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ABE Alumni E-News | Winter Edition | January 30, 2015

Harmon plays key role in new state-of-the-art home for ABE

Extension specialists are trained to be able to communicate technical information to a wide range of audiences. They act as bridges between research and application, so it was no surprise that Jay Harmon, agricultural and biosystems engineering (ABE) professor, brought those skills to the construction of the Biorenewables Complex.

Harmon's combination of expertise, communication skills and humor ensured a smooth transition for the Department of Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering in its move from Davidson Hall to a new home in Elings Hall and Sukup Hall. The buildings were dedicated in September 2014, and have been humming with activity in classrooms and labs.

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



Grewell to lead new Center for Bioplastics and Biocomposites (CB2)

The Iowa Board of Regents approved the National Science Foundation Industry & University Cooperative Research Center for Bioplastics and Biocomposites.

The center's research will develop knowledge about the production of an array of high-value products, including plastics, coatings, adhesives and composites, from agricultural and forestry feedstocks. A partnership among universities, industry and government, the [Center for Bioplastics and Biocomposites](#) or CB2 will be led by Iowa State and funded through industry and NSF support.



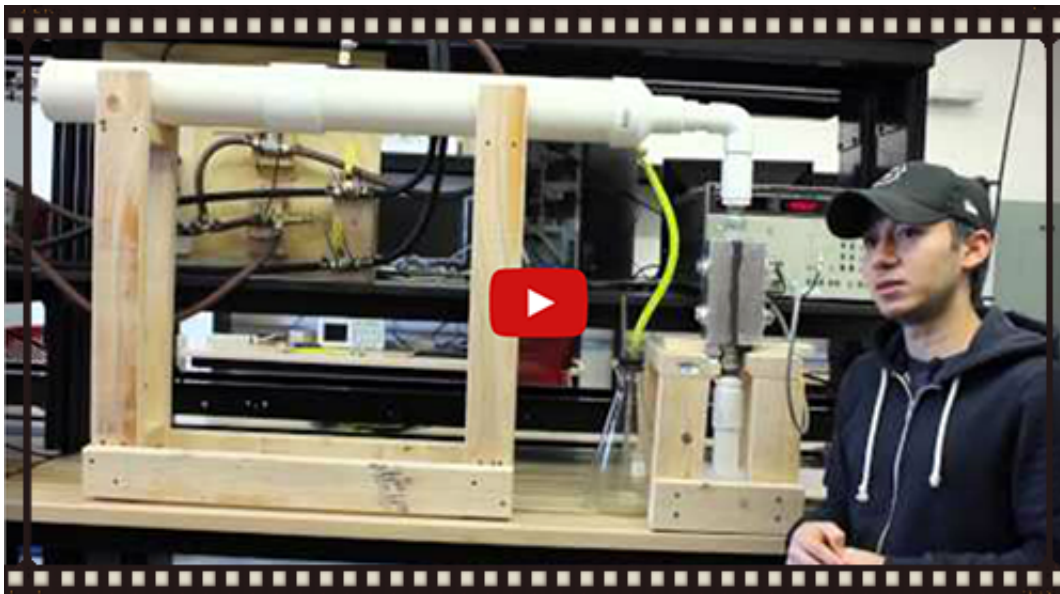
David Grewell, professor of agricultural and biosystems engineering and director of the Biopolymers and Biocomposites Research Team at Iowa State, is the center's director.

"The center's research will cover the complex and diverse aspects of establishing and promoting the use of renewable materials including

feedstock logistics, material synthesis and compounding, product design and customer acceptance, life cycle assessment, and end-of-life treatment,” said Grewell.

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

Research in Action - Contaminant sensor



Video by Chrissy Amaya

Extension in Action - [Ventilation Trailer](#)



Making an Impact - ABE Research and Extension Highlights

PI: **Daniel Anderson**

Co-PI: **Jacek Koziel**

Award Amount: \$27,183

Title: Evaluation of clinoptilolite to reduce ammonia and greenhouse gas emissions from swine facilities and improve indoor air quality

PI: **Matt Helmers**

Award Amount: \$74,997
 Title: Prairie STRIPS in Iowa: Water quality evaluation

PI: **Steven Hoff**

Co-PI: **Jay Harmon**

Award Amount: \$63,800

Title: Development of new barn commissioning and building component integrity protocols for swine housing systems

PI: **Charlie Hurburgh**

Award Amount: \$71,319

Title: Equivalence of near infrared transmission platforms

PI: **Amy Kaleita**

Award Amount: \$496,178

Title: Low-cost radio frequency sensor for real-time monitoring of nitrate concentration in water

PI: **Manjit Misra**

Award Amount: \$184,634

Title: Ghana-Feed the future agriculture technology transfer

PI: **Kurt Rosentrater**

Award Amount: \$14,973

Title: Redefining the essential fatty acid requirements of commonly cultured fish

ABE Social Events

ABEGSO Chili Cook-Off, ASABE Pancake Breakfast, Holiday Potluck - Ugly Sweater Edition



ABE Alumni in the news

- [CALs Young Alum of the Month - Ryan Jardon \(AST 2010\)](#)

More ABE news

- [ISU corn stover training paying off for Iowa small businesses and](#)

- [startup companies](#)
- [ABE faculty grants funded by Leopold Center](#)
- [Demolition nears for ISU's Davidson Hall](#)
- [New tool evaluates options for reducing odors in livestock operations](#)
- [Iowa State University researchers make fish food from Iowa agricultural commodities](#)
- [Andersen offers new "Manure Scoop" blog](#)
- [ABE students visit Uganda to improve rural livelihoods](#)
- [Working the land and the data](#)
- [New courses in biorenewables leverage Iowa NSF EPSCoR](#)
- [STRIPS: A Sustainable Solution for the Corn Belt](#)
- [Iowa State researchers hope to make bioplastic adhesives stick in the marketplace](#)
- [Helmets: Delayed harvest is slowing some land-improvement work](#)
- [New videos focus on prairie strips as an emerging conservation practice](#)
- [Hurburgh: Finding space for grain will be a challenge](#)
- [ISU part of team honored for excellence in multi-state water conservation research](#)
- [Iowa State University virtual reality system simulates the International Space Station](#)

E-News schedule

ABE Alumni E-News is published on a quarterly basis. The next issue will be published April 30, 2015. If you have news items or event dates to include, please send them to Dana Woolley by April 10th.

Connect with us



In case you missed it... Be sure to "Like" us on Facebook and check out our playlist of ABE faculty TV interviews. More are added every week, so stay tuned!



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.
1340 Elings Hall, Ames, IA 50011, 515 294-1434, abe@iastate.edu.

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