

*Agricultural and Biological
Engineering at Illinois*

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A HISTORY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURAL AND BIOLOGICAL ENGINEERING
1997 – 2009

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PREFACE

This book is a sequel to the book, *Agricultural Engineering on the Prairie: Illinois style*. That book, by H. Paul Bateman, William A. Foster, Benjamin A. Jones and Walter D. Lembke, was a comprehensive history of the Agricultural Engineering department from its earliest roots until the year 1997. In contrast, this book only covers the department history in the period, 1997 through 2009. During that period, the name of the department was changed to Agricultural and Biological Engineering (ABE).

The current book came about when department head K.C. Ting asked Ben Jones, Walt Lembke and Carroll Goering to update the department history. Those three men decided to enlist the help of current and retired faculty in writing the various chapters of the book while serving as editors of the complete book. The editors are grateful to the following persons for drafting portions of the book: Carroll Goering drafted Chapter one, Introduction. Loren Bode drafted Chapter two, Changing of the Guard. Kent Mitchell drafted Chapter 3 on Teaching Programs, which included material written by Doug Bosworth on the capstone design course. Prasanta Kalita, Randy Fonner and Kent Rausch drafted Chapter 4 on Student Activities. Chapter 5 on Research Programs includes sections on Bio-Environmental Engineering (BEE) by Yuanhui Zhang; on Food and Biological Engineering (FBE) by Marvin Paulsen; on Off Road Equipment Engineering (OREE),

including USDA research, by Carroll Goering; on Soil and Water (S&W) research by Kent Mitchell; and on Nanotechnology by Irfan Ahmad. Kaustubh Bhalerao, Grace Danao and Luis Rodriguez wrote the section on Biological Engineering (BioE). Carroll Goering drafted Chapter 6 on Extension Programs and Chapter seven on International Programs. Leanne Lucas prepared Chapter 8, profiles of faculty members who retired or left the department between 1997 and 2009. Tony Grift, with help from area leaders, students and some emeritus faculty, drafted Chapter nine, A Glance Ahead. In addition, ABE staff in the main office helped assemble the material included in the appendix. Ronda Sullivan compiled an extensive list of visiting scholars. Robin Fonner was especially helpful and the editors are grateful for the numerous times she helped find needed materials.