

Alan Plom, Secretary to the Douglas Bomford Trust (DBT) reports on the latest round of DBT Awards and Events.

## AWARDS

I was at Cranfield's Prize Giving Ceremony on 28 June to present the DBT Award for the "Best student on a land based course within the Environment theme" to Elizabeth Case.

Next it was RAU's Awards Ceremony on 18 July with Trustee Paul Miller to present our Prize for the "Best application of engineering to solve a problem in Agriculture, Food or the Environment" to Martin Wozencroft. Entirely coincidentally, Martin described his project at our own IAgRE South East Midlands Branch Student Competition in February. We hope Martin will continue to develop his mechanism for an autonomous litter picker to work in dangerous locations, such as verges and central reservations on busy highways. Similar to sensors for auto-weeding, this is another good example of cross-fertilisation of ideas and technology originally developed by agricultural engineers. We have given Martin some ideas, encouragement and industry contacts - part of the useful mentoring role of our trustees.

On 21 September, it was Paul Miller's turn to present the DBT Prize at HAU's Graduation Ceremony to Alexander Galla.



Alan Plom (DBT Sec), RAU DBT Prize Winner Martin Wozencroft, Paul Miller (DBT Trustee) and Karen Rial-Lovera (DBT-funded Chair of Agricultural Engineering)

## WOMEN IN ENGINEERING

In my last report I mentioned Amy Boothby (one of DBT's 2017 HAU Scholars) who's mission is to encourage women to consider a career in (agricultural) engineering. She is now on IAgRE Council. DBT has also agreed to help Anita Woolf, another 2017 HAU Scholarship recipient, to develop a network for women engineers. We have also recently interviewed students at HAU and awarded 7 DBT Scholarships.

## ARKWRIGHT ENGINEERING AWARDS

Another highlight was the Arkwright Engineering Scholarship Awards

ceremony held at IET in London on 25 October, where I met one of our latest DBT-funded A-level students, Barnabas Pickford who has already had work experience at Twose and our newest Trustee Richard Robinson will be helping



him gain further experience at his own company. We are also arranging for our Arkwright Scholars to receive IAgRE Student membership and encourage them to attend local IAgRE

meetings. Our other recipient lives in Northern Ireland and was unable to attend the similar Ceremony in Edinburgh, but we hope to meet her soon.

## TRAVEL AWARDS

DBT also helped a group of 7 HAU students to travel to the International Agricultural and Gardening Machinery Exhibition (EIMA) in Bologna, 6-9 November. Showcasing some 50,000 machines from 1900 companies in 40 countries, James Vining (a final year Agricultural Engineering Masters student) reported how they were all left with the strong impression how "many different and unique technological solutions of varying complexity and effectiveness are developed for a single task". Their "inspiring" discussions with manufacturers expanded their knowledge and furthered their "understanding of the future direction

of the agricultural technology industry, which is vital to the progression of our careers as Agricultural Engineers." – and is exactly what the Trust aspires to do.

## IAgRE CONFERENCE

On 6 November it was back into London for the IAgRE Landwards Conference: 'Engineering Collaboration for Success', held at the prestigious Royal Academy of Engineering. DBT was a sponsor and it was good to see one of our recently successful co-sponsored PhD students Dr Iain Dummett speak about his project at Cranfield on Strip Tillage and giving a student's perspective on working with commercial sponsors and Universities.

## TRUSTEE MEETINGS

Our Trustees have had several interesting meetings to review progress on projects co-funded by the Trust. These included a meeting at Aston University, on their interesting desalination project attended by Trustee Dr Paul Miller. The Project Leader gave a presentation on their work at the EUROMED Conference in Athens in May, and it has attracted favourable attention from the British Council and UK Government as it has brought together students from different universities in Israel, Jordan and Palestine.

This is also an opportunity to publicly thank our retiring Chairman, Malcolm Crabtree, for his support and leadership over the past 10 years and also to David White who has served us well for

6 years as a Trustee. The Trust's AGM and half-yearly Management Meeting was hosted by AGCO HQ at Stoneleigh, and all were present:



DB Trustees clockwise from front left: Mark Kibblewhite, Paul Miller, John Fox, Mark Moore, Elizabeth Stephens (Admin Officer), standing are Nick August (new Chair) and Malcolm Crabtree (retiring Chair), Jonathan Bomford, David White (retiring Trustee), Keith Hawken and Richard Robinson (new Trustee)