Updates

Vice President – Matt Guthart
The following chairs have been filled:
• Speaker chair – Lexi Moran
• Social event – Noelle + officer team
  o Lunch with Dr. Leary’s student’s is Oct. 27th
• Fund raising chair – Austin Mason
• Service chair – Paul Lengemann
  o Retirement Horse Farm on Oct. 25th
  o Max of 10 members will go; there will be carpooling
  o A doodle will be sent out for those interested
• Homecoming float – Samyak Shah
  o Meeting Oct. 10th at 6:30pm the Ag. Shop at to work on the float
  o Come by the student room sometime to see what other float project are happening
Treasurer – Austin Harvey
• Current budget is about $1900.

3/4 scale tractor – Annai Santi
• Meeting Thursday at 6:30pm in room 110
• This Friday they will be attending Week’s Auction
• This past weekend they went to a “tractor pull” in Zellwood. Several contacts for
  funding and tractor parts were made. $100 worth or shirts were sold.
Fountain Wars – Ann Wolfgang & Gerry Zhu
• There was a meeting last Friday. The rules were discussed. They need somebody to help write
  some letters for funding.
• Next meeting will likely be this Thursday. Ann Wolfgang will send out more information when it
  is officially decided. This is tentative.
Interest in Mars Global
• This firm has contacted Dr. Leary. A man named Keith wants to put on an info session
  luncheon for us on Oct. 28th.
• There is a general interest and a doodle will be created. If you RSVP, please make sure you
  actually attend!
Sunbelt Ag. Exposition
• Large tractors, farm equipment, and irrigation system companies are showcased.
• Make sure you bring your license if you want to drive vehicles!
• If you are interested contact Paul Lengemann
Research Symposium (Oct. 8th)

- Tickets are on sale now for the dinner. See Kris at the front office desk.
- The cost is $8 for students and $12 for faculty. At the door tickets will be $10 and $15 for students and faculty respectively.
- If you are interested in volunteering for the event please contact Treasurer Austin Harvey.

Rally 2015 logo

- We have a logo now! It looks like a sun (made out of orange slices) over a field.
- There will be a front pocket with the logo too.
- There is some debate about of whether or not the attending schools should be listed on the back of the T-shirts.

ABE department Graduate Student panel!

- Attending graduate students:
  - Ian—here since August; will begin assisting his mentor in a USGS/Fish and Wildlife project about the Everglades
  - Annalise—here since 2013 August; testing material quality
  - Jose—here since 2009; simulating heat stress on wheat crops to optimize growth
  - Courtney—here from 2008 and finished in January 2014; worked on variable rate irrigation systems in corn fields
  - Stephanie—here since June 2011 (almost done); works on developing reusable and environmentally friendly biosensors for biofuel projects

- How are you paying for graduate school?
  - Applied for assistantships within of the department. This is basically “magic money” that they receive.
  - Pay for tuition upfront and then get reimbursed 80% by employer.
  - Apply for fellowships outside of the department (USDA, NSF)

- How did you select your mentor?
  - Meet the professors and get to know them (office hours, conferences).
  - Take a “trial and error” approach. Find out what professors in the department are researching and see what interests you. Look online!
  - If you already have an interest, you can go in with a project idea and pitch it to a professor.

- What made you choose to go to graduate school as opposed to the workforce?
  - Many of them would like to be a professor.
- Jose had family and friends encouraging further studies.
- Stephanie wanted to go to graduate school and learn what she really loves. She worked for about 10 years with aerospace. After working with some kids, she realized that she is more passionate about teaching engineer solutions to science. Then she came back to school.
- What was one of the most difficult things you faced relating to graduate school?
  - It can be difficult moving on to a new place and losing the connections you once had.
  - You might feel pigeon-holed into entering an industry based on your specific projects. Courtney found out that this is not true!

NEXT MEETING October 21st, same time, same place