



ABE Alumni E-News | Summer Edition | July 31, 2015

Iowa Learning Farms guest blog post: Making a difference

"Growing up in a different part of the world, I saw first-hand how agriculture and natural resources are vital to everyone. A large percentage of people in Burundi depend on agriculture, but there are many problems. The amount of land available is scarce, while the quality of arable land is diminishing through over-use and erosion.

To make things worse, about 60 percent of the population still doesn't have access to clean water because they don't have anyone who can help them understand how to properly care for and use the available water."

Student intern Pacifique Mugwaneza Simon (or Pac for short) is a fourth year student studying **industrial technology and agricultural systems technology**. His family is originally from Burundi, but Pac spent most of his childhood in refugee camps throughout Rwanda, Congo, and Tanzania. He has lived in the United States for almost eight years.

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



Avian flu in Iowa and beyond

- [Egg Industry Center calls for avian flu research](#)
- [Rising egg prices bedevil restaurants, grocers and consumers](#)
- [Canadian gift will help fund avian influenza research](#)
- [Xin discusses Avian Flu on Iowa Press](#)



New faculty highlight: Mehari Tekeste



Originally from the small nation of Eritrea in the Horn of Africa, Mehari Tekeste has literally traveled the world before coming to Iowa State as an assistant professor this spring. All of his ventures have had one central theme – improving the production of food, fiber and fuel.

He says his interest in agricultural engineering started during his college career at Wageningen University Research Center in the Netherlands. Later he also studied soil engineering at the National Soil Dynamics Laboratory in Auburn, Alabama. That's when he began applying the principles of soil mechanics while developing soil sensors and tillage designs.

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

Making an impact - ABE research and extension highlights

PI: **Steve Freeman**

Award Amount: \$284,062

Title: University innovation alliance

PI: **Brian Gelder**

Award Amount: \$3,000

Title: Hydro-modification of DEWM's of three Minnesota HUC 12 watersheds

PI: **David Grewell**

COI: **Raj Raman**

Award Amount: \$20,000

Title: Collaborative research - I/UCRC: Center for Bioplastics and Biocomposites

PI: **Matt Helmers**

Award Amount: \$131,956

Title: Managing water for increased resiliency of drained agricultural landscapes

PI: **Steve Mickelson**

Award Amount: \$59,850

Title: Georgian Technical University - Supporting the establishment of an agricultural faculty

PI: **Hongwei Xin**

Award Amount: \$40,000

Title: Comprehensive evaluation of a programable LED light vs. traditional CFL light for egg production (phase I)

Event photos and class highlights



ABE Alumni in the news

- [Jason Lents: BS 2011 Agricultural Engineering](#)
- [Kristine Vanderziel: BS 2011, Agricultural Engineering](#)

More ABE news

- [Andersen comments on the danger of manure pit fumes](#)
- [Prominent agricultural engineering expert passes away](#)
- [Glanville: Ways to make sure drinking water is safe](#)
- [Webinar series on ag drainage water management announced](#)
- [Farm safety, Chuck Schwab on IowaWatch](#)
- [Greenhorn grazing to optimize production](#)
- [Cyclone Power Pullers create tractor that makes life easier for operators](#)
- [Iowa State among top universities granted U.S. patents](#)
- [Hanna: Axle loads, tires, equipment contribute to soil compaction](#)

- [Helmets: Iowa State University to study benefits of farm water storage](#)
- [Andersen: Does hog size impact manure production?](#)
- [Buchele awarded Anson Marston Medal](#)
- [Tang & Steward: Robotic Weeders](#)
- [Prairie STRIPS program expands with new grant](#)

E-News schedule

ABE Alumni E-News is published on a quarterly basis. The next issue will be published October 30, 2015. If you have news items or event dates to include, please send them to Dana Woolley by October 15th.

Connect with us

A photo of the Danfoss Fluid Power Teaching Lab submitted by Dr. Brian Steward, and taken by communications specialist Dana Woolley, earned 3rd place in the “Fluid Power Professionals in Action” category of the NFPA photo contest. **Thanks to all who voted via social media!**



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.
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