The Department of Aerospace Engineering announces the appointment of its fifth head, J. Craig Dutton, Abel Bliss Professor in the College of Engineering. Professor Dutton is a leading researcher in compressible fluid flow, propulsion, and heat transfer. His interests center on laser-diagnostic measurements of high-speed separated and mixing flows and shock wave/boundary layer interactions. The experimental techniques used in his work include LDV, PIV, PLIF, Mie/Rayleigh scattering, CARS, and PSP/TSP. He has published widely in the refereed journal literature, as well as in conference proceedings.

Having earned a PhD in 1979 from the University of Illinois Department of Mechanical & Industrial Engineering (M&IE), now Mechanical Science and Engineering (MechSE), Professor Dutton began his academic career at Texas A&M University. He came back to Illinois as an associate professor in 1985. He was named M&IE's W. Grafton and Lillian B. Wilkins Professor from 1998 to 2003, and was named a Donald Biggar Willett Professor in the College of Engineering from 2003 to 2004. From 2000 to 2003, he served as M&IE's associate head for undergraduate programs. Professor Dutton's affiliation with Aerospace Engineering began in 1990 and continued until he left three years ago for the University of Texas at Arlington, where he served as Chair of the Department of Mechanical & Aerospace Engineering.

Professor Dutton is a Fellow of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers and an Associate Fellow of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics. He currently serves on the Editorial Advisory Board of the journal, Experiments in Fluids.