

March / April, 2002

**Biosystems Engineer Represents
Michigan Agricultural Experiment Station (MAES) on Capitol Hill**



On March 5, 2002, Dr. Vangie Alocilja , Assistant Professor of Biosystems Engineering, and graduate students, Zarini Muhammad-Tahir, Finny Mathew and Stephen Radke traveled to Washington D.C. to exclusively represent the Michigan Agricultural Experiment Station and Michigan State University at the *2002 Agriculture and Food Science in the Twenty-first Century, the Government - University Partnership at Work: a University Exhibition and Reception on Capitol Hill*. The event was held to

communicate the wide range of research, education, and extension activities being carried out at universities across the country. The list of attendees included all members of congress and appropriate aides. With an overall theme of "Rapid Pathogen Detections for the Biosecurity of the Food Supply Chain", Dr. Alocilja's display focused on Biosensor Research for Food/Environmental Safety and Biosecurity. Participants had a chance to see the biosensor technologies such as the E. Coli Sniffer, Chemiluminescence Assay, Polystrip Biosensor, Multi-array Biosensor. The technologies are designed to detect pathogenic bacteria in food and water. They also have potential for biosecurity application.

