This will be my last message to alumni and friends as Head of the Department. I will be stepping down effective August 15, 2004. My eleven years serving as Head of Agricultural and Biological Engineering have been challenging and rewarding, but always enjoyable. I believe the faculty and staff are the best of any department at the University of Illinois. I have considered it an honor and privilege to have provided leadership for the faculty, staff and students in our programs. The search for a new head is near completion and the next newsletter will include information about the new leadership that will move the department into the “bio” phase of our history.

You likely noticed our new letterhead. Yes, we changed the name of the department to include “Biological.” Agricultural and Biological Engineering more accurately reflects the increased biological emphasis in our curriculum and better represents the research we are now doing. For example, we are now conducting studies to develop new food products and high nutritional and pharmaceutical value and have a project to convert animal waste into crude oil. We are becoming involved in the development of sensors to prevent bioterrorism attacks on our food and water systems. The name change will allow us to be competitive with peer institutions for the most prestigious national research grants.

Most importantly, the update name will enhance our ability to attract the very top national and international students into the undergraduate and graduate programs. With increasingly larger percentages of students coming from non-rural areas, students tell us that the biological aspects of our curriculum are more recognizable and easier to explain to parents, colleagues, and the lay public.
I am often asked how our department will interface with the new Bioengineering Department that has been formed within the College of Engineering. I believe that there will be strong synergy between the faculty allowing both departments to move toward a more enhanced biological emphasis. For example, we apply biology to biotechnology, bioprocessing, and bioenvironmental engineering while bioengineering includes basic studies on the mechanical and electrical properties of molecules, cells and tissues with a focus on biomedicine. The departments are very complimentary and cover the entire field of engineering applied to living systems, including plants, animals, microorganisms, natural resources, and humans.

I am confident about the future of the Department and look forward to watching it grow and mature in new areas such as bioprocessing, information based agriculture, and bioenvironmental engineering. There is no reason that the Department cannot remain one of the very top programs in the U.S. and the world. One of my most enjoyable roles as Head has been interacting with students and alumni in various settings. Please stay connected with the Department and let us know about changes that occur in your life. Your support is vital to the continuing success of the Department.

**Alumni News**

1960’s/1970’s

**Syed I. Ahmad** (Ph.D. 1979) has relocated to Canada from Pakistan.

**David R. Kendrick** (MS 1977; BS 1973) accepted the position of Director of the Muskegon County Wastewater Management System in Muskegon, Michigan. He has been employed by the county wastewater system since 1975, just after he gained his master’s degree from our department.

**John L. Schlafer** (BS 1973) informed us of recent changes – he retired as Vice President, Chief Engineer of Ecowater Systems in St. Paul, Minnesota and was elected to the American Academy of Environmental Engineers in November 2002. John is now living in Dow, Illinois.

1990’s

September 1, 2002 **Bradley S. Everett** (BS 1999) moved to Denver, Colorado to become the Truck Engine District Manager of Parts and Service for Caterpillar’s On-Highway Engine Department in the Northwest Region. His territory includes Wyoming, Utah, Colorado, and New Mexico.

**David Gerstenecker** (BS 1998) has been promoted to Team Leader for Information Technology and Communication Services (ITCS) Computer Support Services in the College of Agricultural Consumer and Environmental Sciences (ACES) at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign.

**Vincent S. Egolf** (BS 1996) and his wife, Melissa, moved to the Des Moines, Iowa area where Vince attended law school. Vince worked for Lipton Foods, a division of Unilever/Best Foods, for three years before attending law school. They are currently living in Ankeny, Iowa. After graduation in May 2002, Vince joined a law firm where he specializes in mechanical engineering, electrical engineering and processing patents.

**Brianna L. (Van Dyne) Heim** (BS 1998) is a test engineer with John Deere and she and her husband, Dan, have accepted assignments in Germany.

**Sherilyn R. Kosmos** (MS 1994/BS 1992) is now Vice President, Engineering with Phoenix Environmental in Gilberts, Illinois.

**Armando Najera** (BS 1999) has been traveling the world since graduation. A management trainee with Fiat, Armando began his career in Turin, Italy, followed by job assignments in Munich, Bavaria, Germany and Wichita, Kansas. He married Ana Karla (from Brazil) in 2001 and they have a new daughter, Amanda, born January 16, 2003.
August 15, 2004 Dr. Loren Bode will step down as Head of the Department. Dr. Bode has served the University of Illinois for 31 years, 11 of them as Department Head. His University of Illinois career began on September 1, 1973 as an assistant professor and will continue beyond August 2004 as Professor of Agricultural and Biological Engineering. Dr. Bode is simply passing on the gavel!

Dr. Bode has made significant impacts on American agriculture and 35 years of research has made him the acknowledged national authority on pesticide application methods and equipment. He has published more than 150 journal articles, books, book chapters, monographs, and conference proceedings as well as over 100 bulletins, reports, popular journal articles, and educational modules. His research and extension outcomes have directly contributed to the agricultural economy, the environment and society, not only in the United States, but worldwide.

As a teacher and advisor, Dr. Bode has influenced the lives of many, both inside and outside the classroom. Without any formal teaching appointment, he contributed significantly to the resident teaching program of the department and college. He developed a new course and taught it for almost 20 years to students in the Agronomy, Horticulture, Plant Pathology, Entomology, and Technical Systems Management programs. As Department Head, he taught a freshman introductory course to students in Agricultural Engineering. He served as the Chief Advisor for the Agricultural Engineering students for over eight years. His commitment to excellence, undivided care and motivation for higher education has produced some of the world’s best scientists, engineers and educators.

Nationwide, Dr. Bode’s leadership in ABET (Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology) has contributed to developing a continuous improvement process, which is now required by the ABET Accreditation Board. He continues to take an active role in revising the curricula so that students receive the most up-to-date education that is relevant to current technology and societal needs.

Dr. Bode is a role model, a mentor, and a trustworthy friend of the faculty in the department and the college. As head of the Department of Agricultural and Biological Engineering, his leadership has brought a new dimension in the Agricultural Engineering program. The department has moved strategically into new areas of research including bioprocessing, precision agriculture, mechatronics, water quality, and bioremediation, and the faculty is poised to move food, biological, and agricultural technology into the 21st century.

Dr. Bode has served the University of Illinois on various faculty governance committees including the Faculty Senate, the College Executive Committee, the Extension Policy Committee, the College Salary and Budget Committee, the Administration Evaluation Committee, and the Funk Awards Selection Committee.

His leadership in the American Society of Agricultural Engineers (ASAE) at the national, regional and local level has brought significant changes that have made the society stronger than ever before. He has served the society at various capacities including the Membership Council of the ASAE Board of Directors, Membership Director,

Continued on page 4
Charlotte Longfellow Retires

On November 28, 2003 Charlotte A. Longfellow retired from the Department of Agricultural and Biological Engineering and the University of Illinois. Charlotte began working for the University on December 12, 1983 in the Division of Operation & Maintenance and on December 9, 1985 joined the Department as our Purchasing Clerk. She was promoted to the position of Chief Clerk and has handled all the purchasing for the department since then.

Charlotte handled all emergency requisitions and “lost items” with efficiency. Through the years, Charlotte helped us transition from all paper purchasing, to the use of computers and email, to our new all electronic web-based paperless purchasing and payment system.

Charlotte made many other significant contributions to the Department. She was the backup to the department secretary and knew all aspects of the operation of the department. Everyone in the Department has purchased tickets from Charlotte for student and departmental events. She provided all the car release orders, parking permits and handled payroll for our students. Charlotte helped plan all the special events for the department for many years and handled the department activity fund including the ordering of flowers for illnesses and deaths. She served as our general “do it all” person as necessary.

Doug Bosworth Retires

Doug Bosworth is retiring from the faculty after 10 years of teaching our senior capstone industry design course. Following his 35-year career with Deere, Doug settled in the University of Illinois community and provided his experiences to our students in many ways. In 2002 he was installed as the first John Deere Capstone Design Instructor for Industry Project Development in Agricultural Engineering. Students routinely indicate that his class was by far the most valuable they had taken during their entire career at the University. In addition, Doug mentored and helped students with job searches and provided guidance in their role as practicing engineers. He will be greatly missed in the department and we wish him and Pat the very best as they spend more time traveling – especially attending Illini games!

Continuing Education Cabinet, President’s Committee, Trustee of the ASAE Foundation, and the ASAE Board of Directors. During his term on the Board, the society adopted an electronic publishing system and a new membership structure.

Dr. Bode’s commitment and contribution to the profession, university, and the society have been recognized by numerous awards; most noteworthy are the National ASAE Young Extension Worker Award, ASAE Fellow Award, ASAE President’s Citations, College of Agriculture Senior Faculty Award for Excellence in Extension, the College of Agriculture Funk Award, and the Educator’s Award for distinguished academic service to America’s high technology agriculture from the Midwest Agricultural Chemical Association.

Dr. Bode has made a difference in American agriculture, the environment, and our society. His career achievements are perfect examples of a strong commitment and exemplary service to a public land-grant university. The faculty, staff and students in the Department of Agricultural and Biological Engineering wish him the very best as he returns to the faculty ranks and gets to once again play with his spray table!
On October 23 Gregory W. Schrader (MS 1991/BS 1987) was on campus to give a talk in the College of Engineering. Greg is currently an Engineering and Research Manager with the FoodTech Division of FMC in Lakeland, Florida. Recently he became a registered agent and now handles some patent work at his division in FMC.


2000’s

Kenneth J. Daily (BS 2002) has landed a job at the National Corn-to-Ethanol pilot plant in Edwardsville, Illinois as a research assistant. He’ll get to use his engineering skills in operating the range of Bioprocessing equipment that is placed in this new facility.

Scott B. Erikson (BS 2002) is working as a Project Engineer at Automated Control Technologies in Illinois.

Linsong Guo (Ph.D. 2003) moved to Indiana and started work as a Senior Engineer with Cummins Engine Company in June. He is currently working in the heavy-duty customer engineering performance development group.


Yunseop Kim (Ph.D. 2002) has moved from the John Deere Technology Center in Moline, Illinois to the John Deere Southeast Engineering Center in Charlotte, North Carolina.

The end of May 2003 Kristopher S. Lander (MS 2001) began a federal job with the National Weather Service in Pleasant Hills, Missouri.

David C. Konneker (BS 2000) has been working for Caterpillar for 3½ years and is covering Central and Southern California and Hawaii as a Machine Marketing Representative.

Engagements/Weddings/New Arrivals

Kristie Lawrence and Darin P. Brodie (BS 1998) were married June 1, 2002 at Bellflower. They reside in St. Louis, Missouri.


Bradley S. Everett (BS 1999) and Elizabeth Loader are planning a May 22 wedding. Brad is employed by Caterpillar, Inc. in Denver, Colorado.

Michael R. Gratton (BS 2002/MS 2003) and Danielle Fulk are planning a June 26 wedding. Mike is employed by John Deere in Des Moines, Iowa.


Jennifer R. Trask (MS 2002) accepted a Project Engineer position with Waterborne Environmental, Inc. in March of this year. The company is located in Leesburg, VA.

Seth M. Turner (BS 2001) graduated on August 9, 2003 with a Master of Science in Civil Engineering from the University of Colorado at Boulder and is employed as an Engineer III with Meurer Associates. Seth was also married in Ocho Rios, Jamaica on June 6, 2003. Seth and his wife, Lisa, reside in Lakewood, CO.

Lara T. (Safran) Sup (BS 2001) is now married and living in downtown Chicago. Lara is a Water Resources Engineer with Christopher B. Burk Engineering, Ltd.

Randy R. Price (Ph.D. 2000) and Laura Finch were married on March 1, 2003 in Las Vegas. Randy is an Assistant Professor at Louisiana State University. They reside in Baton Rouge, LA.
In Memorium

Larry L. Bandy (BS 1962) passed away on Tuesday, October 15 in St. John’s Hospital, Springfield, Illinois. A resident of Springfield since 1965, he was an engineer for Fiat Allis for 25 years and for AirFloat Systems in Decatur for 10 years. His wife, two daughters, a son, and four grandchildren survive him.

Robert G. McMaster (BS 1949) died Tuesday, November 12, 2002 in Aurora Medical Center, Kenosha, Wisconsin. Mr. McMaster worked at the Case I.H. Company in Racine, Wisconsin for 25 years, retiring in 1978 as vice president in charge of sales. A daughter, a son and four grandchildren survive him.

In Memory of a Past Department Head … Roger R. Yoerger

It is with great sadness that we inform our alumni of the passing of Roger R. Yoerger. Dr. Yoerger, 74, passed away at 7:45 p.m. on Monday, October 13 in Urbana, Illinois. Dr. Yoerger had been in intensive care following surgery in early October.

Dr. Yoerger earned a B.S., M.S. and Ph.D. degree in Agricultural Engineering from Iowa State University. While he completed his Ph.D. degree at Iowa State he served as an Assistant Professor. He spent 1956-1958 as an Associate Professor of Agricultural Engineering at Pennsylvania State University before coming to the University of Illinois as an Associate Professor in 1958. During his faculty service at the three universities, Dr. Yoerger mentored fifty M.S. students and seven Ph.D. students. Among these graduate students, seven went on to become Professors, five became college Department Heads, four rose to become college Deans, one became an industry Vice President and one became an industry President.

In 1960, Dr. Yoerger was promoted to Professor of Agricultural Engineering. From 1978 until his retirement in 1985, he served as Professor and Head of the Department of Agricultural Engineering. During his term as Head, Dr. Yoerger and his staff felt a great sense of accomplishment as the design and construction of the new Agricultural Engineering Sciences Building were completed. The department occupied the new building in 1983.

Dr. Yoerger was very active in the American Society of Agricultural Engineers, Phi Kappa Phi, the American Society for Engineering Education, the American Association for the Advancement of Sciences, and Rotary International. He was also a member of the Alpha Epsilon, Sigma Xi and Gamma Sigma Delta honor societies and of the Holy Cross Catholic Church of Champaign, Illinois.

Dr. Yoerger married Laura Summit on December 23, 1971. She preceded him in death in 1995. A son, three daughters, two sisters, 11 grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren survive Dr. Yoerger.
The Department was well represented at the American Society of Agricultural Engineers (ASAE) International Meeting held in Las Vegas, Nevada July 27-30, 2003. Total attendance was 2019, which was about 300 above last year’s attendance in Chicago.

Twelve Agricultural Engineering undergraduate students from our department attended the meeting and were very visible in the many pre-professional events. In fact, the University of Illinois won the AEM Student Mile award with about 18,000 miles represented by our students attending this year.

Last year’s national pre-professional officer, Marguerite Tan, completed her term as Parliamentarian and Anthony Rund was elected as the 2004-05 Pre-Professional Chair of the Advisory Board. The Illini Ag. Mech. Club won second place in the AEM Student Club Activities Report Competition. Laura Schutte won first place in the Undergraduate Project Poster Competition.

A special highlight of this year’s family barbeque was the introduction of the Fountain Wars competition. Our students Brad Heilwagen, John Liska, Emily Poynter, Laura Schutte, and Brad Tadlock brought home the first place trophy for their excellent display of hydraulic engineering!

Most of our graduate students and faculty participate in the meeting in some way. Several excellent presentations of our research were given at technical sessions. Committee meetings were well attended. At the Awards and Recognition Luncheon, Tony Grift, Assistant Professor received a Superior Paper Award for his paper, “Testing an Online Spread Pattern Determination Sensor on a Broadcast Fertilizer Spreader,” by T.E. Grift and J.W. Hofstee. The IET Division also recognized Tony for his outstanding paper presented at the meeting. His paper was co-authored with Alan C. Hansen, Associate Professor in OREE, and titled, “Lego Mindstorm Robots as a Teaching Tool for Precision Agriculture.”

Carroll Goering, Professor Emeritus, received a President’s Citation for his efforts in developing the electronic publications program with ASAE.

Congratulations to all that received special recognition for their professional efforts and accomplishments!

See you in Canada later this summer for the 2004 ASAE Annual International meeting!

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Dr. Xinlei Wang joined the Department on December 16, 2002 as an Assistant Professor. Dr. Wang received a B.S. and M.S. in Mechanical Engineering at Zhejiang University in China, and a M.S. in Agricultural Engineering from the University of Saskatchewan in Canada. In 1999, Xinlei received his Ph.D. in Agricultural Engineering from our department.

Current research for Xinlei is in the area of indoor environments (thermal and non-thermal) and building envelopes, responses of occupants to indoor environment, waste management technologies, and simulation and control of bioenvironmental systems.

Xinlei will be teaching undergraduate courses in agricultural engineering and technical systems management. Xinlei will provide a great addition to the faculty and programs currently underway in the Department.
Thank You

The Department of Agricultural and Biological Engineering would like to express its deepest gratitude for the donations from the following individuals. The gifts of alumni and friends fund student leadership programs, instructional resources and offer many other educational experiences that extend beyond the classroom. Your gift will help to enhance the Department’s reputation as one of the top agricultural engineering programs in the country.

We appreciate your continued friendship and loyalty to the Department of Agricultural and Biological Engineering. Thank you!

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Dr. and Mrs. Philip Buriak

Each year the College of Engineering Accenture Outstanding Student and Faculty Awards Banquet is held in the Illini Union on the Champaign-Urbana campus. This banquet is held to recognize professors whom exemplify enthusiasm and care for their advisees and are recognized as the top 10 percent of all student advisers in the College of Engineering. In March 2003 the Department of Agricultural and Biological Engineering had three advisers recognized: Richard A. Cooke, Associate Professor; Alan C. Hansen, Associate Professor and Chief Advisor, and Dini M. Reid, Assistant to the Head. At the March 29, 2004 dinner Prasanta Kalita, Associate Professor, and Dini Reid were award winners. Dini received an additional Multi-Year Faculty Achievement Award for Two Consecutive Years for receiving this honor. Andrew C. Lenkaitis was honored as the outstanding junior student in Agricultural and Biological Engineering.

The College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences and the Paul A. Funk Recognition Awards Gala is held in April each year. Several of our faculty received recognition at the April 24, 2003 banquet.

Michael C. Hirschi, Professor, received the Karl E. Gardner Outstanding Undergraduate Adviser Award. The award is given annually in recognition of demonstrated excellence in undergraduate advising and counseling. Hirschi’s advising philosophy is that advising takes place wherever and whenever a trusted faculty member communicates with a student. The most influential – and most important in his opinion – advising takes place in the hallway, over coffee, in the lab; wherever casual conversations take place that help the student learn the ropes, the realities of the career they’ve chosen, and the opportunities for excellence they may encounter.

The College Faculty Award for Excellence in Teaching celebrates the outstanding professional achievement and demonstrated excellence in the area of teaching. Dr. Prasanta K. Kalita was a recipient of this award in April. Anyone who has had a course under Dr. Kalita will tell you of his effective teaching, which recognizes the range of student learning styles and always includes valuable course content, innovative delivery modes, and fair assessment. Always cheerful and excited about what he is doing, he personally connects with each of his students and makes an effort to help them learn in the classroom and to advance in their educational and professional lives.

Two of our staff members were honored for outstanding performance and demonstrated professional excellence. Robert W. Frazee, Extension Educator, received the Professional Staff Award for Sustained Excellence.

During 30 years with Extension, Frazee has developed, organized and delivered high-quality educational programs addressing
soil- and water-management issues. He has been instrumental in forming three grassroots organizations that focus on different issues related to the Illinois River.

**Ted L. Funk**, Extension Specialist, received the Professional Staff Award for Innovation and Creativity. In the mid-1990s, livestock production was under siege, and producers needed information about animal-waste management pollution control, and how to be good neighbors to non-farming residents. When the 1996 Livestock Management Facilities Act put new requirements on livestock facilities, Funk stepped up to the challenge, accepting the leadership role in the development of the Certified Livestock Manager Training (CLMT) program. The CLMT program has been adopted and adopted by other states and national organizations.

At the April 28, 2004 Funk Banquet, **Steven M. Maddock** received the Marcella M. Nance Staff Award for Excellence. Steve has served the faculty, staff and students of our department for the past 26 years with integrity, dependability, loyalty, and resourcefulness. While Steve’s main focus is assisting the researchers in the Soil and Water area, he contributes to all aspects of work in the department.

At the North American College of Teachers of Agriculture (NACTA) annual meeting in San Luis Obispo, California in June 2003, **Dr. Philip Buriak** received a NACTA Teacher Fellow Award. He has been a professor and coordinator of Technical Systems Management the department for 15 years. His enthusiasm for his subject matter and teaching endears him to his students and his belief in “concept learning” is the foundation of his teaching philosophy. Buriak engages students in learning activities that teach them to think creatively and critically and to apply what they know to further their understanding of new concepts.

**Dr. Buriak** is among six recipients of the E.B. Knight Journal Award. The award was given for the article, “The Teaching College Course: A Faculty, Staff, and Graduate Students Development Program to Enhance Teaching Quality” published in the NACTA Journal June 2002. Co-authors of the article include, Bruce Litchfield, College of Engineering; Cleora J. D’Arcy, College of ACES, Jim Javenkoski, National Association of Educational Foundation; R. Kirby Barrick, College of ACES; and Shelly J. Schmidt, College of ACES.

Vijay Singh, Assistant Professor, is the recipient of the 2003 Corn Refiner’s Association (CRA) Young Faculty Excellence Award. CRA, a national trade association which represents companies that refine corn using the wet milling process, awarded Vijay $20,000 per year for three years, to be used in his research in corn wet milling.
Following is the extraction error for the image: "Thank you to Donors Continued"

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Kenya Alumni Visits Department

Professor Godfrey M.N. Ngunjiri (Ph.D. 1994) stopped by the Department on March 28, 2003 for a short visit. Godfrey received his Ph.D. from our Department (John Siemens was his advisor) in 1994. Dr. Ngunjiri has been on the faculty at Egerton University in Kenya since completing his degree. In addition to serving in the Agricultural Engineering Department he is also Director of Alumni Services and Student Placement for the entire University.

When inquiring about their greatest needs, Godfrey indicated they have very few computers and was dismayed that we are required to scrap our old computers. They would be state of the art systems in Kenya. He was also able to visit with John Siemens during his short visit to campus. Godfrey visited with family in Virginia and Kansas through the end of April. It was his first trip back to the United State since completing his degree.

Spring Awards Banquet

The Spring Awards Banquet was held Sunday, April 18, 2004 at the Park Inn in Urbana, Illinois. The following awards were given:

John Deere Foundation Award – Kevin F. Knapp
Mathews Company Scholar – Jonathon P. McCrady
Sandra and Richard Carlson Scholar Awards – Scott A. Dixon, Andrew C. Lenkaitis, John S. Kinder
Frank W. Bauling Memorial Award – Douglas G. Temple
E.W. Lehman Awards – Paul C. Davidson, Randy S. Johnson
Richard C. and Helen Coddington Design Team Award – Anthony M. Rund
Bateman Congeniality Awards – Peter K. Eckstein (AGE), Christopher N. Hood (TSM)
Frank B. Lanham Award – Jonathan T. Roth
Outstanding Senior Award – Christopher G. Williams
Outstanding Junior Award – Luke A. Cole
Ryan Tucker McGinn Memorial Award – Adam S. Henninger
ESPY Prize for Exemplary Services – Steven M. Clement
C.E. Goering Award for Excellence – Jared T. Nobbe
Steve Eckhoff and Pioneer Hi-Bred Scholarship – Steven M. Sauder
Alpha Epsilon – Adrianne P. Ostrom
J. Kent Mitchell Teaching Excellence Award – Douglas L. Bosworth
Karl A. Snyder Teaching Excellence Award – Bradley R. Tadlock

Congratulations to all the award winners!
This award recognizes innovative research in corn processing and utilization by new faculty in the first five years of their career. Prominent universities undertaking such research were asked to submit the names of eligible candidates to the CRA. Vijay was chosen from a field of six candidates representing five universities.

At the College of Engineering Awards Convocation held April 23, 2004, Dr. Alan C. Hansen received the Everitt Award for Teaching Excellence. This award recognizes faculty for their outstanding undergraduate teaching and is intended to emphasize the value that is attached to good teaching.

Al, Chief Advisor for the Department of Agricultural and Biological Engineering, is considered to be not only an outstanding teacher, but someone who also develops a special relationship with his students. He is also active with students in extracurricular activities, serving as faculty adviser to the Quarter Scale Tractor Team, and providing help and guidance to the students for the yearly design and construction of a new vehicle that is entered into a national competition.

Dr. J. Bruce Litchfield, Assistant Dean in the College of Engineering and Professor of Agricultural and Biological Engineering, was selected as one of the two Campus Distinguished Teacher/Scholars for 2004-2005. His award was presented at the Campus Instructional Awards Banquet on April 26, 2004.

Congratulations to all our faculty and staff on winning these prestigious awards!

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May 2004