

Chemical Engineering Faculty Win Prestigious National and College of Engineering Awards

Innovation and cutting-edge efforts in research, multidisciplinary activities, and engineering education led to prestigious awards for three members of the ChE faculty this year: *Dr. Donald Visco, Dr. Joseph Biernacki, and Dr. Pedro E. Arce.*

Dr. Donald P. Visco, Jr. was selected as one of the **2004 Presidential Early Career Scientist and Engineer Awards (PECASE)** and also received the **2004 Early Career Scientist and Engineer Award from the Department of Energy, (NNSA DOE-DP)** for his outstanding efforts in developing the computational tool "*Signature.*" Dr. Visco is also a winner of one **ACS-PRF Award** to study the simulation and design of refrigerants that are benign to the atmosphere and is one of the two Co-PI's of a National Science Foundation funded "Undergraduate Research Center" that involves all community colleges across the State of Tennessee and the Department of Chemistry at TTU. In addition, Dr. Visco received the **2005 New Faculty Research Award** at the Annual Meeting of the ASEE-SE on April 6, 2005 for his excellence in research as well as the **ASEE-SE Outstanding Campus Representative Award.**

Dr. Joseph B. Biernacki was selected as the first recipient (2005) of the **College of Engineering Dean Advisory Award** for his multidisciplinary activities. Dr. Biernacki's efforts include a number of collaborations with researchers in the Department of Mechanical and Electrical Engineering at TTU and the Department of Civil Engineering at Georgia Tech and the University of Michigan, in addition to his activities at the ORNL and at the BHNL. Recently, he was the organizer of a National Science Foundation sponsored Symposium and Workshop on research and educational efforts related to the micro- and nano-structure of cement materials in India attended by some of the most renowned researchers in the field.

Dr. Pedro E. Arce was selected as recipient of the **2005 Leighton Sissom College of Engineering Award for Innovation and Creativity** for his efforts in improving the instructional aspects of the Engineering Curriculum. Dr. Arce's efforts are widely known for his innovation in models of instruction based on active learning and collaborative approaches. He has proposed the "*Colloquial Approach,*" the "*Coaching Model of Instruction,*" the "*High Performance Learning Environments*" (Hi-PeLE), and the "*Personalized Class Binders,*" among others. He has served on numerous occasions as a workshop conductor in topics related to these models in the USA, Argentina, Chile, Uruguay, Peru, and the United Kingdom. Dr. Arce received **the 2005 Mid-Career Outstanding Teaching Award** at the Annual Meeting of the ASEE-SE on April 6, 2005 for his outstanding contributions to improve learning effectiveness in engineering education.