

Candidates for ASABE's 2023 Leadership Election

ASABE's Nominating Committee has put together a platform of highly qualified individuals for the 2023 election. Use the candidates' statements and brief biographical information provided in this brochure to help you decide how to vote.

Balloting will be conducted online beginning January 11. Members with a valid e-mail address will be sent instructions electronically through our balloting company, Intelliscan. If you need special accommodations, please contact Joann McQuone at 269-932-7022 or mcquone@asabe.org.



President-Elect

Douglas R. Otto, P.E.
Chief Engineer, Harvesting Driveline
CNH Industrial
Sardinia, Ohio

Doug Otto leads the driveline product development team for harvesting products at CNH Industrial. His primary responsibilities include technical ownership for driveline components, supplier integration, cost and weight management, and interfacing with commercial teams to address product concerns and establish vehicle strategy. Otto grew up on a family farm in southern Ohio and continues to participate with his family in the farm operations. He holds a BS in Mechanical Engineering from Ohio University. Otto has been with CNH Industrial for 23 years, with positions in production validation, vehicle design, brand marketing, sales, and customer service. He holds 13 U.S. patents. He received his professional engineering license in 2007.

A member of ASABE for 22 years, Otto joined the AETC Planning Committee in 2009, serving four years as chair. In 2012, he received the AETC MVP Award and a Presidential Citation for leadership of the AETC Planning Committee and collaboration with AEM/AGConnect. In 2015 he was elected to the Board of Trustees. Otto led a task force to improve the visibility of the AE50 award program, introducing the Davidson Prize in 2018. He currently serves as past chair of Meetings Council and as general member of several strategic and student organization committees.

"ASABE provides a valuable opportunity for technical collaboration and leadership development. In my case and I believe the same for many others, involvement drives significant professional advancement and life-long relationships. As ASABE President-Elect, I am honored to serve our members and advocate on behalf of our profession. I plan strong focus on driving member engagement, promoting membership value, and establishing strategic actions to enhance the growth and success of the Society."

CANDIDATES FOR THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES



Gayle C. Baker, P.E.
Agricultural Services Engineer
Maurer-Stutz, Inc.
Peoria, Illinois

Gayle Baker is a consulting engineer and project manager for planning, design, and construction of projects related to livestock facility siting, structures, and soil and water conservation. She assists clients with state and federal permitting and regulations and is a Technical Service Provider (TSP) for NRCS. In February 2022, Baker became a minority owner in Maurer-Stutz, Inc. She is involved with the Illinois Farm Bureau, the Illinois Agri-Women, and the Illinois Beef Association.

Baker has held chair leadership within the Young Professional Community, Professional Engineering Institute, M-161 PEI Award, E-05/3 Digital Strategy, and the Central Illinois Section. She has remained involved and active in NRCS-27 Ag By-products and Animal Mortality Management Systems since joining ASABE in 2008. Baker is the competition coordinator for the Fountain Wars Student Competition and involved with the P-120 Student Competitions Committee.

“When I joined ASABE with the intent to participate in student competitions, it was a professor ‘requiring’ that I attend the SE-412 committee meeting that became the key reason I maintained my membership in ASABE after completing my undergraduate degree. Even when not present at physical meetings, I maintained involvement with my technical committee. I was able to attend an annual meeting after a seven-year absence, where new acquaintances, who I now consider friends, encouraged me to engage in several opportunities for leadership. Our Society offers opportunities for our members to engage in technical and leadership opportunities that provide professional and personal growth. The biggest goal I have if elected to the Board of Trustees, is elevating the communication to our members of the opportunities our Society offers.”



Margaret W. Gitau
Professor
Purdue University
West Lafayette, Indiana

Margaret Gitau’s work focuses on water resources including water quality, integrated modeling, and data-driven decision-making and management. Gitau has developed over 150 products including peer reviewed journal articles, presentations, and datasets. She has given over 20 invited talks and seminars in the U.S. and internationally. Gitau has served on the Advisory Board of University of Florida’s ABE Department and is Founding President of the Mentoring Network for African Women in Academia.

A 23-year member of ASABE, Gitau was Co-founder/Co-lead of the Alliance for Modernizing African Agrifood Systems (AMAA) initiative, and currently serves as vice chair. Her other leadership roles include chair of two Global Engagement committees, commit-

tee service for three Global Engagement conferences, and chair of three technical committees. Gitau currently serves on the Foundation Board of Trustees, and has served as associate editor (2007-2019, recognized four times for Outstanding Service) and on two Councils.

“I am excited about the opportunity to contribute to ASABE’s strategic direction, support on-going initiatives and help shape new ones, and help grow the Society’s vision for a stronger impact globally. Going forward, it will be important to develop a better understanding of members’ changing needs and expectations, and design ways to engage the membership in a deeper way to ensure ASABE continues to thrive in a rapidly changing global landscape. If elected, I will work to expand ASABE’s global reach and design strategies to help the Society develop and nurture a diverse and dynamic membership base.”



Carol L. Jones, P.E.
Professor Emeritus
Oklahoma State University
**Stored Product Engineering Owner/
Lead Engineer**
CL Jones Consulting, LLC
Stillwater, Oklahoma

Carol Jones holds degrees from Oklahoma State University and continues to serve post-retirement from her full professorship by leading OSU’s Grain Bin Entrapment and Rescue Team. She is owner/lead engineer for CL Jones Consulting LLC, providing grain quality and handling planning and forensic engineering. Her research and extension programs are internationally known, focusing on grain quality and safety. She serves on numerous international standards committees and has received the prestigious GEAPS Industry Leader Award.

An active ASABE member for 20 years, Jones has served on numerous technical committees (ITSC, FPE, PRS, and SE) as a member and in various leadership roles. She currently serves on the ASABE Foundation Board of Trustees, as an associate editor (ITSC), and on several standards committees including ANSI/ISO. She has received a Presidential Citation and the Superior Paper Award.

“ASABE is in the unique position to join every aspect of a healthy world through research, extension, education, and industry. It is an honor to be a Board of Trustees candidate. Our Board has the responsibility to provide leadership for present functions and for the vision of our organization through opportunities for students and our members. My broad experience across several of our communities will provide the Board with the perspective to move ASABE into the future. If elected, my priorities will be promoting inclusive opportunities for all levels and providing platforms for industry and academia to join together to build a stronger ASABE.”

CANDIDATES FOR THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES



Deepak R. Keshwani
Associate Professor
University of Nebraska-Lincoln
Lincoln, Nebraska

Deepak Keshwani's research expertise is in bioprocess and biosystems modeling, and student success. He has significant teaching and advising responsibilities and serves as Director of Undergraduate Programs for his academic department. In addition to coordinating a student civic engagement and leadership program, the Justin Smith Morrill Scholars, he serves as a faculty fellow for the Daugherty Water for Food Institute and UNL's College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources.

A member since 1999 when he joined as an undergraduate student, Keshwani is chair of the Meetings Council, and serves on E-03 Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Access (IDEA) committee in addition to active involvement in many PRS and EOPD technical committees. Past leadership roles include EOPD Community Editor for ASABE's journals, and positions within PRS and EOPD. He has served in leadership roles in ASABE's Nebraska Section. He received a Presidential Citation for Service and the A.W. Farrall Young Educator Award.

"Having benefited professionally and personally as an ASABE member, it is truly an honor to be nominated as a Trustee candidate. I believe the Board has the responsibility to provide strategic leadership to ASABE, balancing the need for change with preserving important traditions. Through my involvement in numerous committees at the section and national level and with my current leadership roles, I have developed a strong understanding of the structure and function of ASABE, the diverse needs of members, and challenges and opportunities facing the Society. My priorities will be fostering an inclusive Society at all levels, supporting development of students and young professionals, and positioning ASABE to take the lead on national and international initiatives that align with the expertise of our members."



Peter A. Livingston, P.E.
Department Head and Professor
California State Polytechnic University
San Luis Obispo, California

Peter Livingston is the Department Head for the BioResource and Agricultural Engineering Department at Cal Poly, SLO. He came into the academic phase of his career after working as a consulting engineer in Arizona for over 30 years. Much of his work revolved around assisting Native American tribes prepare to receive and beneficially use Central Arizona Project Water. Livingston is very grateful to the experience gained through conducting accreditation visits for ABET.

An active member of ASABE for 38 years, Livingston has served multiple times as vice chair and chair of the Arizona Section and has been active in the California/Nevada Section since 2016. His passion is working with students and he has been active starting and

sustaining the student rallies in California. At the national level, Livingston has served as chair of EOPD-204 and EOPD-210. He is currently a member of the ASABE Foundation Board.

"My experience as an ABET PEV representing ASABE led to my transformation from consulting to academics as mentors exposed me to our future generations of engineers and technologists and the importance of ASABE. Throughout my career I have supported ASABE and its dedication to the advancement of agricultural, food, and biological systems engineering and technology, while witnessing the exponential growth in value of agricultural systems management and technologists. I want to serve as a Trustee to help ensure that ASABE is here to support our profession and to be a strong voice for the technology and systems management side of our Society."



Kyle R. Mankin
Research Leader
Research Agricultural Engineer
USDA-ARS (Agricultural Research Service)
Fort Collins, Colorado

Kyle Mankin is a Research Leader/ Agricultural Engineer with USDA-ARS. Previously, he was professor at Kansas State University, senior hydrologist with USFWS in the Everglades, and research hydrologist with USGS in the Desert Southwest. His research spans treatment wetlands, wetland ecohydrology, and watershed modeling in forests and croplands. He authored an ASABE textbook and over 400 publications, including 109 journal articles with \$19.2M in funding across 84 projects. He has educated hundreds of students, with seven graduate students and post-docs currently in university faculty positions internationally.

A 33-year member of ASABE, Mankin recently completed a 14-year term as NRES Community Editor with ASABE journals. He has served as chair of Publications Council (twice), on the Society's Nominating Committee, and on 23 other Society and community level committees, including 13 as chair. He received ASABE's A.W. Farrall Young Educator award, three Superior Paper awards, a Leadership Citation, and was advisor to the National AEM Student Branch of the Year competition.

"Simply, my goal is to change the world. I am extremely engaged with ASABE because it connects me with colleagues both inside and outside the Society. As an ASABE Trustee, I will champion ideas that help ASABE grow and work better for each individual member. We need circularity, with members both creating and benefiting from ASABE (read my recent Resource article: Last Word, 29(6)). Diversity is fundamental to this; I helped nominate the first woman president of ASABE, which shifted how we have evolved ever since. Our new challenge is to nimbly meet the demands and opportunities of the post-COVID workplace. We can do it!"

CANDIDATES FOR THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

District 2



Mikela R. Pryor
Field Engineer
USDA-NRCS
(Natural Resources Conservation Service)
Corsicana, Texas

Mikela Pryor is currently a field engineer with the USDA- NRCS. Her responsibilities include design and implementation of erosion control structures and water conservation systems for private landowners, including grade stabilization, rainwater harvesting and conveyance, and livestock watering systems. Her previous research has focused on nature-based stormwater management systems, specifically bioretention and rain gardens.

Pryor joined ASABE as an undergraduate in 2017. She is a member of E-03 (YPC rep), E-06/1, NRES-252 (chair), and NRES-28. Pryor is the NRES-07 representative for NRES-28 and the NRES-03 representative for NRES-25. She serves on the social media team for the BIPOC community and on the Cleon Namken Memorial Scholarship committee in the Texas Section. Pryor is the 2019 Pharos of Alexandria Global Learning Awardee.

“When I became involved in ASABE as an undergrad and attended my first AIM, I was blown away by both the diversity of technical areas in agricultural and biological engineering as well as that of the membership. My work in ASABE has taught me the importance of the work of our Society’s leadership in ensuring that our members’ voices are heard. If selected, I would like to help ensure that our elected leaders are representative of the diversity of our membership, as well as open to learning about and including members of diverse personal, professional, and cultural backgrounds.”



Hongwei Xin
Dean, Director and Professor
UT AgResearch
The University of Tennessee
Knoxville, Tennessee

As dean of UT AgResearch and director of the Tennessee Agricultural Experiment Station, Hongwei Xin is responsible for the research programs of over 660 faculty and staff in eight academic departments and at ten AgResearch and Education Centers across Tennessee. He is actively engaged with stakeholders at state and national levels. His academic and leadership endeavors have impacted U.S. and global animal agriculture, scientific literature and engineering practices related to animal production, and the education of next-generation professionals and leaders.

A 38-year ASABE member and 2008 Fellow, Xin has served on many ASABE technical committees including leadership roles. He is a recipient of Kishida International Award, Lalit and Aruna

Verma Award for Excellence in Global Engagement, Cyrus Hall McCormick-Jerome Increase Case Gold Medal Award, Henry Giese Structures and Environment Award, President Citation Award, and 15 Paper Awards.

“ASABE has and will continue to play a pivotal role in meeting the fundamental needs of humanity – food, feed, fiber and fuel. This sacred responsibility remains paramount today and into the future. Visionary and servant leaders are imperative to ensure that ASABE builds on its legacy and excels to meet the ever-increasing needs of society. We in ASABE have been blessed with extraordinary leaders. As a lifetime member, I have benefited enormously from engagement with this admirable organization. I wish to contribute my time and energy to helping identify future leaders who will make ASABE shine even more.”

District 4



Paul F. Burkner, P.E.
Vice President
Ag Industrial Manufacturing (AIM)
Lodi, California

Paul Burkner co-founded AIM, Inc., in 1979, a company that manufactures specialized agricultural and industrial equipment. Responsible for directing design and manufacturing, Burkner plays a key role in bringing updates, changes, and new designs to AIM’s product line. He has worked on international and domestic consulting projects, was awarded several patents, and was selected 2017 Honored Alumni of the Cal Poly College of Agriculture, Food, and Environmental Science. Burkner is the 2021 recipient of the Lodi Chamber of Commerce Agri-Business Person of the Year.

An active member of ASABE for 59 years, Burkner held leadership roles at local and national levels, serving on the Board of Trustees (2018-2021), the 2013-2015 Nominating committee, Membership Development Council, and Resource magazine editorial board. Most recently, Burkner contributed to the initiation efforts of the CA/NV Student Rally. He was inducted as a Fellow of the Society in 2009.

“I am most passionate about introducing prospective students to the opportunities found in agricultural engineering education and subsequent careers. I put this into practice by serving as long-time chair and member of the Cal Poly BRAE Industry Advisory Council, being involved in the committee for building a new Wine and Viticulture Center on the Cal Poly campus, and serving as a member of the Tokay High School FFA advisory committee. I regularly recruit, hire, and mentor agricultural engineering students. Students are the key to the future of the Society and I believe we should make a greater effort in converting these students to Society members.”

CANDIDATES FOR THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE



Kelly R. Thorp, P.E.
Research Agricultural Engineer
USDA-ARS (Agricultural Research Service)
Maricopa, Arizona

Kelly Thorp is a Research Agricultural Engineer and Lead Scientist with the USDA Agricultural Research Service. His research focuses on the development of informational technologies to understand cropping system processes, improve management of water and nutrients for crop production, and enhance plant breeding and genetics research. Since 2004, he has contributed more than 100 research articles in refereed journals.

Thorp has previously served on the Nominating Committee (2017-2019) and has served as the chair of four ASABE technical committees. He has served as an associate editor for ASABE journals since 2010 and has received several Outstanding Associate Editor and Outstanding Reviewer awards. Two lead-author publications have received ASABE Superior Paper awards. He is a 24-year member of ASABE.

“Service on the ASABE Nominating Committee offers an important opportunity to identify the future leaders of our great Society. My previous service on this committee was one of the most enjoyable and inspiring service tasks that I’ve completed for ASABE, because we discussed all the fine qualities of ASABE members and their potential for leading our Society. I will support candidates for ASABE leadership who have demonstrated their commitment to the Society through active involvement in its Councils and technical committees. I will also ensure that a diverse and inclusive set of candidates is selected for the ASABE leadership ballot.”

Applied Science and Engineering Community



Santosh K. Pitla
Associate Professor
University of Nebraska-Lincoln
Lincoln, Nebraska

Santosh Pitla is an Associate Professor of Advanced Machinery Systems in the Department of Biological Systems Engineering at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. His research is in the area of agricultural robotics, control architectures for safe and secure operation of autonomous equipment, and tractor power characterization. Pitla directs the Machine Automation & Agri-cultural Robotics (MAARS) lab and teaches courses ranging from freshman level introductory classes to graduate classes in both Ag Engineering and Ag Technology programs. He published over 30 peer reviewed journal articles, four book chapters, and two education and outreach publications with ASABE and CAST. Pitla has been awarded two patents.

Pitla has served as chair, co-chair, and secretary of MS-45 and ITSC-318 technical committees. He is the chair of the EOPD-206 committee and an active member of E-05 and the ASABE Robotics competition committee. Pitla has received the Sunkist Young Designer Award (2016) and A.W.Farrall Young Educator Award (2021).

“As Agricultural and Biological Engineers we are at the center of the most challenging and complex problems occurring at the intersection of the food, energy, water, and climate nexus. As Ag Engineers we can create sustainable solutions to advance our pursuit of a circular bio-economy. We need visionary leaders to communicate this to other engineering disciplines, policy makers, and society. Electing a strong and inclusive leader to carry on this mission of educating “who we are as a professional society” and communicating to the world the importance of what we do as a Society is very important, and that is the reason why I would like to serve on the Nominating Committee to help identify and elect ASABE leadership.”

Toufiq Reza
Assistant Professor

Florida Institute of Technology
Melbourne, Florida



As an assistant professor of chemical engineering at the Florida Institute of Technology, Toufiq Reza’s research focuses on upcycling biomass into biofuels, biomaterials, and biochemicals. Reza has published eighty-two peer-reviewed journal articles with over 4,400 citations. He was listed as one of the World’s Top 2% Cited Researchers

in 2021 and 2022.

Reza joined ASABE in 2019. In addition to serving as the session organizer and moderator of the ASE-12 and PRS-707 committees, Reza has held leadership roles within PRS-707 and is a member of the ES-202 committee. He is the recipient of the 2022 New Holland Young Investigator Award and 2022 Florida Section ASABE Young Researcher Award.

“I, Toufiq Reza, want to serve as a member of the ASABE Nominating Committee. I have been involved with ASABE and the Florida section in various roles from management to attendance. I am a member of multiple technical communities of ASABE, and I enjoy my involvement with the committees. My vision is to explore overlaps between the technical communities and other scientific communities (e.g., AIChE, ACS). As a Nominating Committee member, I would like to represent my communities and foster collaborations among the communities.”

CANDIDATES FOR THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Energy Systems Community



Sushil Adhikari, P.E.
Professor and Director
Auburn University
Auburn, Alabama

Sushil Adhikari is a Professor in the Biosystems Engineering Department and the Director for the Center for Bioenergy and Bioproducts at Auburn University. Adhikari teaches biosystems engineering classes and conducts research related to biofuels and bioproducts, especially in the field of thermochemical conversion. Adhikari has published 140 peer-reviewed journal articles and eight book chapters, and has been cited more than 10,000 times. He was named the Alabama Distinguished Young Agricultural Engineer in 2010 and “World’s Most Influential Mind” by Thomas Reuters in 2014.

An ASABE member for 18 years, Adhikari has served as chair for ES-220 (2017-2019), PRS-04 (2016-2017), and Alabama ASABE section (2014-2015). He served as associate editor for ES and PRS technical communities for Transactions of the ASABE and Applied Engineering journals. Adhikari received the New Holland Young Researcher Award in 2013.

“ASABE is in a position to provide sustainable solutions to address issues related to energy, water, food, and the environment in developed and developing countries. I look forward to serving our Society by helping to select dynamic and committed candidates in this endeavor.”



William Joe Sagues
Assistant Professor
North Carolina State University
Raleigh, North Carolina

Joe Sagues is the Principal Investigator of the Biocarbon Utilization & Sequestration (BUS) Lab in the Biological & Agricultural Engineering Department at NC State University. He has experience in research,

development, and demonstration of innovative bioprocessing technologies at corporations, universities, and national labs. The BUS Lab takes an integrated approach to innovating technologies that utilize and sequester biogenic carbon.

Sagues has been an active member of ASABE since 2016, when he helped develop graduate student events as part of the YPC and served as secretary for the Florida Section of ASABE for two years. In 2021, he was a founding member and working group leader for ASABE’s new Circular Bioeconomy Systems initiative. Currently, he is an active member of the ASE-16 committee and leader of the student Bioprocess Startup Competition.

“As a faculty member in an agricultural and biological engineering department and active member in ASABE, I feel obligated and motivated to ensure our discipline continues to advance and innovate. As a Nominating Committee member, I will help the Society attract and retain exceptional talent in leadership positions. Specifically, I will do my best to ensure ASABE has leadership that guides the Society towards emerging trends while also solidifying the core foundation. I am confident that my various roles in ASABE, as well as the broader bioeconomy, have prepared me to be a successful Nominating Committee member.”

Information Technology, Sensors, and Control Systems Community



Joseph (Joe) S. Dvorak, P.E.
Associate Professor
Director of Undergraduate Studies
University of Kentucky
Lexington, Kentucky

At the University of Kentucky, Joe Dvorak teaches and conducts research focused on intelligent machinery. This has covered a wide range of applications from decision sup-

port apps that help producers market high-moisture soybeans in the field to automatic in-field fleet routing to drone-based alfalfa yield mapping to energy optimization for aquaculture. As Director of Undergraduate Studies for the department, Dvorak handles curriculum, assessment, and accreditation as well as student advising.

An 18-year member of ASABE, Dvorak’s involvement has focused on the Information Technology, Sensors, and Controls Technical Community but includes participation in several Machine Systems committees. He has served in ITSC community leadership and is currently on the Meetings Council. As chair of the P-129 committee, he has organized the Student Oral/Poster Presentation Competition for the past several years. Dvorak has offered an AIM CPD on app development from 2012 to 2015.

“As a member of the Nominating Committee, I want to help ensure ASABE reaches its potential for positive impact and address the needs of current and potential new members in advancing their careers. ASABE is a unique organization among professional societies. Students from ASABE-associated undergraduate programs often have careers outside of agriculture and biology. Practicing engineers in agriculture and biological systems frequently have a wide variety of engineering degrees. I believe we can use this to our advantage by identifying leaders who can provide diverse opportunities to serve and engage this large constituency.”

CANDIDATES FOR THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE



Kristen M. Perano
Field Officer Engineer
USDA-NRCS
(Natural Resources Conservation Service)
Grass Valley, California

Kristen Perano works as a field office engineer for Natural Resources Conservation Service and is responsible for pre-contracting, design, implementation requirements, and final inspection of all engineering practices in NRCS contracts in Nevada and Placer Counties in California. Projects include livestock watering systems, irrigation systems, and erosion control systems. She is also active in the CA Farm Bureau's Young Farmers and Ranchers club in Nevada/Placer County.

As an ASABE member for 10 years, Perano has served on PAFS-40. She is vice chair of NRES-225 and is active on NRES-22 and ITSC-217. Perano is membership chair of the CA/NV section of ASABE. She won the Boyd-Scott Award in the Masters' category in 2014 as well as the ASABE Essay contest in 2014.

"I first got involved with ASABE through presenting my graduate school research at ASABE's AIM conference several times. I really enjoyed the opportunity to attend AIM as a graduate student. Now that I am a young professional working for the Natural Resources Conservation Service, I want to remain connected to ASABE. As part of NRCS, I work to help implement best practices and ASABE standards on the ground with agricultural stakeholders. My work gives me a unique perspective into the ag industry challenge of balancing output to feed a growing population while conserving scarce resources."

Machinery Systems Community



Edwin (Ed) Brokesh, P.E.
Assistant Professor
Kansas State University
Manhattan, Kansas

Ed Brokesh worked in the agricultural equipment industry for 24 years before joining Kansas State University. Working with ag producers to design equipment to meet their needs has shaped his approach to his teaching and research work. He teaches courses on engineering design and agricultural machinery systems. Combining his industrial experiences with accepted theory, Brokesh provides students with a unique depth to their engineering education. Industry experience helps him to connect with industry professionals and he helps them to navigate the academic world that they often find confusing.

Brokesh joined ASABE as an undergraduate to compete in the AGCO National Design Competition 40 years ago and has since maintained his connection, which contributed to a large percentage of his professional growth over the last 15 years of his career. He has been actively involved in several ASABE committees related to standards and safety. He is the past chair of MS-24-4-3, the lighting and marking committee.

"ASABE is an important part of my professional career. I wish to see ASABE grow and thrive in this dynamic and challenging time. The Society has strong academic and industry elements that often do not connect with each other. I believe my experience provides me with a perspective that can be used to connect these groups together. I understand what the seasoned practicing professionals and newly graduated engineers are looking for to grow their careers. I understand how important the Society is to the education of future engineers. I can bring this understanding of these stakeholders to the Nominating Committee as it identifies the future leaders of the Society."



Joe D. Luck, P.E.
Associate Professor
Associate Director
University of Nebraska-Lincoln
Lincoln, Nebraska

Joe Luck serves as Associate Professor and Precision Agriculture Engineer in the Department of Biological Systems Engineering and as Associate Director for the

Eastern Nebraska Research, Extension and Education Center. His areas of focus have been extension and research dedicated to precision agriculture. Luck has authored or coauthored over 60 peer reviewed manuscripts, 130 conference presentations, and directed over \$4.8M in funded research projects. Luck serves as a board member for the Agricultural Data Coalition and the Nebraska Agricultural Technologies Association.

Luck is an 18-year ASABE member, having served in various officer roles including past chair of MS-02 and MS-58, and Nebraska Section officer (a six-year commitment). He served on the AETC planning committee, multiple MS committees, and the ASABE Nominating Committee (2019-2021). He transitioned to associate editor in 2017 after serving as a journal reviewer for eight years. Luck received the Larry Turner Young Extension Professional, Gale Holloway Professional Development, and four Superior Paper awards.

"The ASABE Nominating Committee serves one of the most important roles in our Society by selecting future leaders from among our membership. It would be an honor to serve again as I would seek to leverage the connections I've made over the past 18 years to nominate strong service-oriented leaders representing our diverse membership. Cultivating preprofessional membership growth and retention will be critically important for our Society to expand our membership and further ASABE's goals and strategies for growth and impact. I hope to help other young professionals benefit as much from ASABE as I have over the past decade such that they can contribute to the long-term success of our Society."

CANDIDATES FOR THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Natural Resources and Environmental Systems Community



Russell A. Persyn, P.E.
Senior Vice President
RESPEC Company, LLC
Castroville, Texas

Russell Persyn has over 24 years of professional experience in water quantity, water quality, and waste management engineering projects. As a Senior Vice President for RESPEC, Persyn oversees financial and

operational programs, client relationship development and maintenance, business development, project oversight, personnel management and recruitment, and market strategy. Outside of RESPEC, he sits on the Edwards Aquifer Authority Board of Directors and serves in leadership roles in the Castroville community and local school district.

An ASABE member since 1994, Persyn strengthened student participation by helping create the International Preprofessional Council and serving as president. He solidified young member recruitment and retention through the development of the Young Professionals Community. He has served on several technical committees and as an associate editor for the journals. A member of the Professional Engineering Institute, he actively supports licensure.

"I have been a dedicated member of ASABE for over 28 years, spanning career transitions from academia to public sector to private consulting. I have focused my contributions on advancing the value of membership to students, the value of engineering licensure, and technical advancement. ASABE offers the opportunity for leadership and professional growth of our membership through numerous avenues. Moving forward, we have to continue to recruit and retain membership because our diverse technical prowess allows for many of our graduates to pursue multiple professional career options. I want to assist with the Nominating Committee to maintain an excellent pool of members serving the Society's diverse technical areas along with the diversity of our membership."



Anita M. Thompson
Professor
University of Wisconsin - Madison
Madison, Wisconsin

Anita Thompson is a Professor in the Biological Systems Engineering Department and Ken Potter Professor of Water Resources in the Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies (NIES) at the University of

Wisconsin – Madison. She serves as chair of the NIES Water Resources Management program. Her research focuses on hydrologic and water quality impacts of land management. She teaches undergraduate and graduate courses in watershed engineering, water management systems design, and interdisciplinary water resources management.

A member of ASABE for 22 years, Thompson has served as vice chair and chair of NRES-22 Soil Erosion and Water Quality, and NRES-223 Erosion Control Research, secretary, vice chair, and chair of NRES-28 Ecological Engineering, and member of NRES-07 Nomenclature and NRES-21 Hydrology Group. She has been an associate editor of the *Journal of the ASABE* since 2008. Currently, she is vice chair of NRES-01/02/04 NRES Executive/Steering/Program Committees and the proceedings chair of the ASABE Soil Erosion Research under a Changing Climate Symposium.

"My involvement in ASABE over the past 22 years has been an important part of my professional growth. The breadth of complex resource challenges our profession is addressing is extensive. Serving on the Nominating Committee will give me an opportunity to help shape the future of the Society by identifying leaders who will foster interdisciplinary and cross-sectoral collaborations, engage students and young professionals, and promote the critical work of our members to a broad audience."

Processing Systems Community



Terry A. Howell, Jr., P.E.
Executive Director
The Food Processing Center
University of Nebraska-Lincoln
Lincoln, Nebraska

Terry Howell is a food engineer, serving since July 2018 as the Executive Director of The Food Processing Center at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. The Center is a consultancy to the food industry in the state, region and beyond, assisting companies with process and product development needs. Prior to joining the UNL, he spent 16 years with McKee Foods Corporation in various research and development roles.

Howell is a 27-year member, Fellow, and Past President of ASABE. He has served on the Board of Trustees and Finance Committee and chaired numerous award committees. He has served on the Nominating Committee twice, acting as its chair in 2018. He is active in the Alliance for Modernizing African Agri-food Systems (AMAA) and E-2050.

"I am deeply committed to the mission of ASABE and would take seriously the task of the Nominating Committee to identify a diverse, motivated, engaged slate of candidates for the Society's elected offices. I have deep connections throughout the Society, and I would leverage them to support this important work. I would gladly listen to ideas and suggestions from our membership in the process."

CANDIDATES FOR THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE



Yang Tao, P.E.

Professor

**University of Maryland
College Park, Maryland**

Yang Tao is a full professor in the Department of Bioengineering at the University of Maryland. He has directed the Bio-imaging and Machine Vision (BMV) Lab for the past 25 years and developed and

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Tao has been an ASABE member for 34 years, serving as an associate editor, chair, and/or member of numerous technical committees including E-08 Fellows, ITSC committees, MS committees, and PR committees, among others. Tao is the recipient of 1994 Young Designer Award and two Superior Paper Awards. Tao is a 2013 Fellow of ASABE.

“As an ASABE member for over 30 years and involved in multi-disciplinary fields, I believe I have reasonably known ASABE’s culture, heritage, and future vision as well as people from various venues. At the leadership position, I would nominate people who make great contributions to further increase the values and reputation of ASABE, its unity, and its continued thriving. I would like to promote strong and solid industrial-academic collaborations in technological and educational fronts. I would like to promote the ASABE flagship journals to further improve their value and impact factors by creating a positive eco-system in submissions, publications, and references.”

