Brian W. Randolph, Professor of Civil Engineering and Associate Dean of Undergraduate Studies in the College of Engineering at The University of Toledo, is honored and recognized as the 2005 Engineer of the Year. This annual award, sponsored by the Toledo Society of Professional Engineers and the Technical Society of Toledo, celebrates and recognizes the accomplishments of Dr. Brian W. Randolph, P.E.. Throughout his career, Dr. Randolph has devoted himself to the engineering profession, his family, his students and his community. As a creative problem-solver, thoughtful deliberator and regarded teacher, he possesses a diplomatic nature that is appreciated and sought for many public and professional issues.

Dr. Randolph graduated with a B.S. in Civil Engineering in 1982 from the University of Cincinnati after participating in a mandatory co-operative education program. He remained at UC to complete his M.S. and then attended The Ohio State University to earn a Ph.D. in Civil Engineering, specializing in Geotechnical Engineering. He moved to Toledo to join the University of Toledo as an Instructor of Civil Engineering in 1987. He has risen steadily through the ranks of academia, becoming an assistant professor in 1989, an associate professor in 1992 and a full professor in 1997.

Early in his career, Dr. Randolph demonstrated a keen ability to connect with students in the classroom and practitioners in the field. His connection with students was recognized when he was named Director of Undergraduate Program in Civil Engineering in 1994. In this role he was responsible for most aspects of advising, student development, the undergraduate curriculum and accreditation. He also remained very active in teaching, research and service to the University and profession.

Throughout his career, Dr. Randolph has taught thousands of engineering undergraduate and graduate students at the University of Toledo in subjects such as engineering mechanics, geotechnical engineering, groundwater modeling and professional issues. He has created five novel courses, including a course in professional development to address the need for civil engineering students in the mandatory co-op program to perform career self exploration, develop professional attitudes, espouse a professional code of ethics, and gain confidence in oral and written communications at an early stage in their program.
He has been the major thesis adviser for 20 Master of Science graduates, one Doctor of Philosophy and numerous honors projects. He has served on an additional 60 completed master’s thesis committees and seven completed doctoral dissertation committees in the geotechnical, transportation and environmental areas of civil engineering, as well as industrial engineering. His graduates have gone on to careers in private practice, academia, government and industry throughout the country.

His research initially centered on environmental geotechnology, with grants sponsored by The National Science Foundation and the Ohio Board of Regents. He successfully expanded his work on subsurface flow modeling and reliability techniques into transportation geotechnics, collaborating with colleagues in civil engineering and industrial engineering to perform several studies for the Ohio Department of Transportation and the Federal Highways Administration. Dr. Randolph credits these partnerships and the ability to work with exceptional young people for his early research successes. He is now active in research to expand participation and diversity in math and science teaching careers. He has published numerous papers in noted engineering journals and proceedings, and has made many presentations at national and regional conferences. His creative works include partnering on three patent disclosures related to homeland security.

Dr. Randolph led the Department of Civil Engineering as Chair from 1997 to 2002, being responsible for leadership in most aspects of the graduate and undergraduate curricula, ABET and NCA accreditations, advising, recruiting and retention, as well as community, employer and alumni relations. During his term he oversaw implementation and maturation of the mandatory co-op program and redesigned curricula for the semester system. He successfully led the program to full ABET accreditation in 1999. This period saw the Department greatly expand its relationships with alumni and the community, in the true spirit of an engaged metropolitan institution. He continues this engagement as a member of the Advisory Boards for the Intermodal Transportation Institute and the Urban Affairs Center.

Since 2002 he has served as Associate Dean and Honors Director for the College of Engineering, with responsibilities for leadership of the 2400 person undergraduate student body, including 11 engineering and engineering technology curricula, co-operative education, the first year experience, accreditation, advising, recruiting, retention, diversity, scholarships, academic discipline, professional licensure promotion, transfer students and graduation processing. In addition, he serves an academic leadership role for students in the University Honors Program by fostering research relationships with faculty members to serve as Honors Theses Advisers and encouraging students to publish their work and make presentations at local and national venues. Engineering students comprise 40% of the University Honors Program.

Dr. Randolph has put his personal convictions into practice by service to the engineering profession and the community. He is an active member of the American Society of Civil Engineers, including service on a national committee and on the Board of Directors of the Toledo Section. He is a member of the American Society for Engineering Education and has held leadership positions on national committees. He is a peer reviewer for several scholarly journals. Starting in 1987 he led a group of honor students to found a chapter of Chi Epsilon, The National Civil Engineering Honor Society, which has inducted nearly 200 members to date. Since 2003 he has served as co-founding adviser to FYRE (First Year Rocket Engineers), which is dedicated
to student development and success. He is a frequent speaker on engineering careers and professional licensure for various schools and organizations.

In addition to his other professional contributions, Dr. Randolph has been actively involved in service to the community. He currently is assisting the Ohio Department of Transportation on the I-475 Strategic Planning Study Steering Committee, as well as the I-75/475 Systems Interchange Access Modification Study Task Force Steering Committee and Value Engineering Team. He remains active on the I-280 Maumee River Crossing Task Force Design Committee for the Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of Governments and is a past member of the TMACOG Maumee River Regional Storm Water Coalition. He assisted the Lucas County Commissioners on the Toledo Mudhens Ballpark Planning Committee. He also coordinated the student design, construction and installation of a display rotor for Frank Gaylord’s sculpture “I Got It!” at Fifth Third Field for the Lucas County Commissioners and the Arts Commission of Greater Toledo. Dr. Randolph has assisted the City of Toledo as a member of the Environment, Public Utilities, Public Services and Planning Committee for Mayor Ford’s Transition Team. He is a supporter of the Capacity-Building in Construction Center for Disadvantaged Business Enterprises as a member of the Construction Engineering, Planning and Design Advisory Committee. This is a major industry/government/university initiative to increase underrepresented individuals in the ranks of construction and engineering professionals.

Recognition for teaching and professional service has occurred through the years. Dr. Randolph was designated Civil Engineering Teacher of the Year by the students in his first year on the faculty, an honor that has been repeated twice in his career. His college peers have recognized his accomplishments with awards for teaching excellence on two other occasions. In 1999 he was designated a Fellow of University College at the University of Toledo. In the broader arena of professional practice, Dr. Randolph was named 1992 “Young Engineer of the Year” by the Toledo Section of the American Society of Civil Engineers. The American Society for Engineering Education recognized Dr. Randolph with the Dow Outstanding Young Faculty Award in 1993. His peers bestowed upon him the Award of Excellence for Geotechnical Engineering and Education at the Great Lakes Geotechnical and GeoEnvironmental Conference at Purdue University in 2003. Dr. Randolph was also recently named 2004 “Engineer of the Year” by the Toledo Section of the American Society of Civil Engineers. He has been elected to membership in Sigma Xi, The Scientific Research Society, Pi Mu Epsilon and designated an Eminent Engineer of Tau Beta Pi, The Engineering Honor Society.

Even though professional and community activities have increased with time, Dr. Randolph has been sustained by his faith and commitment to Gesu Church and School. He is a longtime supporter of the Gesu Community Concert, the school performing arts program and has served on the Building and Grounds Committee. An integral key to his success is the unfailing support of his wife Clare Luddy, and their three daughters, Brigid, Hannah and Beatrix. They have shared in his many professional interests and activities. He is often aided in evening or weekend responsibilities by at least one daughter, while Clare’s consulting engineering career has provided a needed reality check to the halls of academia.

The Toledo Society of Professional Engineers and the Technical Society of Toledo are proud to present Dr. Brian W. Randolph, P.E. as the 2005 Engineer of the Year.

# # #