

**Special points of interest:**

- **Annual Meeting Set for Sunday, July 17, 2005 in Tampa, Florida**
- **Chapter Awards Due May 1st**
- **Lapel Pins On Sale**

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# ALPHA EPSILON

www.alpha-epsilon.org

Spring 2005

## Welcome New 2005 Members

### Virginia Tech— Eta Chapter

Leslie Clark  
Marc Henderson  
Raymond Lillie  
Anand Lakshmikanth  
Jacob Elstein  
Denver Pyle  
Rhonda Bengtson

### New York - Iota Beta Chapter

Megan Gates  
Clarence Lo  
Robert Russell  
Pamela Gaborski  
Alexander Hu  
Joshua M Keegan  
Theresa Chan  
Alison Auriemmo  
Scott Kramer  
Jens Liebe  
Semyung Choi  
Bryan J Hall  
Thomas Scalone  
Jessica Sailor  
Justin Ferrentino  
Jordan Goldman  
Alice Leung  
Kelly Ruggles  
Alexandra Hollinger  
Georgette Loubnan  
Janine Yieh

Jennifer Smith  
Stephen Russo  
Elizabeth Gillen

### Univ. of Missouri— Alpha Chapter

Yuan-Chan Tu  
Majed Dweik  
Donghui Zhu  
Kacy Milich  
Song Mu  
Elizabeth Claycamp  
Jay Cupps  
Heather Uhles  
Meaghan Giesler

### Kansas State— Zeta Beta Chapter

Russell A Yarnell  
Amy K Good  
Peter A Clark  
Daniel O Berges

### Texas A&M— Phi Chapter

Omar M Amawi  
Aarin E Teague  
Clark W Edwards  
Justin K Mechell  
Jennifer J Housman  
Kendra J Johnson  
Bakkiyalakshmi Palanisamy  
Tyson O Hann

John P Lyons  
Jacquelyn M Michalka  
Lee B Hamm  
Garrett L Anderson  
Mark D Macek  
Gary W Nolan  
N Narendra Das

### University of Arizona— Eta Beta Chapter

Luis Alva-Munoz  
Hirofumi Hayashi  
Wanwiwat Lovichit  
Navaporn Srinavakul  
Armando Barreto  
Matthew Grabau  
Nataliya Bulygina  
Lonnie J Lucas  
Luis Villarreal-Manzo  
Pablo Garcia  
Rachel Turner  
Ryan Austin  
Michael Brown  
Jeong-Yeol Yoon

### North Dakota State — Theta Chapter

Nathan Meyer  
Peter Polansky  
J. Paul Reinholz  
Adam Sathre  
Dhruv Tapasvi

## Annual Meeting Update

The Annual National Alpha Epsilon Meeting will be held on

Sunday, July 17, 2005

3-5 pm.

Tampa, Florida.

The meeting is held in conjunction with the ASAE International Meeting.

We hope to have representatives from every Alpha Epsilon Chapter to discuss the previous

year's happening and what is to come in the future. More details will become available as July approaches.

Send agenda items to rap@tamu.edu.

## Survey of Chapters

Monette Hancock

The Alpha Epsilon National Honor Society serves many purposes. Some members may simply view our society as a means of recognition of achievement. Others view our society as not only recognizing outstanding students but as an active catalyst at developing strong bonds and at promoting advancements in our common profession. We want to share with everyone the kinds of activities chapters are involved in to provide you with a larger perspective on what our national honor society is about.

The first and foremost purpose of the Alpha Epsilon National Honor Society is to recognize those outstanding biological and agricultural engineers who manifest worthy qualities of character, scholarship and professional attainment. However, the purpose of the honor society is also to promote the biological and agricultural engineering profession and support advancements in the profession. From a recent survey of the active AE chapters, we have a few ideas to share with you for promoting and advancing our profession.

- Host a town-hall style discussion/meeting on topics related to the biological and agricultural engineering discipline
- Organize and publish a department newsletter for alumni and friends of your department
- Recruit students into biological and agricultural engineering at your university
- Award an outstanding alumni and invite them to speak at your induction ceremony

Beyond organizing events to promote our profession, many chapters choose to participate in a number of services projects. Serving others as an AE chapter demonstrates part of the reason why your members were selected to join the national honor society – manifestation of worthy character. Your chapter might want to adopt some of these service projects that other AE chapters are regularly involved with.

- Sponsor a blood drive
- Drive for Meals on Wheels
- Help with Habitat for Humanity
- Participate in a clean up event

A major focus of AE is to help members net-

work for “mutual benefit” as the preamble to the constitution states. Many chapters use social events as a means of getting members together and letting them develop bonds. Here are just a few of the types of socials AE chapters organize.

- Valentine’s day pot luck/dinner for department’s faculty, staff, and grad students
- Welcome back to school pot luck
- Good luck on finals ice cream
- International dinner
- Halloween ice cream social
- Gathering to watch a sports event
- Sponsor a professional etiquette dinner

The last idea, sponsoring a professional etiquette dinner, serves two purposes – it is a chance for members to get to know each other while also learning a valuable skill. What a great idea!

Many of the chapters co-sponsor their events with other organizations on campus or in their department. Co-sponsoring socials and service events brings more people to your activities. You’ll get more help on service projects or have more people to interact with at socials. Co-sponsoring events also gives you an opportunity to display the caliber and character of AE members to the people working with you.

As an incentive, outstanding chapter awards are presented each year at the Alpha Epsilon National Meeting. Two outstanding chapters receive a cash award for their superior activities and a third chapter receives a cash award for demonstrating the most improved level of activity. Now, you should want to have an active chapter for the friendships and connections you make and not the award, but a little cash is always nice to help fund future chapter activities.

Hopefully, this article has provided you with ideas that you will implement in your chapter. While several good ideas are presented here, the possibilities are endless. We hope you will use the activities listed as a starting point to expand the involvement and impact of your chapter.

*“...promote  
the biological  
and  
agricultural  
engineering  
profession and  
support  
advancements  
in the  
profession.”*

# Updated Member Intake Process

There is a new procedure for the membership intake process. Please follow the procedure as close as possible.

1. Plan initiations at least one month before it is scheduled.
2. Request the names of eligible candidates from your department.
3. Send candidates a letter of invitation to join your chapter.
4. Obtain confirmation of those accepting your invitation.
5. Send form (available on website) with the list of candidates to the President, Russell Persyn by email at rap@tamu.edu or by fax at 979.862.3442.
6. Send the one-time national dues (\$10 per initiate) and the names of the initiates to:

**Alpha Epsilon  
c/0 Dr. Jody Purswell  
USDA-ARS Poultry Research  
Unit  
P.O. Box 5367  
Mississippi State, MS 39759**

Questions?

Contact

Russell Persyn at rap@tamu.edu or

Jody Purswell at jody\_purswell@yahoo.com

*“Please take the time to nominate the Alpha Epsilon Chapters that truly stand out.”*

## Chapter Awards Call for Nominations

The time has come to nominate the outstanding Alpha Epsilon Chapters for 2005. The nomination form can be found on the Alpha Epsilon website (www.alpha-epsilon.org) under the Chapter Awards link. The form is in word and adobe formats. Please take the time to nominate the Alpha Epsilon Chap-

ters that truly stand out. First place is \$400, second place is \$200 and the most improved chapter will receive \$250. Applications must be received by May 1, 2005 and the winners will be announced at the annual meeting on July 17, 2005 in Tampa, Florida. Applications can be emailed to Russell Persyn at rap@tamu.edu.

**CONGRATS TO THE 2004 AWARD WINNERS!!!**

**Oklahoma State University**

1st Place

**University of Illinois**

2nd Place

**University of Arkansas**

Most Improved Chapter

## Lapel Pins on Sale

Is your chapter interested in ordering lapel pins?

Fee Structure:

1-9 pins \$6.50/pin (includes shipping)

Over 10 pins \$6.00/pin (includes shipping)

Orders over 50, call or email for discount pricing.

Send your order and check to:

**Alpha Epsilon  
c/0 Dr. Jody Purswell  
USDA-ARS Poultry Research  
Unit  
P.O. Box 5367  
Mississippi State, MS 39759**

jody\_purswell@yahoo.com

Lapel Pins are Gold with Black Lettering and are 1-inch in size.



# Officer Information

**President—Russell Persyn** is an Assistant Professor and Extension Agricultural Engineer in the Biological and Agricultural Engineering Department at Texas A&M University. Russell has his Ph.D. from Iowa State University in agricultural engineering and civil engineering. Russell is a Registered Professional Engineer and Registered Professional Sanitarian in the State of Texas.

**Vice President/President Elect—Jeremiah Davis** is a doctoral student in the Department of Agricultural & Biosystems Engineering at Iowa State University. Jeremiah received his B.S. and M.S. in Agricultural Engineering at Texas A&M University and the University of Kentucky, respectively. His dissertation research is focused on controlled animal environments.

**Secretary/Treasurer—Joseph (Jody) Purswell** is originally from Tarkington Prairie, Texas. Jody is an Agricultural Engineer with the USDA-ARS Poultry Research Unit in Starkville, MS. He received his Ph.D. in Biosystems and Agricultural Engineering from the University of Kentucky and his B.S. and M.S. in agricultural engineering at Texas A&M University

**Membership Development Chair—Monette Hancock** is originally from Flintville, TN. Monette is a graduate student at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. She completed her BS in Biosystems Engineering at the University of Tennessee. Monette's thesis research is developing maintenance and fault diagnosis tools for hydraulic pumps and expects to complete her masters degree in August 2005

## Alpha Epsilon

### Alpha Epsilon National Honor Society

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College Station, TX 77845

Phone: 979-458-8054

Fax: 979-862-3442

E-mail: [rap@tamu.edu](mailto:rap@tamu.edu)

Alpha Epsilon is an honor society for outstanding biological and agricultural engineers. The objectives of the honor society are to promote the high ideals of the engineering profession, to give recognition to those biological and agricultural engineers who manifest worthy qualities of character, scholarship and professional attainment, and to encourage and support such improvements in the biological and agricultural engineering profession that make it an instrument of greater service to mankind.