* Tonight, we would also like to give special recognition to someone who has contributed above and beyond and played a special role in helping our engineering school prepare for the future.

* For two years this man has worked with a number of us in a strategic planning exercise that started 2 years ago for him and involved visiting several other universities and a great number of meetings with a number of SEAS faculty groups.

* Although most of us in SEAS have only been involved for a year, he has lead us through the planning phase and we are now in the phase of implementing several parts of the plan.

* This person has been a long time contributor to SEAS and continues to this day supporting the School in many ways including teaching our students and providing significant academic support to Chemical Engineering. Since his retirement from Merck, he has made his permanent home here in Charlottesville…..and I take this as a sign that he plans continuing the close relationship he has with SEAS.

* Mike King received his Masters in ChE in 1976 and in 1999 received our Distinguished Alumni Award. He will be the Halsey Professor in Chemical Engineering in the Spring 2012, and tonight, Dean Aylor and the School of Engineering would like to pay special recognition to Mike for his guidance and tireless efforts in the SEAS Strategic Planning.