Moving the Mission

The IGP Conference Center is always a busy hub especially at the end of the semester when a number of award banquets, graduation celebrations and retirement receptions highlight peoples’ accomplishments. We also host participants for on-site trainings such as our Grain Elevator Managers course and deliver a growing number of distance learning courses.

Our faculty experts have been serving customers off-site. Mark Fowler provided milling training at the Northern Crops Institute; Carlos Campabadal trained individuals in mycotoxin control in Mexico with Neogen, in grain quality management in Trinidad and Tobago, and in Jamaica with USSEC; and Venkat Reddy visited with post-harvest loss project collaborators in Bangladesh.

I had the privilege of traveling three weeks in Ethiopia, Malawi and Israel. In Israel, I spoke on food security at an international ag technology conference. While there I learned about the newest technologies Israeli colleagues are utilizing to preserve our food supply and reduce post-harvest loss especially for perishable crops. In Ethiopia, I met with collaborators of our PHL Innovation Lab who are getting ready to initiate research and demonstration projects in mycotoxin analysis, solar drying and hermetic storage. In Malawi, I attended the semi-annual meeting of innovation Labs Directors (see back page for a reflection on my travels in Malawi).

What does this do for moving our mission? Our experts provide technical assistance to help farmers become more self-sufficient and increase their capacity to connect globally. When countries have stronger economies, they increase their demand for animal protein and grains for food and feed. To feed 9 billion people by 2050, more grain will need to be produced, preserved and sold for food. Kansas will continue to be a critical supplier of grain to the global food system and that is what the IGP Institute mission is all about.

Dirk Maier
Senior Post-Harvest Engineer, IGP Institute

In the Spotlight

- IGP communications intern responsible for creating news releases and updating social media platforms.
- Communication Arts and Literary Studies Junior at Bethel College, Kansas.

“Understanding what IGP is all about has been a learning curve in the right direction. Not only have I thoroughly enjoyed my experience here so far, but everyone has been more than helpful in guiding me every step of the way.”

Trainings and Activities

Courses and activities held in May.
- IGP–KSU Grain Elevator Managers
- GEAPS 511–Grain Facilities Planning and Design II
- GEAPS 541–Developing an Effective Safety Culture at Your Company
- GEAPS 551–Materials Handling II
- AFIA 500: Fundamentals of Feed Manufacturing
- Advanced Grain Dust Explosion Workshop
- NBAF groundbreaking reception
Where in the World
A monthly look at where we’ve been as we make our way around the globe promoting U.S. commodities and IGP Institute training opportunities.

- Conducted presentations on grain storage and mycotoxin control for Neogen in Guadalajara and Mexico City.
- Gave technical assistance in feed manufacturing and soybean meal storage and handling with USSEC in Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago.
- Visited the International Association of Operative Millers Annual Technical Conference and Expo in Palm Springs, California.
- Attended the Rice Industry Alliance Meeting in Fayetteville, Arkansas.
- Provided milling training at the Northern Crops Institute in Fargo, North Dakota.

Marketing the Brand
by Lisa Moser, Marketing and Communications Coordinator

- Coordinated e-newsletter promotions for summer trainings.
- Conducted focus group interviews with Grain Elevator Manager participants.
- Redesigned bulletins made available through K-State Research and Extension outreach as well as for use in upcoming trainings.
- Sent post-course promotion for Grain Elevator Manager training and pre-course release for the IGP–KSU Pet Food Workshop and IGP–KSU Extrusion Processing: Technology and Commercialization training.

Post-Harvest Loss Update
by Dirk Maier, Senior Post-Harvest Engineer

The highlight of my time attending the semi-annual meeting of the innovation lab directors in Malawi was a field trip to a local village where a USAID-funded project works to improve child nutrition, food safety and agricultural productivity among smallholder farmers.

In the village we visited a demonstration plot of new sweet potato varieties being managed by farmers who were well informed on the production practices they used, the yields they expected and diseases that faced their crops. We also learned more about their food supply and the importance of plant protein from soybeans and peanuts. One concern is the high amount of mycotoxins in peanuts, which can cause liver cancer in adults, stunting in children and feed refusal in animals. Therefore, soybeans are being explored as an alternative mycotoxin-free field crop and food protein source that also has the potential to increase the income of smallholder Malawi farmers.