WILKEN RECEIVES TWO UNIVERSITY AWARDS

Dr. Lisa Wilken, assistant professor in Biological and Agricultural Engineering, is the first faculty member in the College of Engineering to receive the University Distinguished Faculty Award for the Mentoring of Undergraduate Students in Research since its inception in 2007. This award recognizes outstanding individual contributions to the development of undergraduates in research projects at K-State.

BAE department head, Joe Harner, said “Lisa has proactively supported students’ professional and scholarly development through actively advising undergraduate research and engineering design projects. Her passion is to teach the next generation of researchers by modeling the values and professional engineering skills she teaches her undergraduate students through mentoring.”

“As a mentor, I strive to provide undergraduate students with valuable laboratory experience in developing novel bioprocessing techniques,” said Dr. Wilken. “I also strive to foster independent thinking and creativity, create a diverse and supportive environment, and encourage professional development.”

Dr. Wilken is also one of four recipients of the Presidential Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching, and the first BAE faculty member to receive this award.

“These talented teachers are dedicated to helping students succeed at K-State and preparing them for future accomplishments,” said Kirk Schulz, University president. “We are grateful for their efforts and appreciate the continued support of Chris Curtin and Curtin Property Company to reward them for their dedication, which advances K-State’s goal of becoming a Top 50 public research university by 2025.”

“We are pleased to join with the K-State president’s office in recognizing and rewarding these highly talented educators,” said Chris Curtin, president of Curtin Property Company. “Their commitment to their students’ success to professional excellence and to K-State is inspirational to all of us.”

Dr. Wilken exemplifies the values and skills she teaches through her leadership roles in the engineering community. She was instrumental in revamping a biological and agricultural design course with 10 semester-long projects. She coached upperclassmen in service as peer mentors to guide freshmen through the process. Dr. Wilken has developed an educational model that integrates the development of superior writing and oral communication skills with quality laboratory research experiences.
The awards for the University Distinguished Faculty Award for Mentoring of Undergraduate Students in Research and the Presidential Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching were presented to Dr. Wilken at the All-University Awards Ceremony held on May 2 in the K-State Alumni Center Ballroom.

BSE STUDENTS WIN KIRM瑟ER UNDERGRADUATE AWARDS
The team of Austin Schmitz, David Leiszler, and Peter Masters has been selected as the grand prize winner in the group category of the Kirmser Undergraduate Research Award. Their project was titled, Design of a Mechanical System to Remove Net Wrap from Large Round Hay Bales. The project was completed as a requirement for BAE 536, Biological Systems Engineering Senior Design and is an active, ongoing project in BAE 636, Biological Systems Engineering Design Project.

The goal of the team’s engineering project was to design a mechanical system to cut and remove plastic net wrap (i.e., a material used to bind bales, reduce hay spoilage, and improve bailing efficiency) from hay bales. Current methods for removing net wrap are strenuous, potentially dangerous, and labor-intensive. The client, Kansas AgrAbility program, also requested the design be suitable for farmers with physical handicaps. To address these challenges, the team researched existing solutions, developed conceptual solutions, and modeled, built, and tested potential machines for net wrap removal. The final design included a hydraulically powered swing arm, electric winch motors to move trolley, a cutting mechanism, and electric linear actuator.

Course instructor, Mr. Ed Brokesh, indicated the quality of their project was a direct result of the amount of research work the team invested. The team used library databases and links extensively to locate information on existing and past products, patents, peer-reviewed journal publications, and ASABE and SAE safety standards. They also spent time interviewing and watching their customer work to understand the individual’s need and limitations.

Each member receives a cash prize, and their names were added to a plaque permanently displayed in Hale Library’s Hall of Scholars. They will be invited to have their materials permanently archived in K-State’s Research Exchange (K-REx).

Ms. Kseniya Sheshukova, BSE senior, received an honorable mention award in the non-freshman category of the Kirmser Undergraduate Research Award for her project, Analysis of Recombinant Human Serum Albumin Extraction and Degradation in Transgenic Rice Extracts. Kseniya will also be invited to have her materials permanently archived in K-REx.

Congratulations to all!

COE SUPPORT STAFF EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR  (Article submitted by Dr. Lisa Wilken)
Congratulations to Ms. Barb Moore, senior administrative assistant in Biological & Agricultural Engineering, for receiving the 2015 College of Engineering University Support Staff Employee of the Year Award. Barb was presented the award by Senior Associate Dean Gary Cark, on Monday, April 18th, at the College of Engineering Staff Appreciation Luncheon. Barb was also recognized at the 39th Annual University Support Staff Recognition Ceremony on April 27th. The award is given annually to a university support staff member who has demonstrated outstanding achievement and performance, has an ability to work respectfully and effectively with others, and takes initiative and uses creativity to improve the department/unit.

Dr. Joe Harner and Ms. Barb Moore.

Pictured left to right (back row): David Leiszler, Peter Masters, Austin Schmitz. Seated: Mr. Ed Brokesh, Mr. Neal Gugler.

Dr. Lisa Wilken and Ms. Kseniya Sheshukova.
One of Barb’s colleagues said, “Barb has been doing outstanding work since she started working in BAE in 2006. Her positive attitude and demeanor, outstanding organizational skills, high quality work, and willingness to contribute above and beyond her duties have made her a tremendous asset to our department and to the college.” Barb has had significant contributions to the BAE graduate program; daily departmental operations, events, and communications; and faculty, student, and staff support. Another BAE faculty said, “Barb is a very caring and supportive colleague who truly wants the best for our students, faculty, and staff.”

Congratulations, Barb, and thanks for your dedication and service to the BAE department!

**BSE STUDENT STUDYING ABROAD SUMMER/FALL 2016**

BSE sophomore Victoria Thomas will be heading to Havana, Cuba on the Academic Programs International K-State Scholarship. Congratulations, Victoria, and safe travels!

**DEPARTMENT END-OF-YEAR PICNIC**

The annual student/faculty picnic will be held on Thursday, May 5, beginning at 5:30 p.m. at Tuttle Creek Shelter No. 4 hosted by the ASABE Student Branch and the ATM Club. Carpooling is encouraged! Email Chloe Boudreaux, ctboud@ksu.edu, by May 3 if you cannot find a ride. If raining, the location will be the first-floor Atrium in the Engineering Complex. Plan on some volleyball competition! If there are other “yard” games you would like to play, bring the equipment!
THOUGHT FOR THE DAY
“A mind that has stretched will never return to its original dimension.”
--Albert Einstein

LOOKING AHEAD:
May 5 – BAE Student/Faculty Picnic, 5:30 p.m., Tuttle Creek Shelter No. 4
May 6 – Last day of Spring 2016 term
May 9-13 – Finals week
May 13 – COE Graduate Student Graduation Reception, 10:30-11:45 a.m., IGP
May 13 – Graduate School commencement, 1:00 p.m., Bramlage Coliseum
May 14 – Order of the Engineer, 2:00 p.m., Forum Hall
May 14 – COE Undergraduate Commencement Reception, 3:00-5:00 p.m., Engineering Atriums
May 14 – Undergraduate commencement: COA 2:30 p.m., COE 6:30 p.m. Bramlage Coliseum
May 17 – Spring 2016 final grades submission deadline: KSOL 4:00 p.m., KSIS 5:00 p.m.
May 18 – Grades available in KSIS
May 23 – Summer 2016 term begins
May 30 – University holiday
August 22 – Fall 2016 semester begins

Please submit your news and travel information to Barb Moore bjmoore2@ksu.edu