University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
Faculty and Staff with Interests in Biofuels/Bioenergy Systems

Compiled by

Center for Advanced BioEnergy Research (CABER)

Fall 2008
This guide was updated during the Fall 2008 semester. Although every attempt has been made to be inclusive of all University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign faculty members who are involved in doing research related to Biofuels and Bioenergy Systems, omissions or errors may have been inadvertently included. To update an entry or to make additions, please contact:

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The most up-to-date iteration of this list can be found on the CABER website:

http://www.bioenergy.uiuc.edu/education/faculty.html
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Areas of interest: Pavements including material characterization, design, analysis, modeling, and performance prediction; Nondestructive testing and evaluation, instrumentation, full scale testing, geosynthetics in pavements, pavement fracture and reinforcement techniques

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wartz@illinois.edu
College: ACES
Department: Food Science and Human Nutrition
Web (biography): http://fshn.illinois.edu/people/william_artz
Areas of interest: Development of Supercritical Fluid Extraction (SFE) and Supercritical Fluid Chromatography (SFC); tropical oils of Brazil and their use for food, fuel and pharmaceutical applications; biodiesel stability; biodiesel synthesis; alternative uses for glycerol, a biodiesel byproduct.

Werner Baer
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Fred E. Below
Professor of Plant Physiology
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College: ACES
Web (biography): http://www.cropsci.uiuc.edu/faculty/below/
Areas of interest: Nitrogen Use Efficiency; Grain Quality for Processing; Crop Production Management Evaluation.
Primary Disciplines: Off-Campus Graduate Studies, Crop Production, Molecular Biology and Physiology.
May Berenbaum  
Jubilee Professor, Swanlund Chair and Head of Entomology  
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Department: Entomology  
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Areas of interest: Plant-insect interactions and biotic stress.

Larry Berger  
Professor  
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llberger@illinois.edu  
College: ACES  
Department: Animal Sciences  
Web (biography): http://www.ansci.uiuc.edu/directory/details.cfm?ID=4  
Areas of interest: Systems to optimize both food and fuel production from the same land/crop.  
Primary Discipline: Animal Nutrition.

Carl Bernacchi  
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Department: Plant Biology  
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Hans Blaschek  
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College: ACES  
Departments: CABER and Food Science and Human Nutrition  
Web (biography): http://www.bioenergy.uiuc.edu/about/staff.html  
Web (Depart.esearch): http://bioenergy.uiuc.edu/  
Areas of interest: Genomics of bio-butanol producing Clostridium beijerinckii; bioprocessing.  
Primary Discipline: Microbiology.  
Additional Comments: Blaschek is also the theme leader of the Biomass Conversion theme which is affiliated with the Institute for Genomic Biology.

Martin O. Bohn  
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College: ACES  
Department: Crop Sciences  
Web (biography) http://www.cropsci.uiuc.edu/faculty/bohn/  
Areas of interest: Corn breeding and genetics; genetic basis of biotic stress responses; cell wall biology in maize.  
Primary Disciplines: Crops, Plant Biotechnology and Molecular Biology, Plant Breeding, Genetics and Cytogenetics.

Kaustubh Bhalerao  
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Web (biography): http://age-web.age.uiuc.edu/faculty/kb/kb.asp  
Areas of interest: Synthetic biology; pathway engineering; biofuel coproducts.
**Hans J. Bohnert**  
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Colleges: LAS & ACES  
Departments: Plant Biology & Crop Sciences  
Web (Depart.-Research): http://www.life.uiuc.edu/bohnert/  
Areas of interest: Molecular genetics and genomics of abiotic stress tolerance in model species and crops; novel genes and pathways in extremophile plant species; predictive transcript co-expression networks; genetics of regulatory pathways in phenylpropanoid biosynthesis; correlations between lignin and cellulose biosynthesis.

**German Bollero**  
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Areas of interest: Biometrics and the application of quantitative methods to the analysis of ecological, physiological, environmental, and management aspects of cropping systems.

**John Braden**  
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Areas of interest: Water resources and policies; biofuels; bioproducts.

**Carl A. Bradley**  
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Colleges: ACES & LAS  
Departments: Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences and Animal Biology  
Areas of interest: Conservation biology; biodiversity studies.

**Richard Brazee**  
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brazee@illinois.edu  
College: ACES  
Department: NRES  
Areas of interest: Dynamic modeling.  
Primary Disciplines: Economics, Mathematics.

**David Bullock**  
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Areas of interest: Economics and policy of bioenergy.
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Web (biography): http://www.cropsci.uiuc.edu/faculty/gca/  
Areas of interest: Bioinformatics; interaction of plants and microbes.

**Ximing Cai**  
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Areas of interest: Molecular biology; enzymes of plant cell wall hydrolysis; microbiology.

**Steven Clough**  
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Department: Crop Sciences  
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Areas of interest: Maize germplasm; pathology; genetics research.

**John Cronan**  
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Department: Microbiology  
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Areas of interest: Biosynthesis; regulation and function of membrane lipids and fatty acid-derived coenzymes.

**Munir Cheryan**  
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Areas of interest: Membrane separations; bioprocessing; fermentation; corn refining; soybean processing; vegetable oil processing.  
Primary Disciplines: Chemical engineering, food science.

**Mark David**  
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Department: Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences  
Areas of interest: Water quality; nitrogen and phosphorus cycling; biogeochemistry; environmental impacts of biofuels.
Adam Davis  
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Invasive Weed Management Unit, USDA-ARS, Faculty member, Program in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, Affiliate, Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences  
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Areas of interest: Crop production; weed management; agroecology.

Jeff Dawson  
Professor of Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences  
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Areas of interest: Soil biology; plant biology.

Evan DeLucia  
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Web (Depart.\Research): http://www.life.uiuc.edu/delucia/  
Areas of interest: Ecological consequences of large scale deployment of bioenergy crops, including effects on biodiversity and biogeochemical cycling of carbon, water and nitrogen.

Brian W. Diers  
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Areas of interest: Regional agro-ecosystem modeling using processes based biophysical models; biofuel crop environmental suitability and ecosystem service impacts; data assimilation and forecasting; trees and perennial grasses.  
Primary Disciplines: Ecology.

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Web (Depart:\Research): http://www.cropsci.uiuc.edu/research/rdc/dixonsprings/  
Areas of interest: Soil Fertility and Crop Production.

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Areas of interest: Genomics and bioinformatics of energy crops and their pathogens; next-generation genome sequencing; canopy development and dynamics; functional genomics and resequencing.

A. Bryan Endres  
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Areas of interest: Biofuel Law & Regulation; Intellectual Property; Biotechnology.  
Primary Disciplines: Law.

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College: ACES  
Department: Food Science and Human Nutrition  
Web (biography): http://fshn.illinois.edu/people/hao_feng  
Areas of interest: Power ultrasound as a new food and bioprocessing modality; conversion of biomass for production of biofuel and value-added products.

Fabián Fernández  
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Primary Disciplines: Crop Production, Crops.

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Ted L. Funk
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Areas of interest: Manure management and conversion; farmstead energy efficiency, home energy.

John Gerlt
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School: Molecular and Cellular Biology
Department: Biochemistry
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Areas of interest: Mechanisms of enzyme-catalyzed reactions; functional genomics; directed evolution and rational design of “new” enzymes.

Peter Goldsmith
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Areas of interest: Biofuels business economics and strategy.

Michael E. Gray
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Areas of interest: Integrated Pest Management; crop production; economic entomology; field crop insect ecology.
Primary Disciplines: Crop Production, Integrated Pest Management.

Tony Grift
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Areas of interest: Advanced machinery for biosystems applications.

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Areas of interest: Quantitative biology; ecology; biocomplexity; microbial ecology and evolution.
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Areas of interest: Biofuels combustion research; biodiesel.

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Areas of interest: Transportation and biofuels evaluation.

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Primary Disciplines: Soil Fertility, Outreach and Extension Programs.

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Areas of interest: Light-regulated signaling networks in plants; bioinformatics; functional genomics.
Primary Disciplines: Bioinformatics, Biological Sciences, Genomics, Plant Biotechnology and Molecular Biology, Plant Breeding, Genetics and Cytogenetics.

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Areas of interest: Metabolic engineering, strain improvement through systems and synthetic biology, yeast sugar metabolism.

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Areas of interest: Genetics & Plant Breeding.  
Primary Disciplines: Plant Breeding and Genetics.

Jack Juvik  
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Web (biography): http://miscanthus.uiuc.edu/?page_id=47  
Areas of interest: Miscanthus breeding and improvement.

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Areas of interest: proteomics and metabolomics.

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Department: Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences  
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Areas of interest: Microbial ecology and environmental microbiology; using molecular tools to investigate the contribution of microbial communities to important ecosystem processes such as nutrient cycling, and seeking applications of knowledge to manage or improve microbial processes in the environment.
Jay Kesan, J.D.
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Areas of interest: Biofuels Law and Regulation; Intellectual Property; Patent Law; Agricultural Biotechnology Regulation.

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Areas of interest: Modeling and economics of biofuels supply chain; land use modeling; economics and environmental effects of biofuel production.

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Areas of interest: Facilitation of University of Illinois campus bioenergy-related activities.

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Primary Disciplines: Small Grain Breeding and Genetics.

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Areas of interest: Transcriptional regulation of oxygen-responsive genes in yeast.

Dimitrios Kyritsis
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Areas of interest: Biofuel-related research with an emphasis on biofuel combustion and ethanol; butanol electrosprays within the framework of the federal Department of Energy (DOE)-supported Graduate Automotive Technology Education (GATE) Center of Excellence on Advanced Automotive Bio-fuel Combustion Engines.
Primary Disciplines: Laser diagnostics, gaseous and catalytic combustion, electrostatic atomization.
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Areas of interest: Biofuels combustion research.

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Areas of interest: Developing the best agronomic management practices for sustainable herbaceous biomass feedstock production of perennial grasses.  
Primary Disciplines: Crop Production, Perennial Crop Production, Biomass and Bioenergy Crop Production.

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Areas of interest: Conversion of wastes and by-products to biofuels, Biofuels Industry Sustainability.  
Primary Disciplines: Technology diffusion, chemical and environmental engineering.

Stephen Long  
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Web (biography): http://www.cropsci.uiuc.edu/faculty/long/  
Areas of interest: Miscanthus; plant growth; climate change.  
Primary Disciplines: Plant Physiology, Environmental Science.

Vera Lozovaya  
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Department: Crop Sciences  
Web (biography): http://miscanthus.uiuc.edu/?page_id=46  
Areas of interest: Miscanthus; modification of cell wall phenolics; biochemical analyses of phenylpropanoids.

Roderick Mackie  
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Department: Animal Sciences  
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Areas of interest: Molecular microbial ecology of the gastrointestinal tract; functional and comparative genomics of gut bacteria; comparative digestive physiology and metabolism.
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Areas of interest: Energy systems and micro fuel cells; cellulose depolymerization.

Michael Mazzocco
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Area of interest: Decision analysis, strategy implementation, operations management and economic analysis of firms in food and agribusiness sector.

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Areas of interest: Hydrology; nutrient biogeochemistry.

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Areas of interest: Molecular genetics; biochemistry of methanogenic archaea.

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Areas of interest: Lactic acid bacteria, gastrointestinal microbiology, and bacteriophage ecology.

Ray Ming
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Area of interest: Evolution of primitive sex chromosomes in plants; genetics of biomass production in sugarcane.
Stephen Moose
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Areas of interest: Maize functional genomics; molecular regulation of genetic pathways.
Primary Disciplines: Maize Functional Genetics, Corn Genomics.

Eberhard Morgenroth
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Areas of interest: Mixed culture biotechnology; membrane bioreactors; wastewater treatment and reuse; biological hydrogen production.

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Areas of interest: Food and bioproduct processing optimization for sustainability and energy conservation. Optimization of alternative fuels production and transportation systems. Environmental and economic impact assessment of alternative fuels production and use.
Primary Disciplines: Engineering and systems optimization; high speed manufacturing.

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Areas of interest: Soil biology; soil and water quality.

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Areas of interest: Genomic applications to crop improvement, gene regulation, efficient plant breeding strategies, deployment of transgenic traits.
Primary Disciplines: Plant Breeding, Genetics, Quantitative Genetics, Functional Genomics.
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Areas of interest: Maize crop management; crop production; grain crop management.

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Areas of interest: Structural biology; biological functions of macromolecules.
Primary Disciplines: Biochemistry and Biophysics.

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Areas of interest: soybean cyst nematode, maize-parasitic nematodes.
Primary Disciplines: Nematology, Plant Pathology, Extension.

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Areas of interest: Plant molecular biology and physiology; photosynthesis.

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Areas of interest: Transportation systems analysis, network optimization, supply chain and logistics systems for biofuels.

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Areas of interest: Bioproducts and co-product utilization.

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Primary Disciplines: Mutation Genetics, Maize Genetics, Genetic Toxicology, Environmental Mutagenesis, Life Sci: Microbiology.

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Primary Disciplines: Plant Molecular Biology and Physiology, USDA-ARS: Photosynthesis.

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Areas of interest: Computational and systems biology; genome scale metabolic networks.

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Areas of interest: biofuel co-products research.
Primary Disciplines: process research, membrane separations.
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Areas of interest: Systems engineering and analysis of biological systems; sustainability.

Marty Sachs
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Areas of interest: Maize genetics, plant stress.

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Web (biography): http://www.acdis.uiuc.edu/About/Staff/showstaff.php?id=6
Web (Depart.\Research): http://www.renewable-energy.uiuc.edu
Areas of interest: Socio-economics and sustainability of biofuels, with focus on emission reductions, land-use modeling, transportation and biorefineries; integrated assessment of climate change and life-cycle assessment of energy systems; coordination of Renewable Energy Initiative at UIUC; education, outreach and training.

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Areas of interest: Conservation biology.
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Areas of interest: Engineering devices for use with alternative fuels.

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Areas of interest: Micro-fuel cells; water use.

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Areas of interest: Rural development and sustainable agriculture.

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Areas of interest: Energy econometrics.

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Department: Agricultural and Biological Engineering
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Areas of interest: Grain bioprocessing technologies for ethanol production; process design and economic analysis; recovery of value-added coproducts; applied enzyme research in bioprocessing.

Murugesu Sivapalan
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Steve Sonka
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Areas of interest: Anticipation of strategic change associated with growth of biofuels and the bioeconomy, with emphasis on implications for global food and agricultural systems.

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Areas of interest: Enzyme mechanisms; catalysis.

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Areas of interest: Insect management in field crops, integrated pest management, surveys of insects in agricultural systems.

Hans Stein
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Areas of interest: Co-products utilization.

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Areas of interest: Plant water relations; environmental stress physiology; invasive plant biology; plant propagation.

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Areas of interest: Biofuels in 2007 Farm Bill; economics of biofuels; impact of biofuels development on international agricultural trade; the coming global conflict between fuel and food from agriculture.
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Areas of interest: Automation; systems informatics and analysis; alternative energy; decision support; engineering solutions for biomass feedstock production.
Primary Disciplines: Agricultural and biological engineering.

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Areas of interest: Grass production and management systems.

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Areas of interest: Soil biology; food crop systems.

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Areas of interest: Renewable energy systems; building energy efficiency; air quality and emission control.
Primary Disciplines: Agricultural engineering, mechanical engineering and environmental engineering.

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Areas of interest: Microbiology, genomics and metagenomics of plant cell wall hydrolysis in the rumen; cellulosome and glycoside hydrolase engineering.
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Areas of interest: Plant physiology and molecular biology, transformation of Miscanthus, soybeans, maize; Arabidopsis and tobacco and metabolomics.

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Areas of interest: Computer-aided farming systems; biodiesels; feedstock harvest for biofuels.
Primary Discipline: Agricultural engineering.

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Areas of interest: Hydrothermal processing of biomass to crude oil.

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Web (Depart.\Research): http://www.chemeng.uiuc.edu/~zhaogrp/
Areas of interest: Industrial biotechnology; bioenergy; metabolic engineering; developing new technologies to convert cellulose to biofuels; developing new technologies for butanol production; developing yeast strains that can efficiently utilize pentoses.

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