

# GREETINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE AAE ADVISORY BOARD

As we approach the new millennium, we can look back and see that there have been many changes in the AAE Department at the University of Illinois. There is a new location on campus, new faculty members, new labs, new research centers, and now a new department head.

As the president of the alumni group, I wish personally to thank Wayne Solomon for all of the hard work and vision that he has provided over the past decade. He has truly made his mark on the department in many ways. Solomon was only the fourth head since the inception of the department in 1944. His distinguished career spans from his work with the U.S. Air Force Astronautics Laboratory; University of Goettingen, Germany, and Bell Aerospace before he graced the halls of the Transportation Building on our Urbana campus. His research in the field of high-energy lasers and space propulsion systems is very important to the continued advancement of astronautical sciences. He will now be able to devote more time to teaching and his research at the Urbana-Champaign campus.

In the eleven years as head of the AAE Department, he has ushered in many new fixtures to the U of I program. Notably, he acquired new facilities in Talbot Lab, where the department could expand and spread its wings. The move to Talbot is a vast improvement over the shared facilities in the Transportation Building. Other additions include revising the undergraduate aero and astro design curriculum and establishing the composites structures center, a second high-energy laser laboratory, and high-power workstation laboratories. These changes have enabled the student population to grow with the times and compete on a national basis. This

growth is evident with the many awards the students are winning in the various design competitions and with increases in funded research that is now being conducted. We will miss his leadership.

As one era ends another begins, just as one century follows another. On behalf of the Alumni Advisory Board, I wish to welcome Michael Bragg as head of the department. He has truly distinguished himself as a faculty member of this department and as a national expert in the field of aircraft icing technology. He is a graduate of this department, with both bachelor's and master's degrees. He has spent the last nine years teaching and doing research with this department after coming to us from Ohio State University.

Professor Bragg is responsible for establishing an FAA National Icing Center on the Urbana-Champaign campus. This is a distinguished accomplishment and one that will reflect well on this university and the AAE Department for years into the future. There is much to do to establish the center as a true national resource. As always, this board pledges its help to ensure the center's success.

The challenges of the next century are upon us with the expansion of space activities and the revitalization of the business and general aviation markets. Any institution that is to thrive in this ever-changing world must also adapt and continually reinvent itself in order to be responsive to the needs of the students and the industry they are destined to shape in the "Way to the Future."



Steven J. D'Urso

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