

USU Biological Engineering students excel at IBE National Conference!

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The Biological Engineering (BE) Department at Utah State University has once again demonstrated its excellence at the prestigious Institute of Biological Engineering (IBE) Conference, which was held this year in Atlanta, GA. With 13 students and 4 faculty members in attendance, USU was well-represented at the national event, bringing home impressive accolades, awards, and securing key leadership positions within the organization.



About the Institute of Biological Engineering (IBE)

IBE is a leading professional organization that fosters inquiry, innovation, and growth in the field of biological engineering. By promoting research, scholarship, and professional standards, IBE brings together academia, industry, and government to advance the understanding and application of biological engineering. Through conferences, publications, and professional development, IBE supports its members in shaping the future of biological engineering.

The IBE Annual Conference: A Hub for Collaboration and Innovation

The IBE Annual Conference is a premiere gathering of researchers, educators, and professionals in biological engineering. Attendees are provided with the opportunity to participate in technical sessions on a wide array of topics such as bioenvironmental engineering,

bioprocessing, and biological sensing. Students are highly encouraged to attend and participate in the Student Poster Competition, which serves as a valuable platform to showcase their research, network with industry leaders, and enhance their professional skills.

Outstanding Student Achievements at the Poster Competition

Our students from the BE Department excelled in this year's Student Poster Competition, winning **four awards** across both the undergraduate and graduate categories:

Undergraduate Poster Competition:

- **1st Place:** Seth Wilkinson
- **2nd Place:** Gracyn Ekstrom

Graduate Poster Competition:

- **1st Place:** Ammar Mussaji
- **2nd Place:** Anagha Wankhade

These awards are a testament to the high quality of research being conducted by our students and their dedication to advancing the field of biological engineering.

Leadership in the IBE

In addition to the impressive student achievements, the BE Department has also made significant strides in leadership within the IBE. Our faculty and students are playing crucial roles in shaping the future of the organization:

- **Dr. Jixun Zhan** has been elected as the **President of IBE** for 2024-2025.
- **Dr. Lukas Buecherl** was elected to the IBE Council.
- **Seth Wilkinson** was elected as the **Undergraduate Student Representative** to the National IBE Council.
- **Elise Barton** was elected as the **Graduate Student Representative** to the National IBE Council.

Special Recognition for Faculty

The conference was also an exciting moment for the BE Department's faculty, with **Dr. David Jones**, our new Dean of Engineering, being inducted as a **lifetime member** of the IBE. Additionally, **Dr. Lukas Buecherl** received recognition for his election to the IBE Council, marking a strong presence of USU in the national leadership of the IBE.

Looking Forward: IBE 2025 in Salt Lake City, UT

Next year's IBE Conference will be hosted in **Salt Lake City, UT**, providing an exciting opportunity for even more students, faculty, and professionals to engage with the latest in biological engineering. With Dr. Jixun Zhan at the helm as IBE President, USU will continue to lead and contribute to the growth and development of the field.

Congratulations to all our students, faculty, and the BE Department for their hard work and outstanding achievements at the IBE Conference! We are proud to represent USU on the national stage and look forward to what's next.

Stay tuned for more updates as we prepare to host next year's conference!