

NDSU faculty and students participate in 2008 ASABE international conference

Faculty and graduate students from the Department of Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering attended the 2008 ASABE (American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers) annual international meeting held June 29 to July 2 in Providence, R.I. Kenneth Hellevang, Xinhua Jia, Scott Pryor, Shafiqur Rahman, Thomas Scherer, Judith Espinoza-Perez, Lav Khot, Wajira Asanga Manamperi, Punyatoya Mohapatra and Sindhuja Sankaran represented NDSU at the conference. Hellevang participated in meetings for the ASABE board of trustees and the meetings council.

Jia, assistant professor, presented "Change of Soil Hardness and Soil Properties Due to Tile Drainage in the Red River Valley." The authors are Jia, Scherer, Thomas M. DeSutter and Dean D. Steele.

Pryor, assistant professor, presented "Integrated Use of Field Pea Starch and Corn for Ethanol Production." The authors are Pryor, Mark E. Lenling and Dennis P. Wiesenborn.

Rahman, assistant professor, presented "Fabrication and Performance Evaluation of a Surface Aeration System to Control Odor from an Aerobic Poultry Lagoon at Texas." The authors are Rahman, Saquib Mukhtar and James J. Zhu. Rahman also presented "Efficacy of a Microbial Treatment to Reduce Phosphorus and Other Substances from an Anaerobic Dairy Lagoon Effluent."

Scherer, associate professor, presented "A Site-Specific Web-Based Irrigation Scheduling Program." The authors are Scherer and Dallas J. Morlock.

Espinoza-Perez, graduate research assistant, presented "Optimization of the Epoxidation of Canola Oil." The authors are Espinoza-Perez, Wiesenborn, Chad A. Ulven and Darrin M. Haagenson.

Khot, graduate research assistant, presented "Olfactory Sensing with Adaptive Wavelet Transform for Food Safety Application." The authors are Khot, Suranjan Panigrahi, Yen Wei Chang and Jacob Glower.

Manamperi, graduate research assistant, presented "Alteration of Osborn Sequence Extraction for Isolation of Canola Proteins." The authors are Manamperi, Kow Ching Chang and Pryor.

Punyatoya Mohapatra, graduate research assistant, presented "Surface Enhanced Raman Spectroscopy Based Sensor for Pathogen Detection in Food Products." The authors are Mohapatra, Panigrahi, Catherine M. Logue and Julia S. Sherwood.

Sankaran, graduate research assistant, presented "Investigation on Selected Metal Oxide Sensor for Contamination Detection in Food." The authors are Sankaran and Panigrahi.

Jayendra Kumar Amamcharla, doctoral candidate, also participated in the 2008 graduate student research paper competition organized by ASABE. The paper, titled "Simultaneous Prediction of Acetic Acid/Ethanol Concentrations in their Binary Mixtures Using Porphyrin Based Opto-Electronic Nose for Food Safety Applications," was written by Amamcharla and his adviser, Panigrahi, earned fifth place out of 14 papers submitted.

Baker and Vandal earn certification

Jennifer Baker, loss control and claims specialist with the University Police and Safety Office, has earned the certification as Certified Workers' Compensation Professional.

The certification award from the Workers' Compensation Center, School of Labor and Industrial Relations at Michigan State University, signifies a high level of expertise in the area of workers' compensation. The program examined all significant components of workers' compensation, including principles of disability law, claims management and insurance, safety, disability prevention, return to work programs and medical issues.

Baker is the contact person for all employee work and non-employee injuries at NDSU and has played a significant role in the reduction and prevention of serious injuries on campus.

Bill Vandal, safety specialist with University Police and Safety Office, has completed the OSHA 501 Trainer Course for general industry from the National Safety Education Council. As a certified trainer, Vandal is authorized to conduct 10- and 30-hour general industry training in accordance with guidelines provided by the OSHA Office of Training and Education. Vandal is instrumental in maintaining regulations for facility and fire inspections at NDSU and is involved in the development of the university emergency response planning.

Sather-Wagstaff teaches in Tehran



Sean Sather-Wagstaff, assistant professor of mathematics, recently traveled to Tehran, Iran, to give a mini-course titled "Applications of Semidualizing Modules."

The course consisted of 10 lectures and was held in the School of Mathematics at the Institute for Studies in Theoretical Physics and Mathematics.

Sather-Wagstaff joined the faculty at NDSU in 2007. His research focuses on a branch of mathematics known as homological commutative algebra.

Borowicz and Grazul-Bilska participate in Frontiers in Reproduction course

Pawel Borowicz, research scientist with the Center for Nutrition and Pregnancy and the Department of Animal Sciences, participated in the six-week Frontiers in a Reproduction laboratory and lecture course held at the Marine Biological Laboratory in Woods Hole, Mass.

The Frontiers in a Reproduction laboratory program is limited to 20-24 participants per year. The lectures and labs are taught by leading investigators in the different areas of reproductive biology.

Borowicz gave a presentation of his research titled "Sheep as a model of placental angiogenesis: implications for developmental programming." In 2005, Ewa Borowczyk, a doctoral student at NDSU, also participated in the course.

Anna Grazul-Bilska, associate professor with the Center for Nutrition and Pregnancy and the Department of Animal Sciences, was an invited faculty member and also gave an invited presentation on her research titled, "Angiogenesis in ovine uterine tissues during early pregnancy." This is the third time Grazul-Bilska has been an invited faculty to this program.