CAST

Fall College Meeting

August 14, 2008

Bone Student Center

Brown Ballroom

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

This time of year brings new faces and a renewed spirit to our campus. It is indeed an honor and a pleasure to welcome you back to campus, and in the case of the newest members of the academy, I am thrilled to be among the first to officially welcome you to the College of Applied Science and Technology.

It’s hard to believe a year has passed since our last fall College meeting. The year went fast—which my wife reminds me is a sign of old age. I prefer to think of it in terms of “time flies when you’re having fun” instead. And the year was fun, and productive.

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

Sheri came to Illinois State on July 1, 2008. Noren Everts received her bachelor’s degree in English and secondary education, master’s degree in literacy education and English and Ph.D. in administration,
curriculum and instruction from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. She began her tenure at the University of Nebraska, Omaha, in 1994 as a faculty member in the University’s Department of Teacher Education. She was promoted to full professor in 2004.

In 2000, Noren Everts was named assistant to the vice chancellor for Academic Affairs. She was promoted to assistant vice chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs in 2003 and to associate vice chancellor in 2004. In 2006, Noren Everts was appointed acting vice chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs before being named the division’s interim senior vice chancellor in June 2007.

Sheri is an engaging person who is genuinely interested in us and our College. After only two days on the job she visited CAST, eager to learn more about you.

Please join me in welcoming Provost Everts.

Thank you Sheri and again welcome to ISU and the College of Applied Science and Technology.

There are many other people here this afternoon that really make things work day in and day out within CAST. I would like to introduce them now. These are people that do the heavy lifting on behalf of you and me.

Alan Lacy and Steve McCaw serve as your Associate Deans. Will you please stand and be recognized. Thank you.

Our College computer support staff is second to none. Please join me in recognizing Kate, Chris, and James.
These two people really help keep me sane. They are the front line of CAST. They have perfected the art of eye rolling at me. Please join me in recognizing and thanking Suzie and Cindy.

The Director of Development is a position that is rarely seen but is vital to the success of the College. We are fortunate to have as our Director of development an alumnus of FCS. She is an ardent supporter of the College and has worked tirelessly with me and our entire CAST leadership team in planning development activities.

Please join me in recognizing Dorothy Witte.

Each of these people are important members of the CAST leadership team. Please join me in recognizing them for their efforts on behalf of the College.

We have an extraordinary group of individuals who make up what I call our CAST leadership team. At the risk of hyper inflating their egos, they are as talented as any you will find anywhere. Will the Chairs and Directors please stand and be recognized? A special welcome to LTC Ray Hart who is our newest Professor of Military Science and Dr. Frank Waterstraat who will fill in as Chair during the fall semester for Dr. Marilyn Morrow while she is on sabbatical.

Thank you.

This is the time of year when we welcome our newest colleagues to CAST. Allow me to introduce Dr. Connor Walters, Chairperson of Family and Consumer Sciences to introduce her newest faculty member.

I would now like to call upon the Chairperson of the Department of Technology, Dr. Rick Boser to introduce his newest faculty members.

Dr. Boser
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

And now I would like to introduce the Chairperson of the Department of Criminal Justice Sciences to introduce its newest faculty members.

Dr. David Falcone

And now I would like to introduce the Chairperson of the Department of Agriculture to introduce its newest faculty members.

Dr. Rob Rhykerd

And now I would like to introduce the Director of the School of Information Technology to introduce its newest faculty member.

Dr. Terry Dennis

This next group of faculty has done what it takes to warrant promotion and tenure effective this year in CAST.

Please join me in recognizing Drs. Winn Mahatanankoon, Brent Beggs, and Chad McEvoy and join me in congratulating them on this important milestone in their careers.

Dr. Chu Jong was awarded tenure this year. Will Dr. Jong please stand and be recognized?

Two faculty were promoted to the rank of Associate Professor. Will you join me in congratulating Dr. Jihad Qaddour and Dr. Kevin Laudner.
Each year CAST recognizes its outstanding teacher of the year at the fall meeting. Last year’s recipient of this distinction is Dr. Guang Jin of the Department of Health Sciences.

Dr. Jin is an Associate Professor of Environmental Health in the Department of Health Sciences. She has been a faculty member at Illinois State since 1999. Prior to being selected as the 07-08 CAST Outstanding Teacher, she received a University Teaching Initiative Award in 2004. Dr. Jin teaches both general education and Environmental Health professional courses and has a record of outstanding student and peer evaluations. She has also been committed to including students in her research projects.

Thank you Guang.

Last year I ask you to dig a little deeper and give one more degree. I thought we were operating at 211 Fahrenheit and one more degree would bring things to boil. At the boiling point, steam would form and that would power practically anything. I quoted Vince Lombardi, George Patton and Thomas Edison and shared what each believed and practiced. I spoke about something called the “And then some syndrome.” The top people always do what is expected…and then some. I told you I thought we were on the cusp of something very special in CAST.

I challenged each of you to dig down just a little deeper—that together we could achieve something that you or I certainly could never achieve in singularity.

I underestimated your response. You rose to and exceeded my challenge. I witnessed many of you giving more than just one extra degree. You really turned up the heat. You achieved much, much more last year than we have time to list here this afternoon. But…your efforts
were noticed and collectively, you made a huge difference, and then some!

I illustrated last year’s theme with a video, and I heard your feedback. Some of you, not many, thought the video was a bit cheesy. Others told me it motivated them. I will err on the side of cheesy if I can assist in motivating just a single individual in CAST.

Now we must turn to the future, and the future is often unpredictable and sometimes a frightening place.

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

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

I want to share a new theme with you. I want you to reflect on the challenge I issued last year, to give an extra degree, and imagine the possibilities if we would sustain those efforts.

I can imagine the possibilities and I’m absolutely committed to moving our college to the next level.

“Imagine the Possibilities” will be our theme this year as we work together toward a shared goal. Many of you have heard me say before, CAST ought to be considered first among our benchmark institutions. This philosophy isn’t risk free. But, like many of you, I am a risk taker. Allow me to again be cheesy and direct your attention to the video. And, let me warn you, the character in the video is strictly coincidental.
One year ago I spoke about the need to revisit our College Vision and Mission and craft a strategic plan that had a line of sight from Educating Illinois to the College and ultimately to individual departments or schools. This process was begun on August 14, 2007 when the entire College leadership team came together. The task required heavy lifting by all and everyone in CAST had an equal voice in crafting a strategic plan. We collectively began the process by “imagining the possibilities” for our college. I am excited and pleased to present each of you with your copy of the CAST Strategic Plan which outlines the vision and mission of the college as well as articulating goals and strategies. I commend each of you for the contributions you made to this valuable piece of work. It will serve the College well in the years ahead.

As you reflect about another academic year, join me in imagining the future, to dare to think big. I believe the possibilities in CAST are limitless.

May each of you have the best year ever!