

Patrick Lee, formerly of Elsie, was recently named as the 2012 recipient to the University of Nebraska Biological Systems Engineering Alumni Hall of Fame.

The recognition honors those who have provided notable leadership and contribution to the agricultural industry. A commemorative plaque with the inscription Commercial & Strategic Leader, Global Hydraulics Industry will be placed on display in the Hall of Fame area, located in Chase Hall, at the University of Nebraska East Campus.



“Pat Lee is, without a doubt, a credit to the profession of Agricultural Engineering, the Department of Biological Systems Engineering and to the University of Nebraska,” stated Acting Department Dean Milford Hanna during the awards presentation.

In 1981, Lee joined Gates Rubber Company in Denver as a product application engineer. He held a variety of posts in application engineering, including engineering manager. In 1989, he was named Manager of U.S. Hydraulic Marketing. During his tenure, hydraulic sales and profitability achieved unprecedented growth.

Lee became Director of Worldwide Business Development in 1997, where he managed activities relating to mergers and acquisitions on a global basis. During this period, he also served as chief negotiator in joint venture negotiations with a Chinese state-owned enterprise.

Since 2000, Lee has served in various executive management positions ranging from vice president, industrial sales and marketing, to president of the North American Fluid Power division. His areas of responsibility have included key operations within North America, including sales, marketing, finance and manufacturing for the United States, Canada and Mexico.

Lee is a past Board member of the National Association of Hose Distribution (NAHAD), has acted as chairman of the Bobcat Supplier Council and currently serves on the board of directors for National Fluid Power Association (NFPA). As part of the NFPA Board, he represents Gates and the overall industry in collaboration with the Center for Compact and Efficient Fluid Power (CCEFP), a National Science Foundation funded organization, comprised of seven universities and industry partners that provide fundamental fluid power research, education and product advancements.

In addition to a degree in agricultural engineering from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL), Lee holds a Master’s degree in business administration – finance and accounting from Regis University in Denver.

In 1980, while attending UNL, Lee served as part of a major study on farmers’ calibration and applications rates of pesticides and herbicides, funded by Successful Farmer, under the direction of Drs. Elbert Dickey and Allen Rider. Successful Farming published a variety of articles over the years regarding “The Billion Dollar Blunder.”

Lee is a graduate of Wheatland High School in Elsie. He, along with his wife Debra and their two sons, Garrett and Alec, live in Littleton, Colo. Garrett is enrolled at UNL and will begin classes in the fall of 2012. Lee’s parents, Jim and Dorie Lee, farm and ranch near Elsie.

