PERMANENT ADDRESS:

CLAY D. SWACKHAMER

484.788.2816 | swackhamerclay@gmail.com

CURRENT ADDRESS: 820-3 South Pugh Street State College, PA 16801

EDUCATION

634 Walker Road

Macungie, PA 18062

The Pennsylvania State University University Park, PA

Schreyer Honors College, The College of Engineering

Bachelor of Science in Biological Engineering | Food and Biological Process Option

Minor in Spanish

Passed Fundamentals of Engineering Exam (EIT certification pending)

Class of 2015

GPA: 3.92

Fall 2015

University of Alicante Alicante, Spain

Completed a 15 credit semester of classes taught in Spanish, including a technical microbiology course with laboratory

Fall 2014 GPA: 4.00

EXPERIENCE

Penn State Department of Agricultural and Biological Engineering

Teaching Intern

University Park, PA Fall 2015

Assisted students and instructors in course BE 301: Mathematical Modeling of Biological and Physical Systems

Facilitated course objectives by holding weekly office hours, teaching exam review sessions, and troubleshooting student work

McCormick & Company INC, Materials Process Engineering Group

Engineering Intern

Baltimore, MD

Summer 2015

- Benchmarked physical properties of principal products using five instruments in food powder technology platform
- Conducted over 300 experiments; processed data using descriptive statistical techniques and modeling
- Applied insights from benchmarking to opportunities for reducing visual fill waste, with yearly cost savings objective of \$160,000
- Identified data-driven opportunities for raising production output in blending department
- Collaborated with McCormick engineers in three countries to apply global knowledge base to Hunt Valley Plant

Salis Laboratory for Synthetic Biology

University Park, PA

Undergraduate Team Leader

Spring 2013-Present

- Led iGEM research team on codon optimization project with objective of maximizing protein expression in prokaryotes
- Received gold medal from independent panel of judges at iGEM international research conference
- Wrote original MATLAB scripts to redesign genes for fluorescent protein at codon level
- Awarded the synthetic biology certificate for undergraduates by the Synthetic Biology Engineering Research Center (SYNBERC)

Penn State Department of Biological Engineering, Biomass Densification Project

University Park, PA

Undergraduate Research Team Leader

Fall 2012-Spring 2013

- Managed team of four undergraduates, designed and executed over 50 experiments
- Presented research poster at Penn State undergraduate research exposition, won third place in engineering division
- Co-Authored, "Farm-Scale Biomass Pelletizer Performance for Switchgrass Pellet Production." 2015. Applied Engineering in Agriculture. 31(4): 559-567 (doi: 10.13031/aea.31.10803).

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Biological Engineering 468 – Microbiological Engineering

University Park, PA

Spring 2015

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

Engineering Design 100

University Park, PA

PSU Engineering Student

Fall 2012

Received "Best in Class" award for design of human powered portable radio charging device

ACTIVITIES

Team Leader

- Treasurer, Alpha Epsilon, Omicron chapter. National Honors
- Alumni Relations Chair, Alpha Gamma Rho, National Agricultural Sciences Fraternity, 2013-2014

Society of Biological Engineering, 2015-present

 Active Member, American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers (ASABE), 2013-present

- PCR, molecular cloning, enzymatic digestion and ligation, DNA sequencing analysis, gel electrophoresis, DNA extraction, fluorometer assays (TECAN)
- Laboratory and Workplace Safety, certified through Penn State Environmental Health and Safety
- Excel, MATLAB, Minitab, R, SAP Production Management Platform, Adobe Illustrator, APE Plasmid Editor