



California/Nevada Section  
 Bimonthly Update  
 October 3, 2023  
 Ninety Eighth Edition

- ❖ [ASABE Annual International Meeting \(AIM\)](#)
  - [AIM 2023 \(Omaha, NE\) Recap](#)
  - [AIM 2024 \(Anaheim, CA\)](#)
- ❖ [School Updates](#)
  - [CalPoly San Luis Obispo BRAE Dept.](#)
  - [UC Davis BAE Department](#)
- ❖ [CA/NV Student Rally 2024 at UC Davis, January 13-15, 2024](#)
- ❖ [Member Highlight – Catelyn Bridges](#)
- ❖ [Save the Date \(2/14/2024\): Annual Section Meeting and EOY Nomination](#)
- ❖ [Do You Feel A Calling?](#)
  
- ❖ [ASABE Annual International Meeting \(AIM\)](#)
  - [AIM 2023 \(Omaha, NE\) Recap](#)

The ASABE 2023 Annual International Meeting (AIM) featured technical talks, a mini symposium on Circular Bioeconomy Systems Institute (CBSI), K-12 outreach activities, competitions, a career fair, and excursions for everyone. From July 9 to July 12, the conference was hosted in the Omaha Hilton and the CHI Center in Omaha, Nebraska. Processing Systems (PRS) and Education, Outreach, and Professional Development (EOPD) were some of the many technical presentations offered. The CBSI mini symposium focused on creative collaborations and systems that will help us advance toward a vision of a healthy planet powered by thriving, sustainable circular bioeconomy systems that produce abundant food, feed, forest products, and renewable resources. To help inspire bright young minds, Future Engineers Days gave local Omaha children, aged 14 to 18, a two-day opportunity to learn firsthand about careers in agricultural and biological engineering. A Digital Agriculture Hackathon Kick-Off, Fountain Wars, Robotics Design, Ethics in Engineering Essay, and many other student competitions were held. Finally, the local ag tours demonstrated the influence and vitality of Omaha Nebraska. Tours included the Henry Doorly Zoo, Botanical Garden, Farm of the Future (N-Farms), and the Nebraska Tractor Testing Lab (NTTL). AIM also provided a forum to raise awareness of current industry trends, promote and recognize design and technological advances, and give chances for professional development - all with a focus on the industry's economic, political, and societal impacts. While these were just some of the offerings at AIM, you can find out more [here](#).

- **AIM 2024 (Anaheim, CA)**

**SAVE THE DATE: July 28-31, 2024:**

**The Annual International Meeting is coming to our CA/NV Section next Summer!**

With AIM rotating venues next year into in Anaheim, CA from July 28-31, 2024, we have even more reason to attend! Details on the program and events are still coming together and can be found [here](#). We have the unique opportunity to showcase local Ag. and Bio. Engineering members, sites, products, and activities to the ASABE world, so if you have any ideas for tours, products, or displays that you think should be included in the agenda, please contact Peter Livingston ([paliving@calpoly.edu](mailto:paliving@calpoly.edu)) and Steve Zicari ([szicari@gmail.com](mailto:szicari@gmail.com)) with your thoughts!



- ❖ **School Updates**

- **Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo, BioResource & Agricultural Engineering Dept.**

This month we want to highlight the BioResource & Agricultural Engineering (BRAE) department at Cal Poly for their unwavering dedication to providing an exceptional education and fostering a culture of excellence. Renowned for their commitment to hands-on learning and cutting-edge research, the department equips students with the knowledge and skills needed to tackle the most pressing challenges in modern agriculture and environmental sustainability. With state-of-the-art facilities, passionate faculty, and a strong emphasis on experiential education, students at Cal Poly are not just recipients of knowledge, but active contributors to innovative solutions. Whether it is designing sustainable farming systems, developing renewable energy sources, or advancing precision agriculture techniques, Cal Poly BRAE prepares its students to lead the way in creating a more sustainable and resilient future for our planet. Check out the [BRAE magazine](#) for more information!

- **UC Davis Biological and Agricultural Engineering Department**

Congratulations to UC Davis Biological and Agricultural Engineering (BAE) department for achieving a remarkable feat, ranking in the top 3 of the Best Biological Engineering Programs according to the U.S. News & World Report! This well-deserved recognition reflects the department's steadfast commitment to excellence in teaching, research, and innovation. Since 1915, the BAE department has been a trailblazer in addressing critical issues at the intersection of biology, agriculture, and engineering. Whether in biotechnology, biomaterials, agricultural production, food quality, or food safety, the BAE department is helping lead the way forward. This achievement is a testament to the dedication of the faculty, the hard work of students, and the department's significant contributions to advancing knowledge and technology for a more sustainable and prosperous future.

- ❖ **CA/NV Student Rally 2024 at UC Davis, January 13-15, 2024**



**Attention Students!** The 2024 ASABE California/Nevada Section Student Rally will be hosted at UC Davis by the Department of Biological and Agricultural Engineering over Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday weekend (Jan 13-15th, 2024).

The Student Rally is a weekend of social, networking, and career development activities for students interested in agricultural and biological systems engineering, forestry, agriculture, plant and veterinary sciences, ag systems management, and other related disciplines. Examples of activities that take place during a Student Rally include social mixers, career panels, school/department tours, local industry tours, and a business meeting.

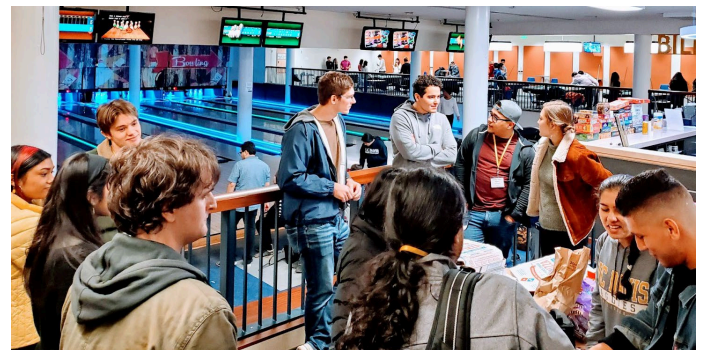
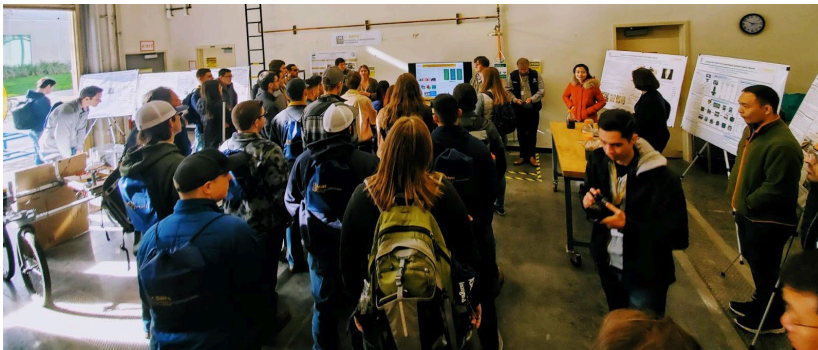
For more information about the Student Rally and the activities that take place during a Student Rally, please visit the [ASABE CA/NV Section Student Rally Website](#) to see programs and photos of prior Student Rallies.

And make sure to SAVE THE DATE:

- What: 2024 ASABE CA/NV Student Rally
- Where: UC Davis, Davis, CA
- Hosted by: Bio & Agricultural Engineering Dept.
- When: MLK Jr Holiday Weekend (Jan 13-15<sup>th</sup>, 2024)
- Website: <https://asabecanv.wordpress.com/rally/>
- Photos: [2020 Student Rally at UC Davis](#)

The planning committee is regularly meeting to work on Student Rally programming, logistics, and outreach. Officer positions are still available. If you are interested in being a Student Rally Officer or would like to attend meetings and help with Student Rally organizing, please contact Ian Nielsen, [ianielsen@ucdavis.edu](mailto:ianielsen@ucdavis.edu), or Hossein Edalati, [ahedalati@ucdavis.edu](mailto:ahedalati@ucdavis.edu).

**Photos of the Inaugural Student Rally at UC Davis in 2020:**



**(Left)** UCD BAE Faculty and Student Presentations to Rally attendees in 1330 Bainer Hall  
**(Right)** Student Rally Social in the Memorial Union Bowling Alley



**(Left)** San Joaquin County Historical Museum inside Micke Grove Park in Lodi, CA  
**(Right)** Alumni and Career Panel in Davis, CA



**(Left)** Students working on their catapult in the Engineering Design Competition  
**(Right)** Tour of the UC Davis BAE Shop



**(Left)** Paul Burkner gives a tour at his company, Ag Industrial Manufacturing. A grape harvester can be seen behind Paul. **(Right)** Tour of the UC Davis Food Engineering Lab.

## ❖ Member Highlight – Catelyn Bridges



This month's member highlight is our section's Vice Chair, Catelyn Bridges! Catelyn got started with ASABE in 2018 when pursuing her MS in Biological and Agricultural Engineering from Texas A&M. She is also an alumni of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln where she received a BS in Biological Systems Engineering. She is currently pursuing her PhD in Horticulture and Agronomy and her research focuses on understanding how post-harvest practices such as drying and storage effect the quality of medicinal hemp flowers. Catelyn hopes to become an assistant professor for biological and agricultural engineering after completing her dissertation. Let's get to know Catelyn and give her a big welcome to the west!

**Below you can read Catelyn's thoughts on the 5 questions posed to her.**

### **One - Piece of advice I'd give new graduates:**

One piece of advice I would provide to recent grads is to not be afraid of taking risks. Individuals who take measured chances in their jobs open new prospects for growth and development, which can lead to greater levels of success and fulfillment. Furthermore, cultivating a growth mindset is critical for overcoming anxiety and resistance to taking risks in one's career advancement.

### **Two - Things I learned on the job that I didn't learn in college:**

Learning how to manage and anticipate your supervisor's demands by learning about their habits, strengths, and limitations, as well as your relationship with them. It also means assisting them with work tasks when necessary and being truthful about your professional skills and/or career goals. Some key tips on managing up are to tell your supervisor on how to manage you the best way, suggest solutions to problems, and understand their motivations for their current role. Also, demonstrate attributes that supervisors value, such as teamwork, dependability, and the ability to deliver credible work.

### **Three - Concepts I learned in college that I use regularly:**

Project management, critical thinking, and adaptability are concepts I gained in college that I apply on a daily basis as a PhD student. I oversee various initiatives in graduate school, including research-related duties, coursework, professional development, teaching, and service activities. Knowing how to prioritize a work and estimate the time needed to complete it is essential in project management. Answering several technical challenges taught me how to identify a problem and how to solve it using the information based on current available information. Finally, adaptability is important in determining when to adjust my current behaviors to achieve a desired objective and what mindset to adopt when difficulties arise.

### **Four - Favorite technical aspects of my job:**

I have yet to enter my chosen career of becoming a tenured professor because I am currently a graduate student. As a result, I'll explain why I'm thrilled to pursue this career. The desire to work in higher education, where I could intellectually support students, produce credible scientific findings, and collaborate with colleagues who share my enthusiasm, drove my pursuit of a PhD degree. I truly enjoy teaching students and exposing them to the latest scientific studies on agricultural commodities processing. Another reason I want to become a professor is to advance the field of knowledge in post-harvest

procedures to solve real-world challenges involved in drying, storage, treatment systems, and other handling operations.

**Five - Places I've been or things I've seen in my career:**

I will contribute equally significantly to closing the representational gap that I encountered during my education. It wasn't until I started my master's program in Biological and Agricultural Engineering at Texas A&M at the age of 23 that I was mentored by an educator with a similar background to mine and an interest in solving agricultural challenges. My main professional ambition is to become a tenured professor who regularly encourages students' self-efficacy, self-confidence, and self-identity through teaching and research, much as Dr. Janie Moore did for me.

**❖ Annual Section Meeting Save the Date and Engineer of the Year Nominations, February 14, 2024**

Save the date! We will be hosting our annual section business meeting on February 14, 2024, held in conjunction with the 2024 World Ag Expo. Spend a day seeing what is up-and-coming in the industry at the Expo, then join us for dinner at the section meeting. Partners and guests are welcome, too. As we do every year, one member of our section will be awarded the Engineer of the Year (EOY) award. Please send your nominations to Lynn Groundwater-Moeller, [lgroundwater@ppeng.com](mailto:lgroundwater@ppeng.com), for consideration.

**❖ Do You Feel A Calling?**

Would you like to get more involved with ASABE and the CANV Section? Do you have ideas for Agricultural and Biological Engineering activities?

We have several opportunities to work on various committees. If you would like to get more involved, want some exposure to fellow professionals, or have some interesting new ideas of ways to improve the CA/NV Section please contact any of our officers through <https://asabecanv.wordpress.com/officers/>.

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- For previous editions of the Update, please visit <https://asabecanv.wordpress.com/newsletter/>.
- If you have questions or comments, feel free to contact Dr. Irwin R. Donis-González (contact info above)
- If you have ideas for update items or would like to get involved in the Section, please let us know!