I am feeling nostalgic while preparing this welcome to all our alumni and friends. It is not only because another academic year has been successfully completed but mainly due to reading our new book, "Agricultural Engineering on the Prairie: Illinois Style." The book describes the entire history of the Department of Agricultural Engineering at the University of Illinois from 1921 through 1997.

Your name is in the 380-page book. In fact, not only are the names of 1,837 graduates listed, but also the names of 153 faculty, 35 academic professionals, 42 support staff, 122 clerical staff, 385 graduate student employees, and 71 external advisers are included.

The history book has information relating to agricultural engineering back to the formation of the University in 1868. The major portion of the book presents the progress of teaching, extension, research, and international programs since the department was started in 1921. In the chapter on students, we have included numerous examples of student creativity including excerpts from the first Agrineer printed in 1937. The faculty and staff section includes profiles of faculty you had in class and likely have since retired from the department.

Over the years the department has occupied facilities in Davenport Hall, the Agricultural Engineering Building, and now the Agricultural Engineering Sciences Building. The history book contains over 100 pictures including all these facilities plus various activities that have taken place over the years.

The history book is dedicated to Professor Emil W. Lehman and Dr. Frank B. Lanham. These two gentlemen served as Head of the Department from 1921 through 1978. My dream is to establish an endowed chair in the department in their honor.

We have received a donation to initiate the special endowed chair fund. Anyone contributing $100 or more to the fund will be sent a complimentary copy of the history book. Individual copies are also available for $25.00. Pages 6 and 7 in the newsletter provide a preview of the history along with an order/donation form.

Have a great summer and stop by for a visit if your travel takes you through the Champaign-Urbana area!

Loren E. Bode
Head of Department
1997 JBT Recipients in Agricultural Engineering

The Jonathan Baldwin Turner (JBT) Scholarship Program is a merit-based scholarship that recognizes scholarly excellence, good citizenship and demonstrated leadership. All high school graduates enrolled in the University of Illinois College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences (ACES) are eligible for a JBT Agricultural Scholarship. Students receive individual scholarships of $1,000 a year renewable for up to four years provided by private donors.

Recipients in Agricultural Engineering include:

Jeremiah Adams    Joshua Merdian
Gregory Bohman    Kyle Richardson
Peter Groves      Anton Spatz
Jennifer Humphrey John Tanner
Thomas Jenks

Gift from Paul and Lorennie Bateman

Lorennie Bateman recently announced a very generous bequest of $160,000 that Professor H. Paul Batemen left in his will to our department. Funds from the endowed gift will be used for our research programs in addition to helping students through the JBT Scholarship Program and the H. Paul Bateman Congeniality Awards. The department is very appreciative of this gift and acknowledges the confidence Paul and Lorennie have placed in our programs.

Professor Bateman served on the Agricultural Engineering faculty from 1936 to 1968 and passed away on August 2, 1997. (Our Department 1997 newsletter presented a tribute to the accomplishments of Professor Bateman.) The Bateman’s have been generous to the University for many years and this gift will provide a continuing influence for our students into perpetuity.

New Bernard C. Mathews/ Mathews Company Award

The Bernard C. Mathews/ Mathews Company has presented the department with a gift that established a new endowed award. This award is merit-based and is presented annually to an Agricultural Engineering junior whose primary interests are in design/development of farm equipment, including crop dryers. The award emphasizes high scholastic achievement and leadership potential. Andrew D. Greenlee is the first recipient of the Bernard C. Mathews/ Mathews Company Award.

Three Generations of Ag. Engineers

December 5, 1997 presented a unique opportunity for the Department to bring together three generations of one family related to the Department. The occasion was the 19th J.B. Turner Agricultural Scholarship Recognition Banquet and the three generations were Dr. Ben Jones, Professor Emeritus of the Department (MS ’50, BS ’49), son-in-law George Richardson (BS ’75) and grandson Kyle Richardson.

The faculty of the Department support scholarships each year through their personal contributions to the University of Illinois Foundation. Kyle was selected to receive the department’s Scholarship this year.

Kyle Richardson, George Richardson, and Ben Jones.
Graduate Fellows Recognition

The Illinois Chapter of Gamma Sigma Delta (the Honor Society of Agriculture) and the College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences honored graduate students holding fellowships in the Department of Agricultural Engineering at a special recognition program November 13, 1997 in Urbana, Illinois.

(Afront row left to right) Linglei (Leslie) Xu, Ruth Book, and Eric R. Benson. (Back row left to right) Dr. Loren E. Bode, Head of the Department, Brian L. Steward and William J. Northcott. Not pictured, Ana Maria Garcia.

Ag. Engineering Graduate Named to Prestigious National Heritage River Panel

On April 8, 1998, President Clinton named P. Kay Whitlock (BS ’70) to serve on the American Heritage Rivers Initiative Advisory Committee. The Committee is charged with reviewing 126 nominations received and recommending 10 waterways to the President for the designation as American Heritage Rivers.

Ms. Whitlock of San Jose, California serves as the Assistant General Manager of the Santa Clara Valley Water District. Whitlock is responsible for oversight of the flood control program serving 1.6 million residents and a 1300 square mile area known as the Silicon Valley. Congratulations Kay!

Awards

Rural Builder Hall of Fame Award

Gerald L. Riskowski, Professor and Section Leader, Bioenvironmental Engineering, was inducted into the Rural Builder Hall of Fame on March 11, 1998. The award was presented at the National Frame Builders Conference and Rural Builder Show held in Phoenix, Arizona. The award is given in recognition of leadership, foresight and outstanding contributions to the rural construction industry. Each year, only one educator is inducted into the Rural Builder Hall of Fame, all other award winners must come from industry.
Professional Staff Award for Excellence – Innovation and Creativity

At this year’s Funk Awards Banquet, Robert E. Wolf, Extension Specialist in Power and Machinery, received the Professional Staff Award for Excellence – Innovation and Creativity for his work and leadership for the Pesticide Applicator Training (PAT) program. Wolf also works closely with the Agricultural Retailers Association in offering Professional Applicator Institutes (PAI) each year. His position, creativity, professionalism and work ethic have made the PAT program one of the best in the country. A key reason for the success of Wolf’s PAT and PAI programs is his imaginative development of multimedia teaching materials. Across the United States and Europe, Wolf has spoken to many public and private groups about pesticide application. His efforts in pesticide drift reduction came to the fore in 1997 when he was asked to develop a national training video for use in applicator training.

Professor Emeritus Honored

Carroll J.W. Drablos, Professor Emeritus in the Department of Agricultural Engineering, was named the 1997 Recipient of the Overholt International Drainage Hall of Fame Award. Dr. Drablos was presented the award on Wednesday, January 7, 1998 in Columbus, Ohio. His leadership in the agricultural drainage field has long been known to many, but we are very happy to see his many years of diligent work recognized by this prestigious award.

Fallow Fertile Furrow Award

Ted L. Funk, Assistant Professor, is the 1998 recipient of the Fallow Fertile Furrow Award. This award is given to a faculty member who does something above and beyond, but rather foolishly … for example, having to file two accident reports in the same day. (Ted’s winning performance 😁.)

1998 Spring Award Winners

At the ASAE and Ag. Mech Spring Banquets held in April, the following awards were presented to our students.

- Melissa R. Dry and Vincent L. Reincke received the TSM Sophomore Advisor Award.
- Katherine A. Flahive received the Jonathan Pierce Memorial Award.
- Lisa M. Foster was the recipient of the Frank W. Bauling Scholarship Award.
- Andrew D. Greenlee received the Bernard Mathews/ Mathews Company Award.
- Christopher R. Kallal received the Bateman Congeniality Award for TSM.
- Todd D. Maertens was the recipient of the Espy Prize for Exemplary Service Award.
- Nathan A. Marsh received the TSM Outstanding Junior Award.
- Michael C. Mendoza was presented with the J.A. Weber Memorial Award.
- Brian J. Reimer received the TSM Outstanding Senior Award.
- Sheila Sahu was the recipient for the Karl J.T. Ekblaw Scholarship Award.
- Kevin P. Short and Kyle M. Schumacher received the TSM Freshmen Advisors Award.
- Gary F. Sierens received the AG E Bateman Congeniality Award.
- Micah Y. Steele was presented with the John Deere Foundation Scholarship Award.
Phil Buriak, Michael C. Hirschi, and Kent Mitchell have been included on the "Incomplete List of Teachers Ranked as Excellent by Their Students, Spring 1998."

Mary Schultze joined the department in February of 1998 as the division secretary in 360 AESB for Power and Machinery and Food and Bioprocess Engineering. Mary lives in rural Sadorus, Illinois with her husband, Alan, and their two children, Kyle and Meghan.

Pam Warsaw joined the department in June of 1997 as secretary to Dr. Bode. She lives in Mansfield, Illinois with her husband, Pat, and their three daughters, Kristina, Maranda and Felicia and their pug dog, Chubby. Pam is active with her daughters' activities and enjoys gardening, taking walks, basketball and going to flea markets.

Retirements in the Department

Dog Gone It! Bob Fry is Retiring!
After 16 years of service to the department, Bob Fry retired on May 31, 1998. Bob joined the department in January 1982 to work with Carroll Goering on an alternative fuels for diesel engines project. At the end of that project, Bob assisted the department by coordinating the move into our new Agricultural Engineering Sciences Building in 1983-84. Since that time, Bob served as the business manager in the main office of the department. We wish Bob and Vicki well as they now spend more time with the grandchildren!

Dorothy Dowell Retires After 11 Years
On December 31, 1997, Dorothy Dowell retired after 11 years with the University of Illinois, the last five years with our department. As many of you will remember, Dorothy was the section secretary for the areas of Power and Machinery and Food and Bioprocess. Dorothy's dedication and hard work have been greatly appreciated by the faculty, staff and students in our department. Congratulations Dorothy on a job well done!

Henry G. Schaper Retires after 34 Years!
Henry joined the Department in September 1964 after completing training as an electronics technician at Iowa State University. At the time, Henry was hired as a temporary employee; becoming permanent in July of 1966. During the next 34 years, Henry worked with many faculty members and graduate students in the department.
The Northwest Ordinance, passed by Congress in 1787, committed the United States to higher education; however, it was near the middle of the nineteenth century before people in Illinois demonstrated support for that commitment. Certainly, the idea of applying higher education and engineering principles to some agricultural production problems occurred very early, but before 1850 most pioneers were too busy wrestling a livelihood from the soil to worry about higher education.

By 1850 the situation was changing; however, …

So begins your journey through Agricultural Engineering on the Prairie: Illinois Style, a history of the University of Illinois Department of Agricultural Engineering from 1921 through 1997. The department, from its inception in 1921 until 1996 – the 75th Anniversary, was at the forefront of the advances in engineering that helped change the United States from an agrarian society to an industrial society. Today it continues to lead Illinois farmers into the high technology world of agriculture.

As your journey through the past begins, you shouldn’t miss the tribute to “A Friend” – the IHC Farmall of 1924, the adopted daughter of Professor Shawl. She spent her early life on the South Farms, getting her education in the Agricultural Engineering Department’s tractor lab each winter.

Continuing on, meet the “rainmaker.”

John Siemens atop his “rainmaker” machine for testing soil erosion in the field.

The completed Agricultural Engineering Sciences Building, June 8, 1983.

Browse through 30 pages of pictures ranging from class photos to spring banquets, to classroom scenes, to the New Agricultural Engineering Sciences Building. Of special interest to alums should be the names and job titles of all of their classmates.

This history is dedicated to Emil W. Lehman and Frank B. Lanham, the first two department heads who provided leadership for the department for 57 of the 75 years covered. A dream of the department’s is to establish an endowed chair in their honor.

Don’t miss your chance to own a copy of this important history. Your name is in it! Your friends’ names are in it! Your Professors names are in it! The antics of the Class of ‘37 are in it! Surely you will want it!

Read on to learn how you can get it!
To receive your copy of *Agricultural Engineering on the Prairie: Illinois Style*, please complete the order blank below and mail to:

Agricultural Engineering Department History  
Attention: Mary Beth Munhall  
1304 West Pennsylvania, Room 332 AESB  
Urbana, IL 61801

Name: ___________________________ Class: ___________________________

Address: __________________________________________________________

City/State/Zip: _____________________________________________________

Phone: ___________________________ E-Mail: ___________________________

(____) Please send me one (1) complimentary copy.
I am enclosing my contribution check for $100 or more toward the Endowed Chair in honor of Emil W. Lehman and Frank D. Lanham. Checks should be made payable to: The University of Illinois Foundation*

(____) Please send me ______ copy(ies) of the history @ $25.00 each. Make checks payable to: The University of Illinois.

Total amount enclosed:

Amount of check to University of Illinois Foundation

Amount of check to University of Illinois

Total Amount $__________________________

Comments for the next Department Newsletter. Your classmates like to hear from you.

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*For tax purposes, your gift receipt from the University of Illinois Foundation will indicate your donation minus the $20 value of the history book.
Michael M. Beeler (BS '98) is working for New Holland North America, Inc. in New Holland, Pennsylvania as a Service Trainee.

Ryan D. Funk (BS '98) has taken a position as Design Engineer with NACCO MHG, Inc. in Danville, Illinois.

Timothy W. Gowler (BS '98) is a Service Trainee with New Holland North America in New Holland, Pennsylvania.

Jeffrey S. Hammill (BS '98) is a Senior Analyst with FinPro, Inc. in Liberty Grove, New Jersey.

Ian W. Mann (BS '98) has accepted a position as Project Engineer with the DIGALOG Corporation in Ventura, California.

Richard D. Osborne (BS '98) is working for Caterpillar as a Design Engineer in Decatur, Illinois.

Mark A. Pulokas (BS '98) recently let us know he accepted a position at Bell Sports, Inc. in Rantoul, Illinois as an Automotive Manufacturing Process Engineer.

Kyle N. Struck (BS '98) accepted a Service Technician position with Birkey's Farm Store in Urbana, Illinois.

Will R. Willmes (BS '98) is working in Danville, Illinois for NACCO Material Handling Group as an After Market Engineer.

Michael F. Walter (MS '70, BS '68) wrote to invite any Illinois friends to visit if they are ever in Ithaca, New York.

John L. Roll (MS '73, BS '71) recently sent their annual holiday update informing us that John and his wife, Sarah, moved from Oklahoma to the great white north last fall. They are now living in Pewaukee, Wisconsin and learning to cope with their "first real winter in seven years." John is continuing with private consulting work and completed his Ph.D. at Oklahoma State in December 1995.

Leon W. Wendte (MS '75, BS '74) was named the 1997 "Urban Ag Leader of the Year." Wendte is the District Conservationist with USDA's NRCS for Champaign County, Illinois. He was cited for his many outstanding achievements in natural resource management, soil conservation and environmental stewardship in Champaign County, in the State of Illinois and nationwide.

John C. Schmitt (BS '78) visited the department on January 6, 1998. He has been farming at Ursa, Illinois since 1985. John and his wife Mary Ann have a daughter and three sons. John says this was his first visit to the department since we moved into the Agricultural Engineering Sciences Building.

Michael R. Goodenough (BS '65). We recently heard from John that he is doing well and getting back to work after an illness last year. John divides his time between his wife, Marilyn, who is a resident of the Sherwood Nursing Home in Bryan, Texas and his daughter and grandson in Alvin, Texas.
Dale W. Brockamp (BS '88) transferred to the Illinois Department of Natural Resources on January 1, 1998 after working at the IEPA for 9-1/2 years. Dan is the department’s Dam and Bridge Safety Coordinator. The department is responsible for inspecting and providing the necessary repair work to all dams and bridges in the state parks and other state-owned recreational areas.

Alexander L. Breen (BS '89). As of November 1997, Alex is the Manager of Onsite Consulting/CCSO Network Analyst at the University of Illinois, Urbana, Illinois.

Xinquen Gui (PhD '89) is currently Senior Project Engineer in charge of the Advanced Research Group at Navistar in Melrose Park, Illinois. His group develops new engine technologies and the company now has a contract to supply engines for Ford trucks through the year 2012. Xinquen and his family live in Naperville. In his free time, he teaches the Chinese language and culture to the children of Chinese descendants who live in Naperville.

Glen Hall (BS ‘89) has recently changed jobs to be a Senior Project Engineer at Cooper Automotive’s Wagner Lighting Division in Hampton, Virginia.

Todd W. Wachtel (BS ‘93) is the Structures Department Manager with the Effingham-Clay Service Company and farming the family farm. Todd and his wife, Lynelle, are expecting their first child this April.

Jeffrey D. Samet (BS ‘94) recently changed careers. He is now working for AGCO in Batavia, Illinois.

John F. Curran (BS ‘95). We recently learned that John is about to graduate law school from Northern Illinois University and is looking forward to going to a couple of football games this fall.

Jesse R. Middagh (BS ‘95). As of January 1998, Jesse was promoted to the position of Test Operations Supervisor covering all projects at the Case Corporation Engineering Center in Burr Ridge, Illinois. He is responsible for a group of 25 people with tasks including test planning, scheduling, resourcing and equipment procurement. Jesse is also working toward completing an MBA program specializing in Project Management from the Keller Graduate School of Management in Chicago, Illinois.

Thomas I. Burenga III (BS ‘96) is currently the Territory Aftermarket Manager for the John Deere Company out of Columbus, Ohio.

Matthew F. Rademacher (BS ‘96) let us know he had started at NACCO in Danville, Illinois as a design engineer in September 1996. His job duties include value improvement projects and new product options for lift trucks.

Timothy T. Schaberg (BS ‘96) and Blythe Ridder were married on October 4, 1997. Tim is with Komatsu Mining Systems in Peoria, Illinois. The Schaberg’s will be residing in Washington, Illinois.

Chia-Hui Chou (MS ‘97) is currently working for a manufacturer in Taiwan, where he recently completed the design and development of a new high pressure cooling system for vehicles. He will also be involved in selling the system to customers. He and his family miss the University of Illinois and hope to visit sometime. He wishes all of us a happy Chinese Tiger year; the Chinese New Year began on February 1, 1998 and is the Year of the Tiger.

Loren P. Honegger (BS ‘97) married Jennifer L. Johnson in November 1997. The Honegger’s are making their new home in Remington, Indiana. Loren is working in material take-off in the design department of FBI Buildings, Inc.

Seetha Sarasworthy (MS ‘97) had a baby girl on December 1, 1997 and has named the baby Smritha Devan. Seetha and her family reside in Fairfield, Ohio. Congratulations!

1990 - 1997

Douglas A. Awe (BS ‘90) responded to our last newsletter request for updated information, by informing us he has changed residences. He is now living in Bluffs, Illinois.

John "Big Jack" W. Ryan, Jr. (MS ‘91, BS ‘90) has been with Caterpillar for six years and currently is its Chassis Design Team Leader for the CAT Challenger belted ag tractors.

In Memory …

Lloyd E. Reeser (BS ‘43) passed away March 2, 1998 at home. Mr. Reeser was a former president of Weldon Co-op Grain Company for several years and he served on the DeLand-Weldon school board for nine years. He is survived by his wife, Irma, two sons and two daughters and 12 grandchildren.
During the past year the following alumni and friends have donated money to the department. These funds are used to help provide scholarships to deserving students, defray travel costs to professional meetings and support student projects for our open houses each spring. Some donations have been specifically designated to one of several special funds in our department. For more information on donor opportunities, please contact the department at 217.333.3570.

We would like to extend our grateful appreciation to all of you for your generous support of our programs.

Mr. Melvin G. Aden
Mr. Charles W. Anderson
Mr. and Mrs. Gary L. Asher
Mrs. Lorennie Bateman
Mr. Randall L. Beasley
Mr. Paul G. Boland
Mr. Donald L. Brakensick
Mr. Dana and Ms. Elizabeth C Christensen
Mr. Scott E. Davison
Dr. Floyd E. Dowell
Mrs. Alice E. Espenschied
Dr. Walter Cecil Hammond
Mr. and Mrs. David J. Hoekstra
Mr. and Mrs. Larry F. Huggins
Mr. and Mrs. Robert C. Hughes
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Mr. John N. Jednoralski
Mr. T. Michael Johns
Dr. and Mrs. Benjamin A. Jones, Jr.

Dr. Ann L. Kenimer
Mr. Michael D. Knicely
Mr. Thomas D. Langston

Mr. Edwin R. Martin
Bernard C. Mathews/ Mathews Company
Mr. and Mrs. Donald G. Miller

Mr. Gerald A. Nuese
Mr. and Mrs. David J. Olson
Mr. and Mrs. Leroy K. Pickett
Mr. Kenneth Ramsey
Mr. Thomas and Ms. Cheryl Ronan
Mr. James F. Rowley

Mr. David R. Schmid
Dr. and Mrs. John C. Siemens
Mr. and Mrs. Daniel L. Smith
Dr. and Mrs. David W. Smith
Mr. and Mrs. Roger M. Smith
Mr. and Mrs. James R. Steffen
Mr. Lyle E. Stephens
Mr. and Mrs. David W. Sucoe
Dr. Kenneth Sudduth

Mr. James A. Verplaetse
Mr. and Mrs. Peter L. Viall
Mr. and Mrs. David W. Weir
Mr. Roy D. Wendte
Mr. and Mrs. Gregory D. Woodworth

The 1997 Farm Progress Show:
Let us know … Alumni Information Sheet

Name: ____________________________ Year Graduated: __________________

Home Address: ____________________________

City, State, Zip: ____________________________

Business Title/ Profession: ____________________________

Company/ Institution: ____________________________ Phone: ____________________________

E-mail Address: ____________________________

News: _______________________________________

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The University of Illinois is an affirmative action, equal opportunity institution.
It's here! The history book, Agricultural Engineering on the Prairie: Illinois Style, is now available. The book is a complete history of the University of Illinois Department of Agricultural Engineering from 1921 through 1997.

Look inside for details on ordering your copy!!