FAA Aviation Research Award Ceremony

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) presented the FAA Excellence in Aviation Research Award for 2008 to Professor Edwin Herricks on Thursday, February 19, 2009 at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. The FAA Director of Research and Technology Development, Barry Scott spoke at the ceremony and presented the award to Herricks. Professor David Lange (CEAT Director), Dean Adesida, (UIUC College of Engineering) and Phil Bloomer (Press Secretary for Congressman Tim Johnson) gave opening remarks.

Herricks leads the Airport Safety Program for the Center of Excellence for Airport Technology (CEAT), supporting the FAA airport technology research and development team’s many high-profile programs for more than a decade. His research and development of bird radar systems at airports, foreign object debris detection (FOD) systems, wildlife hazard mitigation systems and other critical new technologies are revolutionizing airport safety. Dr. Herricks has devised effective protocols that introduce experimental radar systems into the broad operational landscapes of the complex airport environment.

The FAA also presented the DOT FAA Centers of Excellence Student of the Year Award to Phillip Donovan, UIUC CEE PhD candidate, on Thursday, February 19, 2009 at the same ceremony on the UIUC campus. Phil is performing research on the influence of offset wheel loads on the strength and durability of unbound aggregate layers in airport pavements. His work has contributed to the FAA project on Analysis of NAPTF Trafficking Dynamic Response Data for Pavement Deformation Behavior by identifying trends in the accumulation of permanent deformation due to aircraft wander. Phil is a major in the US Air Force and is a licensed engineer. His research work is sponsored by the FAA through CEAT.

CEAT is a research center for airport pavement technology and airport wildlife safety management funded by the FAA and the OMP. The Center is located within the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering at UIUC.

See the CEAT website for more information: [http://ceat.uiuc.edu/](http://ceat.uiuc.edu/). Please refer any questions about the ceremony to Vicki Dixon at vdiixon@illinois.edu or 244-0857.