Welcome everyone and I hope you each had a restful and productive summer. Kiki and I enjoyed some vacation, traveled to visit our children, and we attended several alumni events. Whenever and wherever I could, I spoke about CAST and our fine programs.

In preparation for this afternoon I asked a colleague for some advice. He didn’t have much to say about the content of my remarks but he did offer advice about public speaking, especially at such an important event as the fall college meeting. He said that I should try speaking and inserting one marble at a time in my mouth. As I spoke and became comfortable I should then begin removing one marble at a time until none remained in my mouth. He then reminded me that only after I had lost all my marbles was I qualified to be Dean. So, here goes...

It is my honor and privilege to introduce Dr. John Presley to bring a welcome. As you know Dr. Presley is Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs, the chief academic officer of the University.

John came to Illinois State in March of 2003. He previously served as provost at SUNY Oswego in Oswego, N.Y. and as a dean for the College of Arts, Sciences and Letters at the University of Michigan in Dearborn. Presley received his Ph.D. in modern British literature and his master’s degree in English language and literature from Southern Illinois University and his bachelor’s degree in English from Arkansas State University.

During his tenure as provost, Presley led the University in joining The American Democracy Project, a cooperative effort by students, faculty, staff and administration to promote civic engagement through organized activities designed to promote constructive civic engagement on the part of undergraduates while they are on campus and after they graduate.

On a personal note, I want to convey my deepest gratitude for John’s counsel and guidance during my term as Dean.

Please join me in welcoming Provost Presley.

Thank you John.

Before I introduce the College staff, let me also recognize Dr. Murphy. Dr. Murphy is the Associate Provost and many of your knew her as Dr. Jan Shane. Jan also holds academic rank in our Department of FCS. Jan married this summer and congratulations to her and Scott.
I would like to introduce some important people that really make things work day in and day out within CAST.

Deb Gentry and Alan Lacy serve as your Associate Deans.

Our computer support staff is second to none. Please join me in recognizing Kate, Chris, and James.

This next group of people really helps keep me sane. They are the absolute front line of CAST. Please recognize Suzie and Cindy.

The Director of Development is a position that is rarely seen but is vital to the success of the College. Currently that position is occupied by Joy Hutchcraft, who will soon be leaving us due to a promotion within University Development.

Please join me in recognizing Joy Hutchcraft.

Each of these people are important members of the CAST leadership team.

   Dr. Lori Woeste, Chairperson, CAST Council
   Dr. Sandy Klitzing, Academic Senate
   Dr. Frank Waterstraat, Academic Senate
   Dr. Randy Winter, Academic Senate
   Dr. Robert Zant, Academic Senate

Please join me in recognizing them for their efforts on behalf of the College.

We have had a few changes in College leadership positions that have occurred over the summer. Will Drs. Rhykerd, Falcone and Boser please stand and be recognized?

Now allow me to introduce the Chairperson of Family and Consumer Sciences to introduce her newest faculty member.

Dr. Connor Walters introduced Dr. Hae Jin Gam.

I would now like to call upon the Director of the School of Information Technology, Dr. Terry Dennis to introduce his newest faculty members.

Dr. Dennis. Introduced Dr. Younghing Tang and Dr. Kyoungwon Suh

And now I would like to introduce the Director of the School of Kinesiology and Recreation to introduce its newest faculty member.

Dr. David Thomas introduced Ms. Kristen Bolton.

I would now like to recognize faculty who were promoted and granted tenure effective this year in CAST.
Please join me in recognizing Dr. Amy Hurd of KNR.

Dr. Jim Broadbear, in HSC was promoted to full professor this year. Jim previously served as acting chairperson in HSC during that time in which Dr. Marilyn Morrow served as acting Associate Dean last year.

Dr. Dan Wilson was also promoted to full professor effective this year. His academic home is TEC and he specializes in Graphic communications.

Each year CAST recognizes its outstanding teacher of the year at the fall meeting. Last year’s recipient of this distinction is Dr. George Byrns of the Department of Health Sciences.

George has made a significant impact upon the curriculum in his department and is known widely for innovative use of teaching technology, especially the use of “clickers.”

Each fall we invite the previous year’s honoree to speak on a subject of their choice. Please join me in welcoming Dr. George Byrns to speak about “The Use of Case Studies and Clickers to Enhance Student Engagement.”

Thank you George for your presentation on the use of case studies and clickers.

As we look into the future, it is often difficult to predict what lies ahead. I am hopeful, as are many others in Illinois, that we will have a state budget soon.

I am also hopeful that we will stay the path that we have set for ourselves last year and before that. We have strong programs and faculty who are committed to designing and delivering a premier education at the undergraduate and graduate levels.

We have dedicated staff that support the university mission and vision everyday they come to work.

Our strongest asset within CAST is YOU!

As you can see from the list beside me, we have no shortage of issues and initiatives to keep us busy this year. Some we will complete and others are long term on-going projects.

Some will directly involve each of you; others will keep your Chair or Director busy and the Dean’s staff burning some midnight oil.

Personally I am committed to each of these initiatives and have been working to advance each. I am especially committed to reaching out to our alums and trying to restore recapitalization partnerships and build new ones. In this I will need everyone’s help.

One year ago today I spoke about the need to revisit our College Vision and Mission and craft a strategic plan that has a line of sight from Educating Illinois to the College and ultimately to individual departments or schools. This process was begun with a full day retreat Tuesday of this week when the entire College leadership team came together. This work will require heavy lifting by all and everyone in
CAST will have an equal voice in crafting a strategic plan. This you will hear about more in the not too distant future. It will be an exciting exercise that will result in meaningful benefits.

Last year I suggested a theme for the College, “Celebrate CAST.” We recognized our 40th birthday and worked hard at creating a sense of community with CAST.

This year I am suggesting a new theme. It includes with it some risk. But, I like many of you are a risk taker. The theme is “One Degree.” No, before you get excited, it’s not what you think. Please allow me to direct your attention to the screen.

PLAY DVD HERE.

So, “One Degree” is all about us, you and me. It’s about us as a team digging down and giving more. It’s about creating new habits. It’s about things that Vince Lombardi, George Patton and Thomas Edison believed and practiced. It is about something called “And then some syndrome.” The top people always do what is expected...and then some. I believe we are on the cusp of something very special in CAST....and then some.

By digging down just a little deeper—we can achieve together something that you or I certainly could never achieve in singularity.

I know each of you want the best for your department or school and therefore, the College. We can make a difference-small things will add up-

May each of you have the best year ever!

Thanks for listening today.