Using the Instron Test System
AJC 10/09, Ed. HM 07/13

1. Log on to the Instron computers using 'beuser' for the username and password.

2. Turn on the Instron by flipping the switch at the back of the machine.

3. Open the Bluehill software by double clicking on the desktop icon. If you are using the Instron 4444, you will be asked to toggle on the 'IEEE 488' button on the Instron's control panel. The light above the button will be on.

4. The *Login* dialogue box will open. Enter 'beuser' as the username and password.

5. Click on the Test tab. Check the model of the Instron being used (it is either 5544 or 4444). In the Most Recently Used box, select '3pt bending Instron xx44' or 'Tension Intron xx44 ('xx' refers to '55' or '44', depending on the model) and press Next.

6. Enter a Sample Filename. Select Browse to choose the output folder for the data (this should be an external flash drive since data cannot be stored on the Instron computer). Select Next when finished.

7. Always use safety glasses when running a test with the Instron.

8. Follow the test prompts in the Bluehill software.

9. Note that the Bluehill software testing method is set so that the test automatically stops once the specimen has failed. However, the Instron may need to be manually stopped since the specimens may not completely fail. The test can be stopped using the Stop button in the Bluehill software.

10. After running the test, select Return to bring the crosshead back to its original position. Then select Next to either continue testing with a new specimen or to finish testing. Be sure to gather enough data for complete analysis of the specimens. Follow test prompts to export raw data.

11. In Excel, load data files as follows:
a. Select Data tab →   Import external data →   Import Data…
b. Choose Delimited, then select Next
c. Check the box next to Comma. The only boxes that should be checked are Tab and Comma.
d. Select Finish