



The Society for engineering in agricultural, food, and biological systems

Spring 2003

Upcoming Events:

July 27-30, 2003
2003 International Meeting of the ASAE, Riviera Hotel and Conference Center, Las Vegas, Nevada

February 24-27, 2004
Annual Texas Section Meeting Joint Meeting with Soil and Water Conservation Society
 Ramada Inn Bayfront Hotel
 Corpus Christi, Texas

Other ASAE Events are available on ASAE's website:
www.asae.org

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Dear Fellow Texas Section ASAE Members:

I hope this newsletter finds you doing well both professionally and personally. Homeland Security issues, International tensions, and domestic economic concerns highlight and increase the need for biological and agricultural engineering, and agricultural systems management professionals to provide solutions to the challenges we face. Many of you have been directly involved in new efforts to address Homeland Security activities. I thank you and encourage each of us to look for and accept these opportunities to serve.

The Texas Section of ASAE remains strong – membership has increased approximately 14% since last year to 436 members. Our members have been recognized for their outstanding achievement through national awards and service on distinguished panels. Some of those receiving national recognition include:

- Dr. Alan Brashears received the Mayfield Cotton Engineering Award and Dr. Bruce J. Lesikar received the Nolan Mitchell Young Extension Worker Award at the 2002 ASAE International Meeting.
- Dr. Calvin B. Parnell, Jr.; Dr. John M Sweeten, Jr.; and Robert V. Avant, Jr. were recently appointed by Ann Veneman, Secretary of Agriculture, to serve on the Agricultural Air Quality Task Force.
- Dr. Calvin B. Parnell, Jr. recently served on the National Academy of Sciences Committee on Air Emissions from Animal Operations.

Steven T. Bednarz has taken leadership in pursuing the opportunity for a joint meeting between the Texas Section of ASAE and the Texas Soil and Water Conservation Society. This has resulted in the decision to have a joint meeting February 24-27, 2004 in Corpus Christi. Therefore, the Texas Section meeting previously planned for this fall in Huntsville will be postponed until the fall of 2004. Catherine Nash has agreed to serve as Vice-Chair for Programs and Plans and will oversee the planning for this joint meeting. I look forward to this opportunity for a strong technical program that will build on our common interests and expand each group's view of current challenges and opportunities. Additional information about the joint meeting will be presented in our fall newsletter – for now, please mark February 24-27, 2004 on your calendar.

I hope you have a great summer. Thank you for your support of the Texas Section of ASAE.

Bryan W. Shaw, Ph.D.
 Chair – Texas Section ASAE

2002 Texas Section Awards Recipients

Special Service Award – *At the April 2002 Executive Committee Meeting, Dr. Coble was nominated for a special award in recognition of his contributions to the Texas Section of ASAE. Dr. Coble was instrumental in providing guidance, direction, and encouragement to keep students involved in ASAE after graduation.*



Charlie G. Coble, Ph.D., P.E.

Coble is a professor emeritus at Texas A&M University. He grew up in South Carolina and received a B. S. degree from Clemson University. He received an M.S. and a Ph. D. from North Carolina State University both in Biological and

Agricultural Engineering. He joined the faculty of Texas A&M in 1972. His research and teaching interests are in machine design, agricultural machinery, alternative energy, and biomass production.

He has been active in the American Society of Agricultural Engineers (ASAE) for 40 years serving the Texas Section of ASAE in many capacities including Chair. Dr. Coble has been active in the national society serving on numerous committees, serving a term as Chair of the Power and Machinery Division, and currently serves as trustee of the ASAE Foundation. He has been a member of TSPE and NSPE for 30 years and has served as Chair of the Brazos Chapter of TSPE.

He served in the U. S. Army from 1967 to 1970 including a tour in Vietnam and taught at the Army Logistics Management Center. He has been married to his wife, Sally, for over 28 years and has two grown sons. He resides in College Station, Texas.

Length of Service Awards

25 Years –	John R. Fisher Gerald Ray Groebe Mark A. Locke Rickey Gene Petty Walter J. Vestal
40 Years –	Alan D. Brashears Charlie G. Coble
50 Years -	Victor L. Hauser John H. Jones
60 Years –	Charles W. Geelan
61 Years –	Craig W. Cannon
62 Years –	Ira L. Williams
63 Years –	Jerome W. Sorenson, Jr.

Agricultural Engineer of the Year - *This award recognizes those individuals who provide significant contributions to the agricultural engineering profession through professional excellence and dedication to service.*



David B. Parker, Ph.D., P.E.

Dr. Parker has been an assistant professor in the Division of Agriculture at West Texas A&M University (WTAMU) since January 1997 and was recently promoted to associate professor in 2002. He has a 75% research, 25% teaching appointment. He

has conducted research and developed a graduate teaching program spanning a wide range of subjects including feedlot surfacing materials, groundwater protection, application of manure and wastewater, water use at feedlots, composting, biogas production from high solids manure, and odor measurement and control. Before coming to WTAMU, Dr. Parker worked at the University of Nebraska and did consulting work. In addition, Dr. Parker is a registered professional engineer in Texas and holds professional engineering licenses in four other states.

At WTAMU, Dr. Parker teaches undergraduate and graduate level courses in agricultural waste management and statistics. His research focuses on odor and air quality at beef cattle feedyards, and he manages the olfactometry laboratory at WTAMU. He has 77 research publications, has received two American Society of Agricultural Engineers (ASAE) superior paper awards, has received the WTAMU Research Excellence Award, and has attracted \$800,000 in grants. He is currently chair of the ASAE SE-412 Agricultural Waste Management Committee, a member of the SW-263 Land Application Committee, and an associate editor of the publication Applied Engineering in Agriculture.

Nomination: Peers wrote, “Dr. Parker is one of the most productive and successful engineers working in animal agriculture in the U.S. today.....Dr. Parker relishes a technical challenge and likes to plow new ground.....He is a great mentor to undergraduate and graduate students, and junior engineers.”

Young Engineer of the Year - *This award recognizes an agricultural or biological engineer who has demonstrated outstanding professional practice and service early in their career. Recipients must show exceptional professional achievement and be under the age of 35.*



Ben Weinheimer, P.E.

Weinheimer is the regulatory manager for the Texas Cattle Feeders Association (TCFA), headquartered in Amarillo, a position he's held since July 1995 when he began work at TCFA.

As regulatory manager, Ben helps TCFA feedyard members understand and interpret the many rules and regulations from state and federal governments that affect their daily business. He is a trained environmental auditor and helps feedyards with their environmental stewardship efforts. He is responsible for the TCFA Environmental Services Program, which is a hands-on program designed to help feedyards maintain environmental compliance. Ben also serves as the primary staff person on the TCFA's Research Committee and was the principal author in a revision of the TCFA Beef Safety and Quality Assurance ProgramSM, which included HACCP principles and a new focus on beef safety.

Outside the TCFA, Ben is a member of the American Society of Agricultural Engineers (ASAE) and currently serves as the Secretary-Treasurer of the ASAE Texas Section. He regularly attends the International ASAE Conference, has co-authored several technical papers, which have been presented at the international conferences, and has served as both a member and an officer on several ASAE environmental committees.

Ben grew up on a diversified grain and livestock operation near Groom, Texas where he still lives. He graduated in December 1994 from Texas A&M University with a bachelor's degree in agricultural engineering and is also a licensed professional engineer. Ben and his wife Jennifer are the parents of a daughter, Brittany, and sons, Todd and Will.

Nomination: Peers wrote, Ben's activities require that he be able to communicate effectively with a wide variety of people concerning these complex and often volatile subjects....Because of his outstanding work ethic, reputation, and moral character, Ben should be awarded Young Engineer of the Year by the ASAE Texas Section.

Superior Service Awards for Student

Members - *The recipients must demonstrate exceptional leadership and service within their student branch. The award consists of a plaque and a check for \$500.*

Ryan Saucier received the award for the agricultural mechanization program. Ryan is a student at Sam Houston State University. He recently completed his B.S. degree in Agricultural Business with a minor in Agricultural Mechanization. He is currently completing a M.S. in Agriculture with an emphasis in Agricultural Mechanization and is employed as a teaching assistant. He is an excellent student, with a 3.66 GPA, and is on the National Dean's List of Honored Students.

Cale Boriack received the award for the engineering program. Cale is a senior in the Biological and Agricultural Engineering Dept. at Texas A&M University. He is a native of Giddings, Texas and currently serves as Vice President of the ASAE Student Branch. He was the EMI (Engineering Manufacturers Institute) report chairman for 2001 and 2002. Cale has been very actively involved in many ASAE activities, including the Aggie Pullers, Lawn Mower Tune-up Day, and Aggie Toy Drive. Cale is a very bright student with excellent ability in analyzing engineering problems. He pays attention to details and follows through with the assigned task.

2002 Arnold Hayes Golf Tournament – The 2002 Golf Tournament was held in Lubbock, Texas. A special thanks to Cleon Namken for his hard work in putting together this event. Again, the results seem a little fishy, but here they are:

1st Place: Arnold Hayes
2nd Place: Calvin Parnell

Several other prizes were given at the awards banquet. Be sure to join the players at the next meeting in Corpus Christi.

2002 International Meeting Award

For other awards received by members of the Texas section during the 2002 meeting, please see the Fall 2002 newsletter.



Dr. Alan Brashears Mayfield Cotton Engineering Award

This award is sponsored by Deere & Company to encourage and to recognize outstanding engineering contributions to the cotton industry. It is named after William Donald Mayfield, an

extension agricultural engineer who devoted his career to the application of engineering fundamentals.

Dr. Alan Brashears is the Research Leader for the Cotton Production and Processing Unit with USDA – Agriculture Research Service (ARS). He has contributed over 42 years to his research career. He is internationally recognized as an innovative and pioneering research engineer. He serves as an essential resource expert for advice and counsel in areas of enhancing cotton quality during the harvest.

He has used his ingenuity and research to influence changes in commercial cotton harvesting equipment. These changes have reduced the amount of foreign matter in the harvested cotton. He has also performed economic research, which demonstrated that the cotton producers were being excessively docked for foreign matter in the harvested and baled cotton. His research established a detailed understanding of the critical parameters of weather, production practices, and harvester modification on foreign matter and cotton quality.

He has received numerous awards throughout his career. He has served ASAE in many capacities at the International, Southwest Region, and the Texas Section on various committees and offices. He also served as Chair of the Texas Section from 1987-1988.

ASAE Websites of Interest:

ASAE – www.asae.org

Texas Section ASAE – txsection.tamu.edu

Student Branch Information

Sam Houston State University:

www.shsu.edu/~agr www/org/ag_mech_club.html

Southwest Texas State University:

www.swt.edu/agriculture/StudentOrgs/agsysmng.htm

Texas A&M University: asae.tamu.edu

NEWS FROM TEXAS A&M:

William N. Lehrer

Distinguished Chair in Water Engineering

A \$500,000 donation from a family heavily involved in the water industry for many years has created the Caroline and William N. Lehrer Distinguished Chair in Water Engineering in our department.

The donation, which was a combined effort by Caroline Lehrer and by the late William N. Lehrer's children, Gretchen Lehrer McMenimen, Mary L. Armour, Nancy L. Boyd and William Paul Lehrer, was motivated by William Lehrer's involvement in the water industry. Mr. Lehrer had a canal system, the Garwood Irrigation System, that supplies water to Colorado and Wharton counties. The water was used by farmers in those counties to grow rice. Although Mr. Lehrer sold his canal system in 1998, the water industry was always an important part of the Lehrers' lives and they wanted to show their appreciation by making this important donation to Texas A&M University.

The Chair will focus on research, education and extension programs in a broad range of water engineering topics (including surface water and groundwater hydrology, irrigation engineering and water quality, urban water resource management, reuse of municipal wastewater, water quality, drought and climate forecasting, wildlife habitat management, pollution management, water quality remediation and water conservation). It will provide a source of funds to enhance a program of excellence in water engineering by attracting or retaining a distinguished scholar in the field of water engineering.

John L. Hagaman '61

Endowed Fund for Excellence

John Hagaman graduated in 1961 from the Agricultural Engineering Department at Texas A&M University. He continued on to a life-long distinguished career with the Dow Chemical Company that included several international assignments, serving as vice president, and as president and chief executive office of DowElanco* a joint venture between Eli Lilly and Dow Chemical. In 1999 he was named and Outstanding Alumni of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. Hagaman recently established the John L. Hagaman Endowed Fund for Excellence, which will fund activities to promote and encourage excellence among the faculty and students of the Biological and Agricultural Engineering Department at Texas A&M University.

Cotton Chair Update – Texas A&M

The Endowed Chair in Cotton Engineering, Ginning, and Mechanization is now fully funded. This chair will honor those who dedicated their life's work to improving the cotton industry through engineering contributions. The Texas A&M University, Biological and Agricultural Engineering Department now has the opportunity to seek a scholar to pursue leading edge research, teaching, and Extension programs in the field of cotton engineering, ginning, or mechanization.

The Cotton Chair Advisory Council comprised of contributors to the fund and industrial and government representatives will work with the department head to define the priorities and objectives of the cotton industry.

Currently the members of the Council are Tim Deutsch/John Deere; Tommy Engelke/Texas Agricultural Cooperative Council; Kelley Green/Texas Cotton Ginners' Association; Jonathan Hackett/Belt Wide Industries, Inc.; Ron Harkey/Farmers Cooperative Compress; Curtis Jensen/Plains Cotton Cooperative Association; Andrew Jordan/Cotton Foundation; Joe Thomas/Lummas Corporation; Gerry Salzman/CASE IH;; Tony Williams/Texas Cotton Ginners' Association and Jimmy Roppolo/Farmers' Co-op of El Campo who is currently serving as chair.

Professional Opportunities with USDA

Farmers and ranchers that receive cost-share funding from the Natural Resources Conservation Service for certain conservation practices will now have a new option for technical assistance. The latest Farm Bill, which provides the highest level of conservation funding in history, authorizes the use of Technical Service Providers (TSPs) to supplement the technical capacity of NRCS in delivering Farm Bill programs.

If the producer selects a TSP from an approved list, the TSP will provide design assistance directly to that producer. For engineering practices, a TSP must be a registered Professional Engineer, and the design must meet current NRCS standards.

If you are interest in becoming a TSP or would like additional information, visit <http://techreg.usda.gov> or contact John Mueller at (254) 742-9911.

Call for Nominations for 2003 Awards

Start preparations now for nominating winners for the 2003 Texas Section Awards. Nomination forms may be obtained from the Texas Section Website or the Awards Committee Chair and members (see last page). The following may be awarded annually:

- **Superior Student Service Awards.** *The award consists of a plaque and a check for \$500.*
- **Young Engineer of the Year -** *The recipient will receive a plaque.*
- **Industry Service Award -** *The recipient will receive a plaque.*
- **Agricultural Engineer of the Year -** *The recipient will receive a plaque.*

Awards nominations must be submitted by December 15, 2003. This will allow the nomination committee time to prepare the awards. Please contact Dr. Gerald Riskowski, Chair Awards Committee, if you need additional information.

Quarter-Scale Tractor Competition

May 29 - June 1, 2003

The Aggie Puller students just returned from the 2003 ASAE ¼ Scale Tractor Student Design Competition held on May 29-June 1 at the Quad City Downs in East Moline, IL. They designed and built an entirely new tractor again for this year's competition-please refer to their website (aggiepullers.tamu.edu) for more information. Fifteen students, Dr. Wayne LePori, and some student parents traveled to the competition and did very well, plus had a lot of fun in the process. There were close to 30 teams competing this year. The Aggie Puller team placed 6th overall-5th in the pulling competition, 1st in website design, 1st in safety, 1st in serviceability, 2nd in manufacturability, and 3rd in the team oral design presentation. To top it all off, they won 1st in the main dish cook-off and 1st in the side dish cook-off. Congratulations to the Aggie Puller Team!

TSPE Engineers' Week Banquet

This year's event was held on February 22, 2003 in Austin. Our 2002 Texas Section award winners were recognized during the banquet and in the program. Anna Rodriguez is planning to maintain representation next year on the E-Week Banquet Planning Committee. If you are interested in assisting her, please contact her at (512) 239-1307.

Please welcome the following individuals to the Texas Section ASAE:

New Professional Members:

Daniel Agold, Palo Alto ♦ Adria Carlson, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality ♦ Jason Donaldson, Brown McKee Inc ♦ Joe Matthews, Condley & Company ♦ James Narne ♦ Heath Parker, Weaver Boos & Gordon ♦ Chris Roberson, Prime Metal Buildings ♦ Luis Rodriguez, National Research Council ♦ Vernon D. Rowe, RowEnvironmental ♦ Frank Martin Sachnik, MSPE ♦ Ken Walser, Poarch Brothers Inc ♦ Thomas White, West Texas Dairy Construction

New Student Members:

Sam Houston State University:

Meagan Kirgan ♦ Joshua Muller

Texas A&M University:

Chris Aelvoet ♦ Garrett Anderson ♦ Christopher Boyer ♦ Robert Brambeltt ♦ Lauren Bruggman ♦ Adam Brumbaugh ♦ Colby Davis ♦ Sera Davis ♦ Luis Elizondo ♦ Eril Fisher ♦ Andrea Froboese ♦ Lee Hamm ♦ Brandi Hanson ♦ Robert Hardin ♦ Anthony Hickerson ♦ Andrew Kent ♦ Shane Kuhlman ♦ Ryan Kuntz ♦ Kelly Lee ♦ Clinton Loggins ♦ John Lyons ♦ Christopher Mack ♦ Lee McKnight ♦ Marcy Melton ♦ Andres Ortega ♦ Bakkiyalakshmi Palanisamy ♦ Matthew Piazza ♦ James Polka ♦ Lisa Porta ♦ Jacqueline Price ♦ Daniel Pustejovsky ♦ Steven Real ♦ Rebecca Riggs ♦ Stewart Skloss ♦ Charles Swanson ♦ Aarin Teague ♦ Juston Thompson ♦ Erin Trampe

University of Texas:

Augustine Avwunudiogba

*****2003 Texas Section Meeting *****

The meeting is planned for February 24-27, 2004 in Corpus Christi at the Ramada Inn Bayfront Hotel. This will be a joint meeting with the Texas Soil and Water Conservation Society. If you have a suggestion for a speaker, please contact Catherine Nash (information on last page). Tentative agenda for the 4 day meeting is: Tues. PM – Golf; Wed. – Tech Tour and Tech Workshop; Thursday – Technical Sessions, Luncheon with Keynote Speaker, Business Meeting, and Social; Friday Technical Sessions and Awards Luncheon.

Note: The 2004 meeting will be held in October in Huntsville, Texas.

Texas Section ASAE Officers for 2001-2002

CHAIR: **Bryan W. Shaw**, Texas A&M University, Biological and Agricultural Engineering Department, MS 2117 TAMU, College Station, TX 77843-2117; Office: (979) 845-9793 e-mail: bw-shaw@tamu.edu or shaw.bryan@nracs.usda.gov

CHAIR ELECT: **Cleon W. Namken**, 5225 89th Street, Lubbock, TX 79424-3519 Office: (806) 785-5644 x142 Home: (806) 798-3375 e-mail: cleon.namken@tx.usda.gov

IMMEDIATE PAST CHAIR: **Steven T. Bednarz**, USDA-NRCS-WRAT, 808 East Blackland Rd., Temple, TX 76502 Office: (254) 770-6675 Home: (254) 771-2575; e-mail: bednarz@brc.tamus.edu

SECRETARY-TREASURER: **Benjamin T. Weinheimer**, Texas Cattle Feeders Association, 5501 W I-40, Amarillo, TX 79106; Office: (806) 358-3681; e-mail: ben@tcfa.org

AWARDS COMMITTEE CHAIR: **Gerald L. Riskowski**, Texas A&M University, Department of Biological and Agricultural Engineering, 2117 TAMU, College Station TX 77843-2117 Office: (979) 845-3940; e-mail: riskowski@tamu.edu

VICE-CHAIR PUBLIC RELATIONS: **Billy R. Harrell**, Sam Houston State University, Agricultural Sciences, PO Box 2088, Huntsville, TX 77341-2088 Office: (936) 294-1214; Home: (936) 295-2701 e-mail: agr_brh@shsu.edu

VICE-CHAIR PROGRAMS & PLANS: **Catherine M. Nash**, Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission, Air Permits Division, MC-162, P.O. Box 13087, Austin TX 78711-3087; Office (512) 239-0618; Home (512) 864-7424 e-mail: cnash@tnrcc.state.tx.us

VICE-CHAIR MEMBERSHIP & REGISTRATION: **Tim Buscha**, USDA-NRCS, 101 South Main, Temple TX 76501; Office (254) 742-9896; Home (254) 791-1259 e-mail: tim.buscha@tx.usda.gov

VICE-CHAIR CONTINUING EDUCATION: **John Mueller**, USDA-NRCS, 101 South Main, Temple TX 76501 Office (254) 742-9911 e-mail: john.mueller@tx.usda.gov

AWARDS COMMITTEE MEMBERS: **Ann L. Kenimer**, Texas A&M University, Department of Biological and Agricultural Engineering, 2117 TAMU, College Station TX 77843-2117 Office: (979) 845-3677 Home: (979) 693-4928 e-mail: a-kenimer@tamu.edu

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2003 Fall/2004 Winter Newsletter Contributions

If you have an article or item that you would like to contribute to appear in the fall newsletter, please submit them to Billy Harrell by September 15, 2002.

Thanks, Catherine Nash