

Message from the Dean



E N G I N E E R I N G A T I L L I N O I S

December 2007

Dear Colleagues,

With less than two weeks until the beginning of final exams, it is difficult to believe that the semester has passed so quickly. But, as we look at all of the activities within the college, understanding why time flies is somewhat easier.

I want to express my deep appreciation to all of our faculty, staff, and administrators who keep this great organization moving forward. Our college remains strong, continuing to excel in all of our missions, especially in our primary mission-education and knowledge creation. Training the next generation of engineers and scientists remains our foremost function, and we continue our efforts at full pace, sharing our knowledge and wisdom to benefit our students and society as a whole.

To each of you, I extend my sincere wishes for a joyous holiday season. As the New Year approaches, I hope you share in the pride of a job well done and a renewed commitment to continue building on the excellence that is Engineering at Illinois.

Sincerely,
Ilesanmi Adesida
Dean and Willett Professor

Strategic Plan -- Leadership in Campus-wide Interdisciplinary Research

Among the major goals of the college's strategic plan is to "Lead in establishment of successful campus-wide interdisciplinary research initiatives." As you know, major research units such as MRL, CSL, MNTL, and ITI bring together researchers from across the college and campus. The Center for Nanoscale Science and Technology (CNST) is currently working on several federally funded projects related to nanomedicine, the environment, disaster management, and crop science in cooperation with the Colleges of Veterinary Medicine, Applied Health Sciences, Liberal Arts and Sciences, ACES, and others.

The Science and Technology Center for Advanced Materials for the Purification of Water with System--also known as WaterCAMPWS--conducts dozens of multiple-investigator activities between the Colleges of Engineering, Education, and LAS, in the fields of biology/virology, chemistry, chemical engineering, education, environmental engineering, geology, materials science, mechanical science and engineering, and physics. Together, they are working to help solve one of the most pressing problems facing the U.S. and world today: Insufficient clean water for human use. Currently, the Information Trust Institute (ITI) is leading a major joint research effort between the College of Engineering and the College of Applied Health Sciences toward the establishment of a Center for Pervasive Health Technology (CPHT).

The evolving Office of Strategic Initiatives within the college is actively developing relationships in Washington, D.C., that will benefit units across the college and campus. As part of its mission to make manufacturing at the nanoscale routine and practical, the Center for Nanoscale Chemical-Electrical-Mechanical Manufacturing Systems (Nano-CEMMS) works with the College of Education on innovative programs, pedagogical excellence among STEM educators, and program evaluation. In regards to teaching, I recently met with the Provost, the Vice Provost, and the deans of Education and Liberal Arts to talk further about how we may cooperate to advance efforts in undergraduate STEM education on campus.

These are just a few of the ongoing initiatives that demonstrate the college's leadership as we build bridges across this campus and with other organizations around the globe. We are looking forward to developing many more in the months ahead.

Announcements

Resource Summit: In preparation for this week's University Resource Summit organized by the President, both the campus and our college have held their own summits to evaluate available resources and look for synergies that will allow us to maximize efficiencies and identify new opportunities to advance the excellence of our college.

MNTL Open House -- On Tuesday, December 4, the Micro and Nanotechnology Laboratory will host an open house from 1:00-5:00 p.m. Faculty, students, staff, and community members are invited to tour the recently expanded facility, view some of the ongoing research, and visit the state-of-the-art clean room areas and bionanotechnology facilities.

Professor Marcelo Garcia, the Chester and Helen Siess Endowed Professor in Civil and Environmental Engineering, has been appointed the founding director of the Ven Te Chow Hydrosystems Laboratory. In his new role, Garcia will provide leadership and establish a long-term vision for the future of the laboratory, act as a liaison between CEE faculty and other hydrosystems researchers and practitioners in the U.S. and abroad, promote the broad dissemination of research results, and actively seek new research opportunities for the laboratory.

A proposal led by MRL scientist **John Rogers** (PI), with co-PIs **Ralph Nuzzo** and **Jennifer Lewis**, has been selected for funding through the U.S. Department of Energy's Solar America Initiative--one of 25 projects selected as part of the Funding Opportunity Announcement, Next Generation Photovoltaic Devices & Processes--an integral part of the President's Solar America Initiative, which aims to make solar energy cost-competitive with conventional sources of electricity by 2015.

Congratulations

James F. Stubbins, head of the Department of Nuclear, Plasma, and Radiological Engineering, has been selected as a Fellow of the American Nuclear Society.

Computer science professors **Brian Bailey** and **Anil Hirani** have each been selected for NSF CAREER awards.

Mechanical Science and Engineering professor **Carlos Pantano-Rubino** has been named as a recipient of a 2006 Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers.