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ABE 290 Homework 6

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This week, Dr. Mosier came to class this week to speak about his research in sustainable energy. He is my professor in ABE 20100 and has worked on a few sustainability projects with Purdue graduate and undergraduate students. He has done simple discovery research, as well as research to develop new products for various groups and organizations, such as the U.S. Military.

His three take home messages included the importance of basic research, how to apply it, and the future of the results of today’s research. He said that basic research makes discoveries that are necessary to move toward a sustainable future. He also said that applying these discoveries requires innovation and teams with a wide range of skills, however, there is much work left to do to realize all the possibilities to apply these discoveries. He called us to action to, not only make new discoveries, but also to help science further by coming up with new applications to past discoveries from research.

Not only am I more excited than ever to get into research here at Purdue after this lecture, but I am also really interested in the enzyme mimicking research that Dr. Mosier has done. I would like to ask him about the possible applications of cellulose conversion to plastic products, and how else the maleic acid can be produced, other than with petroleum, in order to make it more sustainable. He claimed that plant materials can produce it as well, and I would be really interested to know how. If engineered cells could be used, that would be a really great iGEM project.