Auburn University faculty member Mark Byrne has been selected as one of 26 recipients of Oak Ridge Associated Universities' (ORAU) Ralph E. Powe Junior Faculty Enhancement Awards for the 2005-2006 academic year.

The grants of $5,000 each are intended to provide "seed money" that will allow these faculty members, each of whom are in the first two years of a tenure track, to enhance their research during the early stages of their careers. Each recipient's institution matches the ORAU award with an additional $5,000, making the total prize worth $10,000 for each winner.

The awards recognize work in five science and technology disciplines: engineering or applied science; life sciences; mathematics and computer science; physical sciences; and policy, management, or education.

Byrne won the grant in the category of Engineering or Applied Science for his research project titled "Drug Delivery and Sensing via Biomimetic Recognitive Networks."