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## **ABE Alumni E-News | Spring Edition | April 30, 2015**

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### **2016 U.S. News grad program rankings; Ag engineering up to No. 3**

Several Iowa State colleges climbed in the national graduate school rankings released on March 10th by U.S. News and World Report magazine. Iowa State's program in agricultural and biosystems engineering also jumped one spot to number 3.

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



Photo by Dan McClanahan

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### **Ninety-three years later**

Crews made great progress over spring break dismantling the 93-year-old Davidson Hall on Osborne Drive, former home of the agricultural and biosystems

Davidson Hall on Osborne Drive, former home of the agricultural and biosystems engineering department. Much of the building — both its contents and its exterior — have been repurposed or recycled.

The ISU student chapter of the American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers is selling [Davidson Hall bricks](#) as a chapter fundraiser this spring. Orders may be placed online.

To see the demolition in stages, [click here](#).



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## **New technology in ABE advances engineering design skills for students**

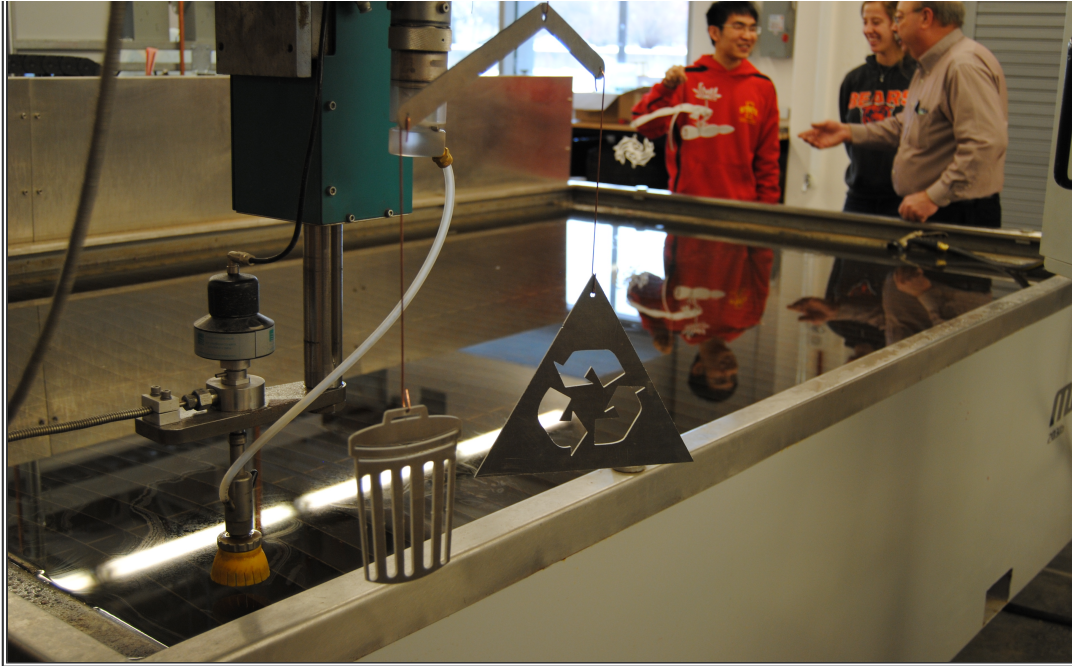
Group projects are known for providing students with important lessons about team dynamics, but there are always additional tools and knowledge that come from these experiences. In the agricultural and biosystems engineering department, a new high-powered water jet shows student groups the difference between theoretical and physical realities in project design.

The water-jet cutter is currently used in BSE/AE 218, where students are tasked with designing a mobile, but they aren't given any obvious problem to solve. They also don't receive any design requirements or criteria to follow.

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

For the Flickr album with more pictures of ABE 218, [click here](#).





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## **Making an Impact - ABE Research and Extension Highlights**

PI: **Brian Steward**

Award Amount: \$25,000

Title: Development of a design too for hydraulic cylinder cushions, Phase 2

PI: **Matthew Darr**

Award Amount: \$280,000

Title: Crop harvesting sensor innovations, Phase 2

PI: **Nir Keren**

Award Amount: \$55,000

Title: Evaluating the value of dynamic terrain simulation on training quality

PI: **Stuart Birrell**

COI: Brian Steward

Award Amount: \$30,000

Title: Development of specialty crop harvester

COI: **Raj Raman**

Award Amount: \$151,537

Title: NSF engineering research center for biorenewable chemicals (CBIRC)

PI: **Charles Schwab**

Award Amount: \$12,536

Title: National agricultural safety database (NASD)

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## New Faculty Highlight: Adina Howe



Adina Howe evaluates her success in two ways: through the impact her work has on society and through her students' achievements. "It's more than my personal accomplishments. As a professor, it's exciting that I can motivate students both in the classroom and beyond. Eventually, I hope this training will help them move forward in their careers and make positive impressions of their own."

The new assistant professor in the agricultural and biosystems engineering department says making a difference has always been a driving factor for her, which is one of the reasons she chose a career in engineering.

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

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## The life of a college mascot: It's harder than you think

A hyper-introverted industrial technology major, the fidgety, long-haired senior seemed out of place. Next to him, a yellow foot and a red felt feather peeked out of a large bag, offering the only physical foreshadowing of what was to come.

"I hate being the center of attention as a person," Collins, 21, said, "but when I'm mascoting, it's not me that is the center of attention, it's Cy. It's still me inside the suit, and it's still my personality, but everybody just sees the mascot."

Right now, he's Clark Kent, but one quick change later, he's Superman.

To read the original story by the Des Moines register, [click here](#).





### **ABE Alumni in the news**

- [Agricultural engineering alumnus promoted to plant manager at Grain Processing Corporation](#)
- [ABE alumnus honored by Quad Cities American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers](#)

### **More ABE news**

- [Coming home to Iowa State](#)
- [Iowa State University studying water storage to benefit crops, waterways](#)
- [ILF Program Director Jacqueline Comito honored with National Wetlands Award](#)
- [CB2: Collaboration on biobased products](#)
- [Engineering college names student marshal, outstanding seniors for spring 2015 commencement](#)
- [Pit foaming research continues](#)
- [ISU seed conditioning and quality evaluation workshops](#)
- [ISU students win overall prize at NACTA judging conference](#)
- [Data shows nitrates higher but improving in Iowa rivers](#)
- [Iowa Task Force 1 trains for tornado rescue in Davidson Hall](#)
- [Distillers Grains Symposium set for May 13 and 14](#)
- [Leopold Center Advisory Board welcomes new members](#)
- [Symposium to focus on whole systems approach to global food security](#)
- [CB2 produces biobased plant containers live at NPE2015](#)
- [Iowa State University Announces the Vermeer International Leadership Program](#)
- [Water Rocks! in Kansas City with the EPA](#)
- [Iowa State undergraduates showcase their research at annual Capitol event March 24](#)
- [ISU Special Collections celebrates National Ag Day with Buchele archive](#)
- [CoE Dean's Blog Guest Post by Tom Brumm](#)

- [Best way to avoid regulation is to show progress on water quality goals](#)
- [Egg production study explores environmental impact of industry](#)
- [CoE faculty honored by Plant Sciences Institute](#)
- [Hillary Kletscher named Wallace E Barron All-University Senior](#)
- [Iowa State University, Cedar Rapids partner on agricultural bioprocessing](#)
- [ISU's National Society of Black Engineers partners with Ames Middle School to teach STEM education](#)
- [Five Miller fellowships awarded for 2015-16](#)
- [Senator Ernst tours new ag labs at Iowa State](#)
- [Deconstruction of 93-year-old Davidson Hall begins](#)
- [Iowa State University Part of Grant to Improve Ag Policy in Ghana](#)
- [ISU College of Agriculture and Life Sciences recognizes outstanding ABE faculty and staff](#)
- [Former visiting student returns to Iowa State for graduate school](#)
- [Howe featured in 'Nature' spotlight on big data](#)
- [Kaleita and Bowler research low-cost sensors to monitor nitrate concentration](#)
- [ABE graduate student embraces Midwest agricultural culture](#)
- [ISU corn stover training paying off for Iowa small businesses and startup companies](#)
- [CoE faculty grants funded by Leopold Center](#)
- [Hanna offers tips for saving fuel, energy on the farm](#)
- [Iowa State students part of global challenge to reduce food insecurity](#)
- [Cellulosic bales dot countryside](#)
- [Water conservation adds up in swine operations](#)
- [Xin weighs in on egg price spike in California](#)

### E-News schedule

ABE Alumni E-News is published on a quarterly basis. The next issue will be published July 31, 2015. If you have news items or event dates to include, please send them to Dana Woolley by July 10th.

### Connect with us

ABE is now on Twitter! Follow us for the latest news, events, and photos from the department.



ABE @ ISU is distributed by the Department of Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering.

If you have questions or news items to suggest, please contact Dana Woolley at [dwoolley@iastate.edu](mailto:dwoolley@iastate.edu).  
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