2011
School of Engineering and Applied Science Outstanding Young Engineering Graduate Award
(Presentation to Billy B. Bardin)

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An award to recognize alumni who have made significant achievements and contributions in the early phase of their careers. Eligibility is for alumni who have graduated from the School of Engineering and Applied Science and are 40 years of age or younger.

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- While he is still young, Dr. Billy Bardin has a measured history of hard work and success.....let me start by saying that he was the Valedictorian at Beddingfield High School in the class of 1991.

- He then went to NC State University and graduated Summa Cum Laude with a Bachelors degree in Chemical Engineering in 1995.....finally coming to UVa and the School of Engineering and Applied Science in Chemical Engineering where he did research in Catalysis and received his MS in 1997 and his Doctorate in January of 2000.

- His graduate work was stellar and he was selected by the Chemical Engineering department as the winner of the 2000 Faculty Award for Excellence in Doctoral Studies, which is the top award for a graduating PhD student in the department.

- In 2000, Billy began his career at Union Carbide, which was shortly thereafter purchased by Dow Chemical Company. He was working in a South Charleston, West Virginia R&D facility in catalytic process development programs.

- In 2001, he joined the Chemical Sciences group within Dow’s Core R&D organization and relocated to Dow facilities in Midland, Michigan; Horgen, Switzerland; and Terneuzen, The Netherlands, as leader for the development of Dow’s high throughput heterogeneous catalyst testing.
While in Terneuzen, he was given complete responsibility for the design and construction of a new High Throughput Heterogeneous Catalysis research facility……an assignment that included project management, construction, selection of equipment, hiring of staff, and the development of new catalyst research experimental techniques. To do this he invested $15M in capital and led a team of 15 people.

In 2007, Billy was named leader for the North American Production Support Group within the Hydrocarbons and Energy business in Freeport, Texas. The following year he accepted the combined role of R&D Director for Basic Chemicals and the Dow Technology Licensing and Catalyst Business…..supervising 60+ technical staff and administering a budget of $40M.

Billy’s outstanding performance has led to his current position as manager of all technology research and development efforts for two divisions of Dow. He provides support to the Presidents of the Divisions of Hydrocarbons…..and Chemicals, and is a member of the Global Leadership Teams of those Divisions. He now supervises more than 130 technical staff with an annual budget exceeding $70M.

Billy still finds time to work with multiple universities including ours where he is currently a member of the external advisory board of our Chemical Engineering department…..and hopefully he will continue to be a vital part of our future.

The Engineering School is very pleased and shows its pride in awarding Billy B. Bardin the 2011 School of Engineering and Applied Science Outstanding Young Engineering Graduate Award.