BRIEFS

ENGINEERING GRADS TOP STATE PROFESSIONAL EXAM

Baylor engineering graduates taking the Texas Fundamentals of Engineering Examination last spring posted a 100 percent pass rate, according to figures released by the Texas State Board of Registration for Professional Engineers.

The board administers the examination for those seeking state registration as a Professional Engineer.

During the past five years, Baylor engineering graduates have earned a passing rate of 88 percent, which is the best in the State of Texas. Rice University is second for that time period with a 97 percent passing rate. The state average is 71 percent.

"In the State of Texas, you cannot use the title 'engineer' without being registered. Students who have graduated from an accredited program and who pass this exam become 'Engineers in Training',' said Dr. James Bargainer, dean of the School of Engineering and Computer Science. "They must then complete four years of active practice in engineering work, and then pass a second exam to become registered."

Baylor's engineering program is one of 17 programs in Texas with accreditation from the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (ABET).

New Chairs, Faculty Named
Hendon is BIC director; three chairs appointed

Baylor University begins the 1998-99 academic year with 51 new faculty members and several current professors in new leadership roles.

Dr. David W. Hendon, professor of history and director of graduate studies in the history department, is the new director of the Baylor Interdisciplinary Core (BIC), succeeding Dr. Randy Todd, who accepted a position at Stanford University. A native of Atlanta and a Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Vanderbilt University, Dr. Hendon earned his master's degree and doctorate from Emory University. He joined the Baylor faculty in 1977.

Dr. James B. Farison, an authority in bioengineering and electrical engineering and computer science, is the new chair of the Department of Engineering in the School of Engineering and Computer Science. Dr. Farison earned his bachelor's degree from the University of Toledo and his master's degree and doctorate from Stanford University. He has taught at the University of Toledo since 1969, where he served as dean of the College of Engineering from 1971 to 1980 and, most recently, as professor of bioengineering and electrical engineering and computer science. He also has been an adjunct professor of radiology at the Medical College of Ohio.

In the College of Arts and Sciences, Dr. J. Randall O'Brien, professor of religion, has been appointed acting chair of the Department of Religion. Dr. Glenn O. Hilburn retired as chair of the department on Aug. 15, but continues his teaching duties. A graduate of Mississippi College, Dr. O'Brien received his master of sacred theology degree from Yale University and his master of divinity and doctor of theology degrees from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. He joined the Baylor faculty in 1991.

Dr. R. Alden Smith, associate professor of classics, has been appointed acting chair of the Department of Classics. Dr. Smith is a graduate of Dickinson College in Carlisle, Pa. He received his master's degree from the University of Vermont and his doctorate at the University of Pennsylvania. He joined the Baylor faculty in 1994.

A religion chair search committee has been appointed, and a committee to search for a permanent chair of the classics department will be named soon.—BN