Message From the Chair

As I contemplate the state of the department, the first and foremost thought is of the fast approaching retirement of Elton Solseng. On my many interactions with our ASM/Ag Mech alumni and current students, Elton often becomes a topic of conversation. The comments about Elton always brought to mind the quote “a teacher takes a hand, opens a mind and touches a heart.” Elton Solseng has taught and mentored ASM students for 43 years, and they remember his classes as the best experience they had at NDSU. This exceptional faculty member will retire this July after 43 years of service to ABEN department. Elton has been admired by student, staff and faculty colleagues alike. He is an example of the role a great teacher plays in shaping and inspiring generations of students. As Henry Adams said, a teacher affects eternity, and Elton is a shining example. We congratulate him on his retirement and wishes him and Colleen the very best!

The ASM club is celebrating their 50th anniversary this year. It is a remarkable milestone for the department and the club. At the 68th Agriculture Technology Exposition banquet this year, Elton presented the history of the club.

Our faculty members are providing leadership in research and education in the areas of natural resource engineering, food and bioprocessing, precision agriculture and Unmanned Aerial Systems, grain drying, and structures and environment. Our teaching programs are continuing to be strong, with high demand for our graduates from employers.

I hope you enjoy reading the 2015 updates from the ABEN department. As we move forward in the tradition of excellence, we like to hear from our alumni and friends. If you have an opportunity, please stop by our department, or contact us. As our state is facing tough economic times, we need your help and support more than ever to continue our culture of excellence in education and research.

With Warm Regards,
Sreekala

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