Outstanding Graduate Mentor and Teacher Lecture  

Dr. Linda Lee  

"Helping Zebras Find their Stripes: Fostering Individual Growth"

Dr. Linda Lee, professor of agronomy and one of the premier organic soil chemists in the United States, is a quintessential advisor and mentor for graduate students. She has served (or is serving) as the primary advisor for 18 PhD and 10 MS students. She guides, inspires, and mentors over 50 students in the interdisciplinary Ecological Sciences and Engineering (iESE) program. As a graduate teacher, Dr. Lee strives to have students grasp the fundamental concepts and be empowered to quantitatively apply those concepts in their graduate research and careers. Through classroom, laboratory, and administrative leadership, Dr. Lee helps shape graduate students to think critically to solve the big and environmentally challenging issues of today’s world.

Kohls Lecture

Dr. Larry DeBoer  

“Next semester I’ll do that better”

Dr. DeBoer, professor of agricultural economics, has long been an innovator in the classroom. Even though he now has a “big lecture,” he brings to the classroom energy, stories, and pictures. He may even break into song to engage the students. He uses Boilercast, video clips, and a custom textbook. Since many in his classes are first-year students, he uses “Signals” to provide them early warning of poor performance. Dr. DeBoer offers an online version of AGECS 21700 and also incorporated Gradient, a peer-grading tool for essays that involves calibration and helps students read and evaluate critically. Even though he has tremendous experience, he redesigned his course through the IMPACT (Instruction Matters, Purdue Academic Course Transformation) program. Literally thousands of students have learned from Dr. DeBoer. It’s likely faculty can learn from him, too.

Purdue University is an equal access/equal opportunity institution.