


CLAY SWACKHAMER

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Education

The University of California, Davis

Ph.D. Student in Department of Biological Systems Engineering

Davis, CA

2016-present

Penn State University

Schreyer Honors College

B.S. in Biological Engineering, Food and Biological Process Option

Passed Fundamentals of Engineering Exam, Certified Engineer in Training

Minor: Spanish

University Park, PA

Class of 2015

GPA: 3.92

The University of Alicante

Completed 15 credit semester of courses taught in Spanish

Alicante, Spain

August 2014-December 2014

GPA: 4.00

Experience

LignoLink, INC.

Engineering Intern

Innovation Park, PA

January 2016-August 2016

- Conducted aqueous ammonia pretreatment and enzymatic hydrolysis reactions on 98 biomass samples
- Designed, constructed, and validated custom HPLC assay for content of 5 sugar monomers in hydrolyzed samples
- HPLC development included equipment purchase, installation, calibration, and development of original, automated data analysis routine using MATLAB
- Created the company's first logo and website

McCormick & Company INC, Materials Process Engineering Group

Engineering Intern

Baltimore, MD

May 2015-August 2015

- Helped create plan to realize \$160,000 annual cost savings by eliminating overblending and reducing overfill losses
- Benchmarked physical properties of products using 5 instruments in food powder technology platform
- Conducted over 300 experiments; processed data using descriptive statistical techniques and modeling
- Quantified link between blend time and product bulk density
- Collaborated with McCormick engineers in 3 countries

Microbiological Engineering, Course Biological Engineering 468

Team Member

University Park, PA

January 2015-May 2015

- Team received "Best in Class" award for design of industrial amino acid production system by fermentation
- Presented at Northeast Agricultural and Biological Engineering Conference; won undergraduate paper competition

International Genetically Engineered Machines (iGEM) Competition

Undergraduate researcher-Penn State team

University Park, PA

May 2014-October 2014

- Redesigned gene for fluorescent protein at codon level using original MATLAB scripts
- Presented at iGEM international research conference; team won gold medal from independent panel of judges

Penn State Department of Agricultural and Biological Engineering

Undergraduate Researcher-Biomass Densification Project

University Park, PA

August 2012-May 2013

- Presented research poster at Penn State undergraduate research exposition, won third place in engineering division
- Co-Author, "Farm-Scale Biomass Pelletizer Performance for Switchgrass Pellet Production." 2015. Applied Engineering in Agriculture. 31(4): 559-567 (doi: 10.13031/aea.31.10803).

Affiliations

- *Alumni Relations Co-Chair*, Biological Engineering Graduate Student Association, UC Davis, 2017
- *Member*, Institute of Food Technologists (IFT), 2016-present
- *Member*, American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers (ASABE), 2013-present
- *Alumni Relations Chair*, Alpha Gamma Rho, National Agricultural Sciences Fraternity, 2013-2014

Skills

- HPLC, Image analysis, Statistical analysis, Arduino, Food processing
- MATLAB, \LaTeX , Adobe Illustrator
- Laboratory safety fundamentals, certificate from UC Davis Safety Services, 2016
- Writing Successful Grant Proposals, certificate from American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), 2018