



**California/Nevada Section
Bimonthly Update
November 1, 2006
Fifth Edition**

- * **Section Meeting – February 14, 2007**
- * **Engineer-of-the-Year Award Nominations**
- * **Section Officers**
- * **Modern Marvels' Harvesting II – November 29, 2006**
- * **SB246 & Ag Engineering Licensure**
- * **Biogas Energy Project -- UC Davis & Onsite Power Systems**
- * **ASABE^100 High School Competition**

* **Section Meeting – February 14, 2007**

Same time (5-8 pm) and place (AgTAC in Tulare), with more info in the next Update. If you attend with your significant other, we'll provide you with a special chocolate gift. With the meeting already advertised in ASABE's E-News, we hope to draw folks from afar and even other Sections, even farther than Bruce Enyeart and his group from Butte College.

* **Engineer-of-the-Year Award Nominations**

Because several officers have suggested bringing back the Engineer-of-the-Year Award, the decision was made to move forward with this initiative. Awards Committee Chair Richard Cavaletto is finalizing the nomination form that will be up on the web site in a matter of days. www.asabecanv.org A committee comprised of Richard and two others will review the nominations and recommend the awardee to the leadership group. The award will be presented at the Section Meeting. For a copy of the form if you don't have internet, or for any Award related questions, contact Richard at rcavalet@calpoly.edu, 805-756-2383.

* **Section Officers**

The Section's leadership group has spent time evaluating the officer positions, an activity suggested at last year's Section meeting. So, Carolyn Jones moves into the vacant Vice Chair position, while continuing to serve as chair of the standing Program Committee for now, and two standing committee chair vacancies have been filled. Please welcome Traeger Cotten as standing Industry/Student Liason Committee chair and Ginger L'Heureux as standing Membership Committee chair. Traeger is a Cal Poly graduate working as a Field Engineer with AgTAC in Tulare. Ginger L'Heureux graduated with her Biological Systems Engineering degree from the University of Nebraska in December of 2002. Since that time Ginger has worked in Nebraska, Iowa and now California for Civil Engineering consulting firms and then in May of 2006, she graduated with her Communication Studies degree, also from the Univeristy of Nebraska.

* **Modern Marvels' Harvesting II – November 29, 2006**

Cable television's Modern Marvels series on the History Channel will premiere Harvesting II on November 29. This episode is a follow-up to Harvesting that premiered a couple of years ago and received good feedback. The new episode again includes members of the CA/NV Section, specifically UC Davis' Jim Thompson and Victor Duraj, as well as UC Davis Plant Sciences Professor Adel Kader. After the show broadcasts it will be available on DVD, a copy of which we intend to have showing at the Section Meeting happy hour. www.history.com/minisites/modernmarvels

* **SB246 & Ag Engineering Licensure**

Thank you to all of you who participated in the discussion and work on the Ag Engineering License issue in California. Due to the opposition of eliminating the license, SB 246 was completely re-written into a bill dealing with human milk. Another bill, SB 1476, was created and passed to extend the life of the Board for Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors until 2011. The Agricultural Engineering PE exam will still be offered in California

and licensees have the authority to hold the title Agricultural Engineer. We will still keep you informed on further developments as they take place.

*** Biogas Energy Project – UC Davis & Onsite Power Systems**

Here is an excerpt from http://www.news.ucdavis.edu/search/news_detail.lasso?id=7915 a news story coordinated by UCD's Sylvia Wright, covering the grand opening event attended by about four hundred people, Deans of two UCD colleges, Congressman Dan Lungren, the Chinese Consul from San Francisco, political appointees, and others.

“Starting today, tons of table scraps from the Bay Area's finest restaurants will be turned into clean, renewable energy at a new UC Davis research and technology demonstration facility. ...The Biogas Energy Project is the first large-scale demonstration in the United States of a new technology developed in the past eight years by Ruihong Zhang, a UC Davis professor of biological and agricultural engineering. The technology, called an "anaerobic phased solids digester," has been licensed from the university and adapted for commercial use by Onsite Power Systems Inc. The goal of this innovative public-private alliance is to divert organic matter -- stuff made from plants and animals, such as food waste and yard clippings -- away from landfills and into the energy grid. That reduces greenhouse gas emissions from landfills and turns trash into a substantial source of clean energy.“

[For a short video of the new facility, click to http://www.onsitepowersystems.com/about_us.html]

*** ASABE^100 High School Competition**

For those of you who don't receive ASABE E-News, or simply missed this item in the email that went out on October 30, here is the item in its entirety.

HIGH SCHOOL COMPETITION UNDERWAY--HELP SPREAD THE WORD!

Thanks to generous donations through the Anniversary Fund, ASABE is proud to announce the ASABE100 Multi-Media Competition for High School Students. That's "ASABE to the hundredth power!" Entrants are asked to consider what our world would be like without the contributions of agricultural and biological engineers and present their thoughts in an essay and in two graphic media. You can help promote the competition by spreading the word to your local high schools and youth organizations. Complete information, including rules and a printable flyer, are available at www.asabe.org/pr/asabe100comp/index.html. Please don't delay--the deadline for students to sign up is DECEMBER 15, and entries are due January 15. Contest committee member Carolyn Jones is still recruiting judges. For details, email her at Carolyn.Jones@ca.usda.gov.

- Bimonthly Update contributors: ASABE E-News, Victor Duraj, Carolyn Jones, UCD News Service
- For previous editions of the Update, please visit www.asabecanv.org.
- If you have questions or comments, feel free to contact Victor at 530-754-9888, vduraj@ucdavis.edu
- If you have ideas for Update items, or would like to get involved in the leadership group, let us know.