual ABE-GSA Graduate Industrial Research Symposium which will be held February 8th, 2018.

Description:

Last year, ABE-GSA opened the symposium to all graduate students and adopted a theme, “Building Sustainability Across Fields”. Two great speakers were invited to speak on this topic: Professor Linda Prokopy, Professor of Forestry and Natural Resources at Purdue University and Ms. Alisson Goss, Department of Energy. This year we plan on inviting speakers that are very well known in the area of agricultural and biological engineering, including the President of our Professional Society. We have adopted a theme that many students can relate to and gain insight from. It will allow graduate students to obtain additional skill sets enabling them to influence the workforce and bring about change to their practices. ABE-GSA has been fortunate enough to have already received funding from the Ag. and Bio. Engineering Department, the College of Agriculture, and Ag. Alumni Trust Funds for the 2018 symposium. Our three sources of funding for symposium are able to cover most of the expenses associated with it. However, we are still trying to obtain funds for our speakers. ABE-GSA request’s \$2,000 from the Purdue Graduate Student Government (PGSG) to cover the partial costs associated with bringing in speakers, marketing, supplies, and sharing a portion of the dinner cost. This fund will enable us to invite new speakers that in the past we have been unable to invite due to a lack of sufficient funds. The presence of these speakers will provide additional networking opportunities for students.

Along with Plenary and Keynote talks, our events include, both poster and oral pitch of your thesis in a competition platform. This will provide an opportunity to all the participating graduate students to communicate their science to a broader audience and receive feedback for

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improvement. If the funds are granted, PGSG will be acknowledged on all advertising material and displayed during the symposium, in addition to, our vote of thanks after our Plenary and Keynote talks. The symposium will be a great opportunity, not only for Ag. and Bio. Engineering students, but also for many related students from different disciplines, including people from Linguistics to Civil Engineering. Last year industry representatives from various companies including John Deere, ADM, Sun Hydraulics, and many more attended the ABE-GSA symposium. Graduate students are given the chance to network with these companies, other students from different departments, and present their research in either a poster or oral format. Oral presentations are broken up into four separate categories: Machine Systems/Agricultural System Management, Biological Engineering/Food Processing, Bio-Energy, and Environmental and Natural Resources. There is no cost to attend the symposium so that all graduate students are encouraged to register.

Financial Need

Funding Sources:

√ PGSG symposium grant	Donations	√ Funding from college or department
√ Fundraisers	Other	Membership dues

The following will minimize cost:

- a- Invite quality speakers who are willing to donate their time and forego an honorarium
- b- Utilize cost effective and reliable food services
- c- Minimize the number of paper supplies and printing costs by providing symposium information through digital platforms.

The PGSG symposium grant will be used for supplies, marketing, and a portion of the dinner cost. Each year, we receive high quality feedback from the ABE graduate student symposium. The PGSG symposium grant along with the funds already procured from ABE-GSA will improve our annual symposium. These funds will allow a higher number of graduate students to participate in the symposium.

Primary funding has been generously provided by the Ag. Alumni Trust and the College of Agriculture through a professional development grant. While we expect to receive partial funding from the ABE department, there remains a significant cost to host the event, as outlined in the budget.

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Budget

Proposed Itemized Budget

Proposed Itemized Budget	Unit cost (USD)	Number	Total Cost (USD)
Marketing materials, printing	0.2	140	28.00
Refreshment for Oral presentation, Networking activity and poster session	2.00	200	400.00
Box Lunch	7.00	200	1400.00
Dinner	15.00	200	3000.00
Nametags, badges/ribbons	0.5	150	75.00
Food for volunteer call-out meeting	5.00	30	150.00
Reservation for venue	500.00	2	1000.00
Poster Session/Boards	6.00	50	300.00
Other Logistics	-	-	100
Travelling allowance to the speakers	750.00	2	1500.00
Total anticipated budget			7953

Budget shortage

	PGSG Amount Requested	Total Expenses	Ag Alumni Trust	COA¹	Total Differences
Amount in (USD)	2000.00	7953.00	2000.00	1500.00	-4453.00

This year we are lowered food cost by changing the caterers, while still supplying high quality food as in the previous year. The numbers are based on the previous year's attendance of approximately 164 (115 graduate students, 10 post-docs, 9 visiting scholars, and 30 faculty members), with expectation to reach 200 - 250 attendees this academic year.

¹ COA: College of Agriculture

Supplemental Information

Additional cost

Proposed Itemized Budget	Total Cost (USD)
Midwest Rentals (Tables)	1023.00
St. Thomas building (Purdue)	225.00
CoREC (Purdue)	556.00
Total anticipated budget	1804.00

Event webpage:

<https://engineering.purdue.edu/abegsa/symposium/>

Proposed Symposium rogram

9:00 am – 9:30 am	Registration
9:30 am – 10:40 am	Sessions
10:50 am – 12:00 pm	Sessions
12: 10 pm – 1:20 pm	Plenary Speaker & Lunch
1:30 pm – 2:30 pm	Networking Session
2:30 pm – 4:30 pm	Poster Session
4:45 pm – 5:30 pm	Pitch your thesis competition
6:00 pm – 8:00 pm	Keynote Speaker and Dinner

Keynote Speaker Details

Dr. Stephen Searcy is a Professor and the Biological and Agricultural Engineering Department Head at Texas A&M University. He provides statewide administrative support and guidance for 37 faculty members as they address the land-grant university mission of teaching, research, and extension to serve the public good. As well as being a respected administrator, he is known worldwide for his research concerning precision agriculture. He is the ASABE President for 2017-2018.