n the period from 1997 to 2009, there was considerable changing of department personnel. A total of 18 faculty members either retired or moved on to new positions. Due to insufficient funding from the state, it was not possible to replace all those who left, but 15 new faculty members were hired. Also 6 faculty members stayed on board from 1997 through 2009. A complete list of departmental faculty can be found in the appendix. A number of academic professionals joined the staff to help with work previously done by faculty members. Several technicians retired and, due to budget constraints, could not be replaced. There was also turnover among the secretarial staff. In the paragraphs below, the personnel changes are described.

In 1997, Dr. Kent Rausch joined the faculty after serving on the faculty at Kansas State University. Rausch’s teaching and research were in the Food and Bioprocess Engineering (FBE) area.

In 1998, Dr. Stuart Birrell left to accept a faculty position at Iowa State University. He had joined the ABE faculty in 1996, after an assignment at the University of Missouri. Also in 1998, Dr. John Siemens retired after 30 years on the departmental faculty. His work had been in research and extension regarding farm machinery. Dr. Shufeng Han was hired from Case/IH to replace Siemens. Han’s assignment was to do extension work on precision agriculture. When Han was hired by Deere and Company in 2001, there was not enough funding to replace
him and the department’s extension work in farm machinery came to an end.

There were two departures in 1999. Dr. Bruce Litchfield, who had been teaching and doing research on food engineering, left to take an assistant dean’s position in the College of Engineering. Dr. Carroll Goering, who had been teaching and doing research in Off-Road Equipment Engineering (OREE) area, ended his 22 years on the faculty by retiring. Goering was OREE area leader at the time of his retirement. Goering was replaced by Dr. Al Hansen, who previously was on the faculty at the University of Natal in South Africa. Hansen took over Goering’s teaching assignments and also did research in the OREE area with emphasis on biofuels.

In 1999, Dr. Prasanta Kalita left Kansas State University to join the ABE faculty at Illinois. His teaching and research appointment was in the Soil and Water (S&W) area. The following year, Dr. Kent Mitchell retired after a 36-year career in the department. Mitchell had been doing teaching and research in the S&W area. Also in 2000, Dr. John Hummel left the department when the USDA transferred him to Columbia, Missouri. Although a USDA employee at Illinois, Hummel had a courtesy faculty appointment in the department and functioned in most respects as a full-fledged faculty member.

Two faculty members departed in 2001 after 15-year careers in the department. Dr. John Reid, who had been doing teaching and research in the OREE area, left to accept a position with Deere and Company. Dr. Gerald Riskowski, who had been doing teaching and research in the BioEnvironmental Engineering (BEE) area, left to become head of the Agricultural and Biological Engineering department at Texas A&M University.

In 2002, there was one departure and three new arrivals. Dr. Paul Benson retired after a 24-year career in the department. Benson’s assignment had been in the FBE section, doing extension work. Specifically, Benson worked with the electricity industry, including serving as Executive Director of the Illinois Farm Electrification Council (IFEC). An academic professional, Molly Hall, was hired to take over Benson’s work with the IFEC. However, she left in 2007 when IFEC funding to the department ended. Three new assistant professors were hired in 2002. Dr. Tony Griff was hired to do teaching and research in the OREE area. Dr. Xinlei Wang was hired to do teaching and research in
the BEE area. Dr. Vijay Singh was hired to do teaching and research in the FBE area.

In 2004, Dr. Loren Bode stepped down as department head. Dr. K.C. Ting, formerly department chair at Ohio State University, was hired to replace Bode as head. Bode continued on a faculty appointment until 2008, when he retired.

In 2005, there was one departure and three arrivals. Doug Bosworth, a Deere retiree who had been hired in 1995 to teach the capstone design course, retired from the department. Steve Zahos was then hired to teach the capstone design course. Like Bosworth, Zahos had extensive industry experience. Such experience was valuable because students in the design course worked closely with industries on industry-sponsored projects. Two other new faculty members, Dr. Luis Rodriguez and Dr. Kaustab Bhalelo, joined the department in 2005 on teaching and research appointments. They were hired by K.C. Ting to build up the biological component of the Agricultural and Biological Engineering department.

There were two departures in 2006. Dr. Marvin Paulsen retired after 31 years in the department on a teaching and research appointment. Also retiring was Dr. Mike Tumbleson. He had transferred into the department from the College of Veterinary Medicine in 2001.

The year 2007 brought three departures and three arrivals. Dr. Phil Buriak retired after leading the TSM program for 19 years. He was replaced by Dr. Joe Harper, who transferred in from the Human and Community Development department. Dr. Les Christiansen retired from his teaching and research appointment after 22 years in the department. Also, Dr. Mike Hirschi took up an assignment as Assistant Dean in the College of Engineering. Hirschi had held a teaching, research and extension appointment in the S&W area. Dr. Lance Schidemann transferred to the department from the Civil Engineering department to do teaching and research in the S&W area. Dr. Grace Danao joined the department as an assistant professor with a teaching and research appointment. She was hired by K.C. Ting to further bolster the biological engineering component of the ABE department.

In 2008, Dr. Angela Green was hired as an assistant professor on a teaching and research appointment. Her work on animal behavior was centered in the BEE area of the department.

In 2009, Dr. Qin Zhang left his teaching and research appointment
in the department to accept a position at Washington State University. The UIUC campus provided funding to hire Dr. Richard Gates, previously department head at the University of Kentucky, as a distinguished professor. Gates accepted a teaching and research appointment in the BEE area of the department.

Eight people were granted, courtesy appointments in the department between 1997 and 2009. Persons on such courtesy appointments are not on the department payroll but are granted the appointments in recognition their close cooperation with departmental faculty. In 1997, Dr. Kazimierz Banasik, a Visiting Professor from Poland, was granted a courtesy appointment. He had worked closely with Dr. Kent Mitchell. Also in 1997, Dr. Noboru Noguchi of Kokkaido University in Japan was granted a courtesy appointment. He had been cooperating with members of the ABE department on robotics and automatic guidance research. In 1999, Dr. Irfan Ahmad, an employee at the Beckman Center, was granted a courtesy appointment. In 2002, Dr. Munir Cheryan and Dr. Scott Morris of the Food Science and Human Nutrition (FSHN) department were granted courtesy appointments. Also in that year, Dr. Hao Feng of the Institute for Genomic Biology was granted a courtesy appointment. In 2003, Dr. Shelly Schmidt of the FSHN department was granted a courtesy appointment. In 2007, Dr. Hongbin Ren was granted a courtesy appointment to further increase ties with his university in China.

In 2000, University of Illinois extension agents who were working in various parts of Illinois were given the opportunity to affiliate with a campus department of their choice. That year, George Czapar, Robert Frazee, Duane Friend, Michael Plumer and Stanley Solomon accepted chose to affiliate with the ABE department. In 2002, they were joined by Paul Mariman and Susan Meeker. Both Mariman and Meeker left the university in 2005.

The faculty could not be successful without the help of numerous other people on non-faculty appointments. In the departmental head office, Dini Reid served as Assistant to the Head until she and her husband, John Reid, left the department in 2004. She was replaced by Ronda Sullivan, who had previously worked in the Animal Science department. Mary Beth Munhall served as Administrative Secretary before retiring in 2003. She had earlier served as the secretary in Suite 332. With the increased use of word processors by the faculty, the as-
ignment of suite secretaries was discontinued. When Munhall retired, Robin Fonner was hired as the new Administrative Secretary. Ruth Sattazahn served in Suite 360 as a secretary and research coordinator until 1999. She left to become a fund raiser for the proposed new St. Thomas Moore high school. Also leaving in 1999 was Pamela Warsaw, who had been serving as a secretary in the head office. Patricia Belton, an Accounting Technician, left the department in 2002. The next year, Charlotte Longfellow left her appointment as Chief Clerk after serving the University for 17 years.

Academic professionals are college graduates who work essentially as non-tenured faculty. Three of these handled the state-funded Pesticide Education Safety Program (PESP) for the department. Dr. Bob Wolf held this position until he left in 1993 to join the faculty at Kansas State University. Wolf was replaced by Dr. Mark Mohr, who held the position until 2003. When Mohr left, he was replaced by Dr. Scott Bretthauer, who was still holding the position at time of writing.

Computers became a vital part of ABE operations. On any given work day, a visitor visiting nearly any faculty office would find the occupant working at a computer. The department also had a room filled with computers for student use. Thus, an important position in the department was a person to maintain and upgrade the department computers. Dan Vander Ploeg was in that position until his departure in 1998. With the feared Y2K problem looming, two persons shared the position beginning in 1998. They were Shane Thompson and Tom Nelshoppen. Thompson stayed one year and left in 1999. Nelshoppen was still in the position at time of writing.

Two academic professionals worked in the FBE area. Rene Denhart left in 2003 and Jennifer Richardson began work in 2004. Anne Marie Boone joined the department in 2007 to help with student recruiting. Jay Davis joined the department in 1999 to work mapping tile drain locations in farm fields using aerial image analysis. Two other academic professionals were in the department during the entire period, 1997 to 2009, but will be mentioned for completeness. Randy Fonner joined the department in 1990 to assist Ted Funk with an extension program on animal waste management. Fonner also became advisor to the student Ag. Mech club. Chip Petrea joined the department in 1987 to assist Bob Aherin with an extension program in farm safety.

Four other department employees and a USDA employee assisted
with the physical work of the department. Dennis King, a USDA technician, assisted the work of John Hummel at the Agricultural Engineering farm but retired in 2000. In 2008, Steve Maddock retired as the S&W technician, while Larry Meyer retired as foreman of the Agricultural Engineering farm. In 2009, Larry Pruiett retired after managing the laboratories for the FBE area. Finally, Dennis Mohr retired in 2010 as the OREE technician. Regretfully, because of insufficient funding, none of these five people could be replaced.
From left, PhD student Yigang Sun and his advisor, Yuanhui Zhang standing in front of a Boeing 767-300 cabin mockup, discussing the volumetric particle tracking velocimetry they developed to measure air flow patterns and pollutant transport.

The ABE quartet at a Quad City section meeting. From left, Dick Coddington, Roscoe Pershing, Don Hunt and Mike Hirschi
From Left, Alison Melko, Patricia Paulausky and Leigha Curtin in front of their ABE 100 project on Soil Erosion and sediment control. Not shown is PhD student Paul Davis, project mentor.

From left, Gage Braley and John “Jack” Berg working on the micro-steam car they designed and built as part of the ABE 100 class.
From left, Evan Wool, Kelsey Green, Alex Salas and Jessica Williams with their ABE 100 small-scale algae fermentation project. Not shown is their project mentor, MS student KR ekha Balachandran.

Front row from left: David Murphy, Amanda Corban, George Bozdech, Leigh Ann Kesler, Drew Schilling, Eric Allen
Middle row: Brian Krug, Casey Millard, Stephen Corban, Chris Wilhelmi, Taylor Leahy, Jordan Tate, Kim Heinecke
Back row: Jordan Hammer, Jordan Pitcher, AJ Metzler, Alex Suchko, Nowell Moore, Brian Fehrenbacher and Dennis Sinks with their national champion quarter scale pulling tractor.
From left, Zach Brammeier, Delayne Durdle, Austin Roepke, Aaron Schubert, Joseph Monical, Prasanta Kalita and Laura Hahn discussing the project to retrofit a boat for Dr. Kalita for water sample collection from a retention pond on the ABE farm.

From left, Linhui Qi, Matthew Doherty, Nichole Evans and Torin Lacher with their poster on evaluating the energy requirements of a greenhouse. Not shown are project mentors Richard Gates and Drew Schilling.
K.C. Ting recognizing scholarship donors, Lola and Larry Huggins.

K.C. Ting recognizing John Repogle as Professor for a Day.
Doug Bosworth with Distinguished Alumni Award.

K.C. Ting recognizing Jim Steck as Professor for a Day.
K.C. Ting presenting Distinguished Alumni Award to Lyle Stephens.

K.C. Ting recognizing Dave Smith as Professor for a Day.