



Texas
Section

American Society of
Agricultural and Biological Engineers



Annual Newsletter

2019 Issue | ASABE Texas Section

Announcement

On behalf of the Section Officers, we are proud to announce that the 2019 ASABE Texas Section Annual Meeting will be held from October 9th through October 11th at the Wellington Banquet & Conference Center in Wichita Falls, Texas. The Section Officers are looking forward to seeing all the members at the Annual Meeting. More information on the Annual Meeting is included in this Newsletter.

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Letter from the Chair

It is a great honor to serve as the Chair of Texas Section ASABE and I would like to thank all section members for giving me this opportunity. I would also like to remember and thank my former colleague and beloved friend, the late Brock Faulkner, who first invited me to serve as an officer of ASABE Texas Section in 2014. Since then, I served in different roles in the section and received the opportunity to interact with esteemed members and great speakers. I have learned much from their knowledge and experiences. I encourage student members and young professionals to become more actively involved in our professional society at both the state and national levels as they can benefit immensely in preparing for their careers. I would like to request senior members of the section to encourage and mentor younger members and take the time to nominate fellow members for section awards, which are due September 6, 2019 (more details inside).



I feel proud to be an agricultural and biological engineer and I believe that we are well-trained to develop engineering and technological solutions for many challenges being faced by agricultural, food and biological systems across the world. I would like to take this opportunity to inform you about the global initiative events being conducted by ASABE in association with partner societies and I encourage members to find more details about these events in ASABE publications. ASABE's first Global Initiative event, an international conference on "Engineering and Technology Innovation for Global Food Security", was organized in October 2016 in Stellenbosch, South Africa. The second event under this initiative, "Global Water Security Conference for Agriculture and Natural Resources", was recently organized in October 2018 in Hyderabad, India. I played an active role in the organization of this conference, which was attended by more than 320 registered participants from 19 countries. A recent article published in the Resource Magazine [vol. 26(3)] outlines the recommendations that emerged from this conference to address global water security. A peer-reviewed special collection of papers from this conference is also being developed and it will be published in ASABE journals in the fall later this year. Planning for the next event under ASABE's Global Initiative focusing on energy security, which will be held in Costa Rica, is underway.

The Texas Section Executive Committee has been working hard to put together an exciting program for the upcoming 55th Annual Meeting in Wichita Falls, and we encourage all members to attend the meeting. We have invited experts to speak on diverse topics such as water conservation, wastewater treatment and reuse, grazing management, soil health, etc. We have also planned interesting technical tours to include a visit to the award-winning Birdwell & Clark Ranch, Nokona glove factory, Fenoglio boot company and Cypress water treatment plant in and around Wichita Falls. I look forward to welcoming each of you at the annual meeting in October.

Srinivasulu (Srini) Ale, Ph.D.
2018-2019 Chair
ASABE Texas Section



2018 Texas Section Annual Meeting





Technical Meeting

Hilton Garden Inn Temple



Video Highlights from the 2018 Texas Section Annual Meeting



URL: <https://youtu.be/QRisiH5y3Oo>

Technical Tours

*Belton Wastewater Regional Wastewater Plant
Belton Lake or Stillhouse Lake Dam
TruMH Manufactured Home Plant*



2018 Texas Section Award Recipients

Agricultural Engineer of the Year

Shay Simpson

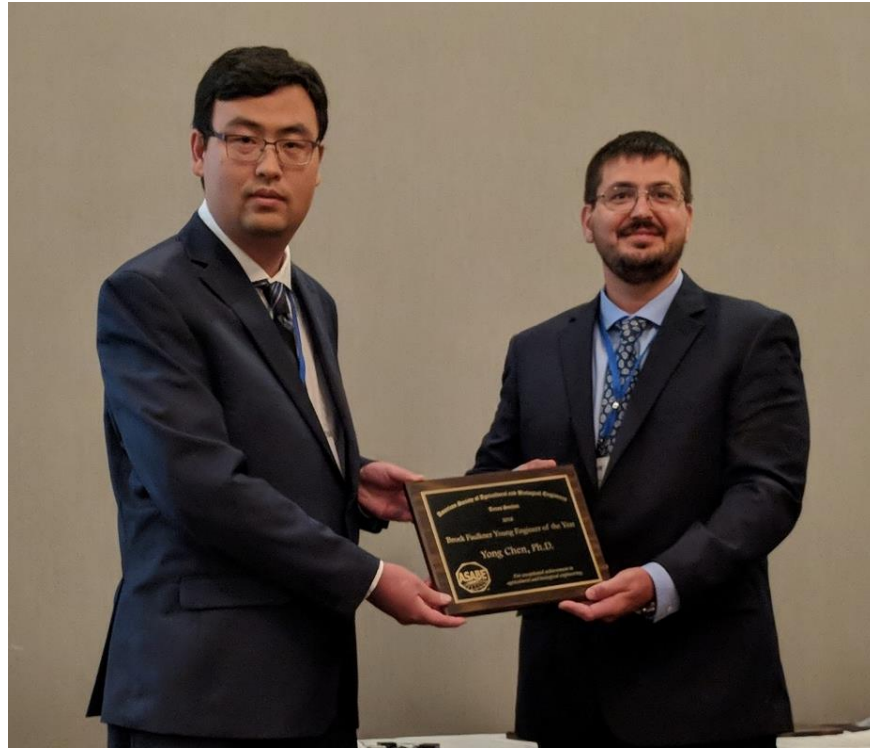


Member of the Year

Charles Swanson



Brock Faulkner Young Engineer of the Year
Yong Chen



Student Superior Service

Biological & Agricultural Engineering
Griselda Quintero

Agricultural Systems Management
Galvin Rodriguez





2019 Texas Section Annual Meeting Update

October 9-11, 2019

Location: Holiday Inn Express & Suites Wichita Falls, 5300 Kell W Blvd, Wichita Falls, TX 76310. A block of rooms has been reserved for October 9-11, 2019. A special room rate of **\$94/night** will be available until September 25, 2019 or until the group block is sold out, whichever comes first. Reservations may be made through the hotel website (<https://www.ihg.com/holidayinnexpress/hotels/us/en/wichita-falls/spskb/hoteldetail>) or by calling (940) 692-8300 and requesting the group code: ASA.

Golf Tournament: Wednesday, October 9, 2019

Technical Sessions: Thursday, October 10, 2019. The Technical Sessions will be held at the Wellington Banquet & Conference Center, located adjacent to the hotel. Professional Development Hours (PDHs) will be available on engineering ethics, ranch management, water quality/conservation, and more.

Technical Tours: Friday, October 11, 2019. PDHs will be available for tour stops. Leather goods, ranching, wastewater treatment.

Additional meeting information and registration details will be sent out at a later date.



2018 ASABE National Awards Winners

John Deere Gold Medal



Thomas Marek, PE, is the 2018 recipient of the John Deere Gold Medal for his outstanding contributions to the advancement of lysimetry, evapotranspiration, irrigation system technologies, and water resource management in agriculture. Marek is a senior research engineer with Texas A&M AgriLife Research in Amarillo. There he provides direction and leadership of the irrigation program, develops, assesses, and integrates new production technologies into research applications for irrigated agriculture. He also provides engineering leadership for integrated multidisciplinary research and demonstration activities.

Marek is a dedicated agricultural engineer involved with the research of crop production, management, efficiencies, evapotranspiration, and irrigation scheduling. He has a distinguished record of performance in developing and implementing new crop production systems and has integrated new and advanced technologies and tools for Texas High Plains irrigated producers. He is responsible for advanced irrigation systems conversions reducing the amount of irrigation water required for sustainable regional corn production by 60% while increasing productivity by 40%. He works with interdisciplinary teams to evaluate advanced corn genetic lines and evaluates new hybrids that have exhibited a net decrease of 15% in water requirements without significant yield decrease. He has demonstrated that advanced crop management is essential with genetic development and required in attaining the yield potential of new seed technologies of today and tomorrow. His team-based efforts are also responsible for the cotton production development in the northern Texas region.

Marek, a 38-year member of ASABE, is an active participant in many ASABE committees. Currently, he is serving on several Natural Resources and Environmental Systems committees including the Irrigation Group, the Sprinkler Irrigation committee, Irrigation Management committee, and the Hydrology Group. Marek also participates with the American Society of Civil Engineers – Environmental and Water Resources Institute, the Texas Agricultural Irrigation Association, and the Texas Red River Authority Advisory Board. Marek is author or coauthor of more than 200 peer reviewed articles, book chapters, and other publications. Throughout his career, Marek has received numerous awards including becoming a Texas A&M University System Regents Fellow, receiving an Honor Award for Excellence from the USDA, and a Blue Legacy Award for Agriculture by the Texas Water Conservation Advisory Council. Marek received the ASABE Texas Section Engineer of the Year award. Marek has also received an ASABE Superior Paper award and an Educational Aids Blue Ribbon.

Mayfield Cotton Engineering Award

James P. Bordovsky, PE, is the recipient of the 2018 Mayfield Cotton Engineering award for outstanding contributions to cotton production through applied research in irrigation technology and best management practices. Bordovsky, senior research scientist and agricultural engineer, Texas A&M AgriLife Research, Lubbock/Halfway, Texas, is involved in all aspects of agricultural research related to water use and irrigation efficiency through improved management and engineering design of irrigation systems, including concept development, acquisition of funds, execution of research protocols, and information transfer. With an extremely productive career spanning several decades,



Bordovsky is recognized a leader in low-energy sprinkler irrigation research and development. As co-developer of the low-energy precision application irrigation system, he has made significant contributions to the advancement of efficient irrigation technologies.

Building upon his strong irrigation engineering research program, he has made major contributions to the advancement of subsurface irrigation and his work to improve design, management, and maintenance. His applied irrigation research program is based at Halfway, Texas, in the heart of the Texas High Plains cotton production area, where subsurface drip irrigation acreage has increased from less than 20,000 acres in the year 2000 to more than 350,000 acres. Through his innovative irrigation engineering developments and integrated multidisciplinary cropping systems approach, he has greatly increased the productivity, sustainability, and profitability of agricultural production in waterlimited environments. He has mentored agricultural researchers, extension educators, graduate students, technicians, and irrigation/agribusiness professionals. Bordovsky has authored or coauthored more than 340 peer-reviewed journal articles, conference proceedings, and other publications. He is routinely sought out for presentations to producers and lay audiences for his straightforward approach that presents the facts and concepts in an easy-tounderstand manner.

A 40-year member of ASABE, Bordovsky has provided leadership to the Microirrigation, Sprinkler Irrigation and Irrigation Management committees in the Natural Resources & Environmental Systems technical community. He has served in various officer positions in the Texas section, including chair. His past awards include the Texas A&M University System Vice Chancellor's award in Excellence, Texas Agricultural Irrigation Association President's award for Research Excellence, and West Texas Agricultural Chemical Institute Institutional award. In addition, he is a past recipient of the Heermann Sprinkler Irrigation award, and the Texas section recognized him with an Engineer of the Year award. He is a founding member of the Texas Agricultural Irrigation Association.

2018 Class of ASABE Fellows



Clifford Fedler



Rabi Mohtar



Chenghai Yang

In Memoriam

Rick Mireles



Ricardo "Rick" Mireles Jr., age 62, passed away peacefully in his sleep on the morning of Wednesday, May 15, 2019 in the comfort of his home in Bulverde, Texas after losing his battle with pancreatic cancer. He was born on January 30, 1957 in Laredo, Texas where he attended J.W Nixon High School. He grew up an avid hunter and enjoyed hunting with his family of hunting buddies everywhere from south Texas to the mountains of Colorado.

After graduating from high school, he then went on to graduate from Texas A&M University with a degree in Agricultural Engineering as a part of the Fightin' Texas Aggie Class of 1978. Following his graduation from Texas A&M University, he began his career as a Civil Engineer with the United States Department of Agriculture - Natural Resource Conservation Service, where he proudly worked for over 40 years.

Link to Rick's obituary: <http://porterloring.tributes.com/obituary/show/Ricardo-Rick-Mireles-107112108>

Dr. Don L. Reddell

Donald Lee Reddell, follower of Christ, loving husband, father, grandfather, brother, and uncle leapt into the presence of Our Heavenly Father, on February 14, 2019, at the age of 81. Donald was born September 28, 1937 in Tulia, Texas to K.T. and Winonah Reddell. He was raised on a farm in west Texas, where his love of "western" life began. His love of the land eventually translated into a career at Texas A&M University as professor at the Agricultural Engineering Department where his contributions to the fields of irrigation and ground water management have been widely recognized and have had far reaching impacts, especially in areas where water resources are limited. He was known as an extraordinary teacher with a commitment to the education of his students. Just recently, a young student was heard asking him for a piece of advice about how to be a good teacher. Donald was heard saying, "Just love them. You can be tough on them if they know you love them."



"Don was a very effective mentor and friend in my early years on the departmental faculty and Extension. He lead important environmental engineering research in the early years of the cattle feeding in Texas, and former graduate students around the state and nation respected him greatly," said Dr. John M. Sweeten.

Link to Don's obituary: https://www.theeagle.com/obituaries/reddell-donald-lee/article_de86d531-3c01-5268-b142-2142b9eafe7e.html

Ron Slocum



Mr. Slocum passed away Saturday, February 2, 2019. Ron was born February 7, 1947 in Hobbs, New Mexico to Rufus Edward and Agnes (Johnson) Slocum. He graduated NMSU and worked 34 years as a civil engineer for the federal government before he retired. After retirement, Ron began free-lance engineering and took great pride in the participation of his grandkids in his work. Ron stayed active outdoors hunting for arrowheads and working on the family farm.

Link to Ron's obituary: <https://www.dignitymemorial.com/obituaries/brownwood-tx/ronald-slocum-8148703>



Officers Reports

Treasurer's Report

As of 12/31/2018

Balance	\$16,362.26
General Fund Balance	\$8,082.26
Cleon Namken Scholarship Fund Balance	\$8,280.00

Income

Meeting Registration	\$0.00
Meeting Sponsorship	\$0.00
Cleon Namken Scholarship	\$0.00
Donations	\$0.00
Dues	\$3,215.00

Total Income \$3,215.00

Expenditures

2019 Student Awards	\$0.00
2018 Meeting Expenses	\$0.00
2018 Student Support	\$(2,000.00)
2019 TSPE Banquet Sponsorship	\$(350.00)
2018 Cleon Namken Scholarship	\$(500.00)
2019 Cleon Namken Scholarship	\$(500.00)
2019 Meeting Expenses	\$(775.00)

Total Expenditures \$(4,125.00)

As of 6/25/2019

Balance	\$15,452.26
General Fund Balance	\$8,172.26
Cleon Namken Scholarship Fund Balance	\$7,280.00

Membership Report

Congratulations to the following members on their ASABE membership anniversary! Thank you for your years of service.

25 Years

Benjamin T. Weinheimer
Craig A. Rohrbach
Craig A. Smith
Gary M. Chapman
Greg A. Holt
Russell A. Persyn
Sarah Parnell-Molloy
Shay L. Simpson

40 Years

Howard B. Frerich

50 Years

Douglas C. Seibel
Paul K. Rodman
Terry A. Howell, Sr.

Weldon Laird

61 Years

Ronald Allen

62 Years

Louis F. Bouse
Stephen M. Boysen

63 Years

Wayne A. LePori

66 Years

John H. Jones

67 Years

Charles F. Cromwell
Otto R. Kunze
Victor L. Hauser

68 Years

Merlin K. Chapin
Robert C. Evans

75 Years

Gerald L. Kline

Welcome to the following new or reinstated Texas Section members!

Jordan Beckhusen, Hao-Po Chang, Mohamed Elansary, Eric Friesenhahn, Scott Henderson, Achla Jha, Kyle Kaspar, Robert Lothringer, Derek Morrison, Galvin Rodriguez, Ricky Schilling, Vaishali Swaminathan, Eric Wolf, Isabella Boddicker, Varun Gejji, Jacy Gray, Van Huynh, Natalie VonTress, Riley Dunn, Haley Forbes, Xiongzhe Han, Armando Hinojosa, Jacob Kettner, Hongxin Kong, Reed Rogers, Francisco Rosendo, Andrew Schneck, Alex Thompson, Kaylyn Zuech



Cleon Namken Memorial Scholarship Update



2019 Recipient Mr. Nathan Sullivan

Mr. Nathan Sullivan is from Abernathy, Texas and graduated from Abernathy High School with a 5.22 GPA on a 5-point scale. Nathan will be attending Texas Tech University this fall majoring in mechanical engineering. He wants to be a mechanical engineer because this profession requires education and skills that span a broad range of technical, social, environmental, and economic problems. His academic strengths are in math and science and he knows these strengths are well suited for the field. After graduation, he hopes to possibly use his degree to help with water shortages and to help find ways to make sure we have water resources for years to come.

Nathan graduated as the Valedictorian of his senior class while still participating in many extracurricular activities such as athletics, FFA, academic UIL and band as well as being active in his church. He had the opportunity to be the co-captain of the Abernathy High School's football team and was an All-

State Center his senior year. He also played baseball and participate in track where he made it to regionals in shot put the past three years.

In FFA, Nathan was on the Tractor Tech team where he could use mechanical engineering to debug tractors. This was a fun challenge for him, and his team made it to the state competition in Houston his junior and senior year. He also showed swine throughout high school participating at the local, county and state levels. He was the vice president of his senior class and he is a leader in his church youth group. He has taught in vacation Bible schools, as well as served in other opportunities in his church. He has preached in the youth led services and taught the youth classes as needed. Nathan has a strong moral character and a strong Christian faith.

Nathan has managed to earn 18 hours of college credit during high school and has taken a rigorous course load including Pre-AP courses; English, Biology, Chemistry, Physics and Algebra II, as well as AP Calculus. He will earn two performance acknowledgements, one for outstanding performance in bilingualism and the other for outstanding performance in college courses.

The Cleon Namken Memorial Scholarship was formally established in April 2016. If you know of a graduating high school senior that is planning to attend a public or private university or college in Texas and pursue a degree in engineering with an emphasis in a soil or water related field, please inform them of this scholarship opportunity. The application is available on the ASABE Texas Section website (<https://www.asabe.org/Get-Involved/Sections-Districts/Texas-Section>) and is due to Greg Sokora, Scholarship Committee Chairman by April 30 of the year that the applicant will graduate from high school.



2019 Award Nominations

Nomination forms for 2019 are due to Kelly Lassig, Awards Committee Chair, by September 6, 2019. These forms are on the ASABE Texas Section webpage (<https://www.asabe.org/Get-Involved/Sections-Districts/Texas-Section>) or from Kelly Lassig, Chair of the Awards Committee. Nominations are open for the following awards:

- Agricultural Engineer of the Year
- Member of the Year
- Industry Service
- Brock Faulkner Young Engineer of the Year
- Superior Student Service Awards
- Special Service

2018-2019 Texas Section Officers

Chair

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