

ABE Alumni E-News - Winter Edition - January 31, 2014

Robotic weeding leads to big labor savings

Lie Tang's research in field robotics offers a glimpse into the future of organic agriculture.

Tang, an associate professor in the Department of Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering, develops robotics technologies for intra-row weed removal in vegetable crops. He hopes that by perfecting this technology, he can design an automated robot to lower the level of labor and chemical inputs in small to mid-sized growing operations for farmers who are looking for environmentally friendly weeding alternatives. This project began with two competitive grants from the [Leopold Center's](#) Marketing and Food System Initiative.

Tang, a native of China, was drawn to Iowa State University in 2004 by the reputation of the agricultural and biosystems engineering department as being on the forefront of agricultural innovation. "This is one of the best places in the world for agricultural robotics and automation," he says.

To read the original STORIES article, [click here](#).



Esteemed ABE professor Thomas Glanville retires after 36 years



Thomas Glanville, professor of agricultural and biosystems engineering and self-declared environmentalist, is wrapping up the final semester in his long run at Iowa State, which began back in the 1960s when he began his education here.

Glanville earned his bachelor's degree in engineering operations from Iowa State in 1972, worked at the Caterpillar Tractor Company in Peoria, Ill., for a year and followed up with his master's in civil engineering in 1975.

He worked in industry for two years until a job with the ISU Extension and Outreach program became available. The job pertained to water quality issues in Iowa, a subject he had become interested in while working at Caterpillar. While he was working here, Glanville decided to get his Ph.D., which he completed in 1987.

Since beginning his tenure at Iowa State, Glanville has taken on the usual teaching and research responsibilities, but he's also had significant extension and outreach responsibilities, which is one of his favorite aspects of the job.

For the full story, [click here](#).

For photos of Dr. Glanville's retirement reception, [click here](#).

Class Highlights - Fall Semester, 2013



Happy Trails, Barb!

On November 7, the ABE department held a [retirement reception](#) for Barb Kalsem to honor her 43 years of service. In that time as administrative guru, she helped ABE faculty, staff, and students alike. Her wealth of knowledge assisted all departmental chairs in ABE's history (with the only exception being ABE founder, J.B. Davidson). The reception included memories, gifts, a poem, and a slideshow of ABE photos through the decades.

Thanks for your service, Barb! We wish you many more happy memories.



Work at Biorenewables Complex is on schedule

Faculty and staff of the agricultural and biosystems engineering department will vacate Davidson Hall and other campus locations this summer for a long-awaited move to the Biorenewables Complex's second phase. Phase 2 construction remains on schedule and currently is about two-thirds complete.

Phase 2 includes Elings Hall, featuring technology-ready classrooms, student services and office space for faculty and graduate students; Sukup Hall, featuring educational and research laboratories; and an atrium connecting the two wings to the Biorenewables Research Laboratory, which opened in fall 2010.

For more pictures of the construction, [click here](#).



Departmental Events

For more photos of ABE activities, check us out on Facebook and Flickr!



A round of applause goes to:

- [Dr. Hongwei Xin](#)
- [Rohith Gali \(Graduate\)](#), [Xiao Liang \(Graduate\)](#), and [John Stinn](#)

[\(Graduate\)](#)

- [Dr. Matthew Helmers](#)
- [Dr. Kurt Rosentrater](#)
- [Linda Geiger \(Graduate\) and Holly Wrage \(Graduate\)](#)
- [Alex Rosinger \(Senior - BSE\)](#)
- [Christian Miller \(Senior - BSE\)](#)
- [Ajay Shah \(Graduate\) and John Stinn \(Graduate\)](#)
- [Dr. Amy Kaleita](#)
- [Dr. Hongwei Xin](#)
- [Blake Wulf \(Sophomore - ITec\) and the Baja Team](#)
- Agricultural Systems Technology club for fixing 84 snow blowers and raising around \$1,600 during their service days (Nov.1-2).

More ABE news

- [ABE graduate student profile featured in Diversity/Careers Magazine](#)
- [ABE faculty featured in The Iowa Pork Producer](#)
- [Iowa State scientists team up to keep nitrates on fields](#)
- [Muzzy brings wealth of farming, industry experience to classroom](#)
- [ABE pioneers major growth of Iowa State's digital repository](#)
- [Freaky fungus could help feed the world](#)
- [Kinzenbaw honored with George Washington Carver Distinguished Service Award](#)
- [Engineering scholarship paves way for new experiences](#)
- [ISU students visit farms during Agriculture Weekend Experience](#)
- [New graduate certificate program in energy systems engineering approved, available next spring](#)
- [Iowa State launches Presidential High Impact Faculty Hires Initiative](#)
- [China's Ministry of Agriculture visits ABE](#)

Mark your calendars!

- [ABE Calendar](#)
- [College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Calendar](#)
- [College of Engineering Calendar](#)

E-News schedule

ABE Alumni E-News is published on a quarterly basis. The next issue will be published April 30, 2014. If you have news items or event dates to include, please send them to Dana Woolley by April 15.

Connect with us

For more departmental pictures, news, events, and networking, be sure to follow us via social media!

