

Happy Retirement Nancy!

Barbara Tessmann

Nancy Giles began her sixteen year commitment to the Agricultural Engineering Department on May 17, 1979. She began work as a Supervising Secretary with a promotion to Unit Assistant in 1989. Nancy worked for each of the three Department Heads: C.T. Haan, David Thompson, and Bill Barfield.

She was a Certified Professional Secretary having obtained that rating in 1975. Some of the honors she has received since she has been with us: 1989 Secretary of the Year award given by the Stillwater Chapter of Professional Secretaries International, and nominee for the University Distinguished Service Award.

Nancy has served on many committees and strived to continue

OSU. With all of this, Nancy has been able to make time for her family consisting of her husband, Dick, and their three sons, Bob, David, and Donald, their wives and her grandchildren, of course!

Now that Nancy is retired, she says, "I feel just like a kid. I even have fun cleaning the house!"

On June 15, the department had a big bash to celebrate Nancy's retirement and much of her family was in attendance. During the party, Dr. Barfield announced the establishment of a scholarship in Nancy's name for \$750, which her family matched with another \$750. This scholarship will be given to BIOEN undergrads at the 1996 Awards Banquet.

The Biosystems and Agricultural Engineering Department extends

by taking additional courses at

'fun-filled' years to come.

Undergraduate Focus

Jennifer Anderson



Many of our undergrads have been very busy working on various projects with the faculty in BIOEN and getting some good experience for their future graduate studies or careers.

Heath Sand is assisting Dr. Brusewitz with his Fruit and Vegetable Handling Project. He is testing peaches with an electronic device which checks for bruising and ripeness.

Shea Pilgreen, under Dr. Solie, is assisting with various projects dealing with the sage harvester, okra planter, okra harvester, and cheat analysis in wheat production. He is also helping in operations and

recommendations of the equipment to be used.

Kim Lewis is aiding Dr. Hamilton in the collection of composting data for an ongoing project dealing with animal waste management. She has been composting over a ton of horse manure, then analyzing the product for oxygen use with a respirometer which she constructed for this purpose.

Cyndi Harrison, who will be new to the BIOEN department in the Fall, has already been working in the department. For the past 2 semesters, she has been putting together the *Water Quality Update* newsletter for Dr. Mike Smolen. The newsletter comes out 3-4 times a month and deals with miscellaneous water quality issues. If you would like to receive a copy, contact Hannah at (405) 744-5653.

Grad Student Enrollment Up

Jennifer Anderson

Graduate student enrollment just keeps going up, which means good things for the department's reputation. Currently, we have students from six countries besides the United States: Jordan, India, China, Mexico, Taiwan, and Poland.

During the Spring 1995 semester there were 38 graduate students enrolled in the BIOEN program and more than half of these students were working toward their Ph.D.

Several students have presented papers and won awards, like **Marty Matlock**, who won the Batelle Student Paper Award at the 1994 Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry meeting, beating out approximately 118 other poster presentations. Congratulations also goes to Marty and his wife on the birth of their daughter, Sierra.

also been working with professors on scientific breakthroughs in agriculture.

John Ringer is working with his advisor, Dr. Marvin Stone, and fertility specialists in the Agronomy department to develop a way to predict the total nitrogen content of a wheat crop using an optical sensor. This information will be used to apply nitrogen fertilizer to the crop on an as-needed basis. John hopes his work will help him find employment in the agriculture industry dealing with, developing, and improving precision farming techniques.

The BIOEN department is always looking for bright, motivated individuals for our graduate program. We have the following options in both undergraduate and graduate studies: Biomechanical, Food and Bioprocessing, Environment and Natural Resources, and Agriculture. If you are interested in graduate studies or know a student who is, please contact the BIOEN department to receive additional information.