





Spring 2008

We do a lot of reminiscing in this issue by first looking back on the careers of Jerry Nelson and Laurian Unnevehr, who are "retiring" to Washington D.C. where Laurian will join the ERS and Jerry will join IFPRI. We then report on our celebration of 75 years of agricultural economics at the U of I. It was a fun event.

Robert J. Hauser
Head of Department

Personnel

- I am pleased to report that, pending Board of Trustee approval, four new faculty hires will be joining ACE. Arriving in the early summer will be **Andrea Martens** (Berkeley) and **Craig Gundersen** (PhD from California-Riverside and then with ERS and Iowa State). **Lia Noguera** (Washington State) will be coming in early September while **Mindy Baker** (Iowa State) will likely be here sometime in the fall.
- I wish to thank both faculty and staff for their tremendous search and recruitment efforts during the past few months, resulting in excellent additions to our Department. I was proud of our willingness to create a first-class recruiting and interview environment, reflected by several candidates who mentioned to me that we "do it right." Thanks.
- I am sad, however, to report that **Miguel Gomez** will be going back to Cornell to take an Assistant Professor position. **Jules Elkins** will also be leaving in a few months for Austin, TX where her husband is taking a faculty position.
- This has been a year of many gains and losses in personnel, and I'm pleased to report that our loss of **Randy Westgren** to Business Administration was only temporary, and he'll be back in the Department full time next year. Welcome back, Randy.

Awards and Recognitions

- Congratulations to **Alex Winter Nelson**, who was recently selected for the "Campus Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching – Faculty." Watch *Inside Illinois* for a feature on Alex's accomplishments.
- **Harold Guither** was given the "D. Howard Doane Award" for his service to the American Society of Farm Managers & Rural Appraisers.
- One of the most prestigious awards at UIUC is the "Madhuri and Jagdish N. Sheth International Alumni Award for Exceptional Achievement." The 2007 recipient is **Kandeh Yumkella (91)**, who received his PhD in our Department and is currently the Director General of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization. Kandeh was honored on campus April 2.
- The ACES and Paul A. Funk Awards program was held on Monday, April 21. Congratulations to:
 - **Scott Irwin**, a recipient of the "Paul A. Funk Recognition Award."
 - **Angela Lyons**, recipient of the "College Faculty Award for Excellence in Extension."
 - **Darrel Good and Gary Schnitkey**, who are part of the *Corn and Soybean Classic Team* with Crop Sciences faculty, winning the "Team Award for Excellence."
 - **Jon Scholl (78) and Duane Strunk (63)**, graduates of our Department who will be recognized by the ACES Alumni Association through the "Award of Merit."

Appointments

- **Terri Kobel** was elected to the Executive Board for the University Continuing Education Association – a national organization representing a wide variety and large number of universities.
- **John Braden** will be serving a one year term as President of the UI Chapter of Phi Beta Kappa. Phi Beta Kappa is the oldest and most respected undergraduate honors organization in the United States. The chapter at the University of Illinois, Gamma of Illinois, was chartered in 1907.

Development



Newsletter Credits: Robert J. Hauser, Senior Editor. Leanne Lucas, writer, Pam Splittstoesser, coordinator. Unless otherwise indicated, photos are courtesy of College of ACES staff photographers David Riecks and Brian Stauffer.

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