

Tribute to Dr. Wayne Banwart

ACES Honors Dean (1995-2005)
Interim Associate Dean, ACES Academic Programs (2005-2007)



Dr. Wayne Banwart
Professor Emeritus, Department of Natural Resources & Environmental Sciences
(Photo by ACES ITCS)

Dr. Wayne Banwart was born and raised on a small farm in West Bend, Iowa. He attended Iowa State University, where he earned a B.S. degree in Agronomy and M.S. and Ph. D. degrees in Soil Science. He joined the faculty at the University of Illinois in 1975 as an Assistant Professor of Soil Science. He was promoted to Associate Professor in 1979 and Full Professor in 1984. Courses taught included *Introductory Soils*, *Soil Fertility*, and *Laboratory Methods for Soil Analysis*. His research centered on environmental concerns and included sorption of organics by soils, agricultural effects of acidic deposition, and reclamation of explosives-contaminated soils. He also served as Graduate Program Coordinator and Associate Head of the Agronomy (now NRES) Department during the late 1980's and early 1990's.

Dr. Banwart accepted the position of Assistant Dean for ACES Academic Programs in 1995. His responsibilities included courses and curricula, college honors, and serving as the primary instructor for **ACES 100: Contemporary Issues in ACES** (which enrolls approximately 550 freshmen each fall). Among other things, Dr. Banwart has served on the Urbana campus' General Education Board, the Conference on Conduct Governance, and the Chancellor's Scholars Committee. He has also worked closely with community college articulation of agricultural courses. Dr. Banwart is a Fellow of the American Society of Agronomy and the Soil Science Society of America, and he is currently serving as President of the North American Colleges and Teachers of Agriculture.

Dr. Banwart served as the ACES Honors Dean from 1995 until his appointment as Interim Associate Dean in September 2005. During his tenure as Honors Dean, he worked tirelessly for the advancement of the Honors Program and the empowerment of ACES James Scholars. Dr. Banwart presided over the reorganization and revitalization of the Honors Program that began in 1999. Under his leadership, six annual Honors Symposia were held on campus; three student representatives were added to the membership of the Honors Council; over 150 ACES Undergraduate Research Projects were conducted; and the number of ACES James Scholars grew from 97 (in fall 1999) to 250 (in fall 2005). He enthusiastically supported the production of the Honors Program's two electronic newsletters, the compilation of the ACES Honors Handbook, and the recent expansion of the ACES James Scholar website – all of which have significantly enhanced the quality and quantity of communication between the students and the administrators of the Honors Program. At the Seventh Annual ACES Honors Symposium in April 2006, Dr. Banwart received the first-ever Honorary ACES James Scholar Award from the Honors Council.

In October 2005, Dr. Banwart received the Secretariat's *Boss of the Year Award* in recognition of his thirty years of outstanding leadership and service in the College of ACES.



Dr. Banwart (center) receives the 2005 Boss of the Year Award from Carol Phillippe (right), Chairperson of the Boss of the Year Award Committee. Dr. Banwart and Rob Chappell (left) administered the Honors Program together from April 2000 through August 2005. (Photo Credit: Selena Douglass, the Secretariat's Historian)

Dr. Banwart retired from ACES Academic Programs in August 2007. He continues to be involved with the College of ACES as a Professor Emeritus in the NRES Department.

Text Adapted from <http://www.aces.uiuc.edu/Students/MeetHonorsTeam.shtml>