will be looked upon favorably by funding agencies or foundations, but, more submissions usually equates into increased awards. This is a direct result of the hard work and dedication of many faculty throughout the College. The efforts faculty put forth to secure external funding often results in increased opportunities for our students. Students may find themselves learning new things either in the classroom or the lab as a result of faculty scholarship efforts. Faculty are to be commended for seeking external support of research. It makes a big difference in the lives of us in the academy as well as our students. It also brings greater value to the credentials of every alumnus from every major in the College.

Another bright spot in CAST is related to our Excellence Fund and the annual campaign. Data provided by our Director of Development, Dorothy Witte, indicates many positive metrics. Last year CAST had an increase in the number of pledges and pledge rate. We also experienced an increase in the number of credit card payments which in turn equals instant fulfillment on a pledge. In times when the economy took a hiatus, your story in CAST was compelling.

Nominations may be based on outstanding performance in one's profession; demonstrated leadership in one's profession and/or community; favorable statewide, national, or international recognition; honors from associations or employers; outstanding service to the institution; and/or proof that one's work has proven beneficial to a pronounced segment of society. Already the first class of CAST inductees is making a difference. They have given generously of their time and treasures to support research, teaching, and operations within the college. I am confident that a growing class of prominent CAST Hall of Fame inductees will help bring much more notoriety and support to our College.

Other exciting news is that external grant submissions at this time are well ahead of previous years. Not all these proposals will be looked upon favorably by funding agencies or foundations, but, more submissions usually equates into increased awards. This is a direct result of the hard work and dedication of many faculty throughout the College. The efforts faculty put forth to secure external funding often results in increased opportunities for our students. Students may find themselves learning new things either in the classroom or the lab as a result of faculty scholarship efforts. Faculty are to be commended for seeking external support of research. It makes a big difference in the lives of us in the academy as well as our students. It also brings greater value to the credentials of every alumnus from every major in the College.
This is the 8th consecutive academic year that the departments and schools in CAST have used the IDEA Student Ratings of Instruction as a partial means of evaluating teaching. For Fall 2009, we evaluated 423 courses with an average class size of 31 students. On average, faculty selected 4.4 objectives as either important or essential to their teaching. As we have majors with applied content, we select the first 4 objectives at a much greater frequency. Those objectives relate to gaining factual knowledge, learning fundamental principles, applying course material, and developing special skills. With regard to data, the faculty members in CAST, as a whole, are rated highly by the students. Figure 1 represents the percentage of classes in CAST that are at or above the average for similar classes in the IDEA database which consists of thousands of courses. These are strong values as we are being compared to others at institutions who use the IDEA system and who teach in similar disciplines. For this particular comparison (looking at a summary of all faculty), you should focus on the raw scores rather than the adjusted. The adjusted scores are relevant when reviewing the data for an individual course or instructor. As all 4 of the indices exceed 60%, the faculty in CAST has a collectively high average for instructional effectiveness as observed on this single semester data for the IDEA instrument.

Figure 1. Percent of Classes at or above the IDEA Database Average.

Associate Dean McLoda

Like many of you, I have decided that uncertainty will not dictate the future of CAST. As we work together to find viable solutions to complex and vexing challenges, our students become the benefactors. When our students prosper, find meaningful careers, and reinvest in their passion at ISU, CAST will enjoy a bright future indeed.

Keep up the great work! Jeff
I mentioned earlier in the year that in my ten years at ISU, I have noted distinct improvement in the working relationship between CAST, Admissions, and University College. The mission of University College is to provide effective programs and services that assist students in making successful transitions into Illinois State University, achieving their educational goals, and realizing their academic potential in the first year and beyond. When we think about University College, we often focus on academic advising for obvious reasons. University College also has offices that house First Year Linc, Developmental Math, the TRiO/Student Support Services, Orientation and Transfer Services (Preview and the Transfer Day Program), University College Testing Services, and the Julia N. Visor Academic Center which includes Tutoring, Project Success, and...

While it is possible to draw numerous conclusions related to quality of instruction and progress on relevant objectives for CAST, I want to inform you about one other area of the report; that area related to Student Ratings of Course Characteristics. Only 7% of students across CAST courses report that the amount of reading for the course is more than most courses taken at ISU. That may or may not surprise you, again considering the applied nature of our disciplines. Surprisingly though, only 16% of students report that the difficulty of the subject matter is more than other courses taken at ISU. While it may be assumed that students identify more with courses in their selected major and may therefore consider the coursework to be more interesting or relevant, this does not explain why so few students rate the coursework as challenging. It was recently brought to my attention that at least one other institution who uses the IDEA system took this similar type of data as a justifiable opportunity to increase the rigor of its courses and it was subsequently noted that as the percentage of students reporting the courses as more difficult increased, the overall instructor ratings remained the same or improved.

On an entirely different subject, the URG submission deadline passed in early February and the CAST Research Committee (CRC) is diligently reviewing all applications for funding. There were 24 submissions from 25 CAST faculty members. The CRC will evaluate each application and develop a ranking for eventual funding. It is not known how much of an allocation may be received from the Office of the Provost so any decision to fund a particular submission will be contingent on the URG program being funded. Figure 2 provides a summary of the submissions by department and by type of URG.

Figure 2. Summary of FY11 URG applications by department/school and type.

Senior Associate Dean Lacy

I mentioned earlier in the year that in my ten years at ISU, I have noted distinct improvement in the working relationship between CAST, Admissions, and University College. The mission of University College is to provide effective programs and services that assist students in making successful transitions into Illinois State University, achieving their educational goals, and realizing their academic potential in the first year and beyond. When we think about University College, we often focus on academic advising for obvious reasons. University College also has offices that house First Year Linc, Developmental Math, the TRiO/Student Support Services, Orientation and Transfer Services (Preview and the Transfer Day Program), University College Testing Services, and the Julia N. Visor Academic Center which includes Tutoring, Project Success, and...
Everybody loves a birthday party… there are those milestones, 13, 16, 18, 21, 29 and then some people stop counting! Dogs count by 7's!

The University celebrated Founder’s Day or its 153rd birthday on Thursday February 18th. During this day long celebration we not only enjoyed the University’s events but we celebrated achievements made by CAST in support of the University. If you attended the convocation, you saw your colleagues recognized for their teaching, scholarship and service. I would like to congratulate Dr. Sesha Kethineni on the University Research Award, Dr. Cara Rabe-Hemp on the Research Initiative Award and Dr. Hae Jin Gam on the Teaching Initiative Award. Along with outstanding faculty and staff, CAST accomplishments were showcased through collaborative efforts and buildings. If you walked through the Bone Student Center ballroom I hope you saw the joint display of KNR and Recreation Services that highlighted the Student Fitness and Kinesiology Recreation building.

During the day long events I do hope you took time to celebrate and reflect on what Illinois State and CAST mean to you. I hope you celebrated perhaps by witnessing or even ringing the bell, attended convocation and perhaps you were the luncheon guest as you celebrated a milestone birthday of service. Maybe you went so far as to even have birthday cake! I hope you don’t let go of that festive mood as the semester gets to those “critical points” and stress levels rise!

Take time out if even once this semester to reconnect with CAST colleagues at a department or school sponsored event, reconnect with alumni, thank a donor, attend one of the many events during Science & Technology week, perhaps catch a Gamma Phi Circus performance and of course start practicing that golf swing so you can truly celebrate after grades have been submitted and tassels moved by participating in the CAST golf outing!

Hope to see you at an event soon!

LW
Department of Family and Consumer Sciences

"How to Foster Resilience in Children Exposed to Domestic Violence: Strategies for early years practitioners," by Karen Stephens, Child Care Center, was published in the February 2010 issue of the London-based, Nursery World, the early years education and childcare magazine which serves the United Kingdom.

The Winter 2010 issue of The Director's Link, published by the McCormick Center for Early Childhood Leadership at National-Louis University, featured Karen Stephens' article, "E-mail and All That Jazz: Training Staff to Use Electronic Communication Tools Professionally."

Department of Technology

Dr. Dan Wilson and Assistant Instructional Professor Adam Burke hosted the meetings of the International Graphics Arts Education Association (IGAEA) Executive Board at ISU from February 19-21. This board meeting is held annually at the campus of the university that will host the IGA EA conference of the same year. The IGA EA conference will be hosted by ISU this summer.

Dr. Richard Boser attended the American Council on Construction Education midyear meeting in Albuquerque, NM from February 17-21, 2010. Richard serves on the Board of Trustee and the accreditation and finance committees.

Dr. Anu Gokhale and Dr. Kenton Machina, professor emeritus in philosophy, presented a refereed paper "Effectiveness of Learning Communities -- Online Activities and Seminars" based on the outcomes of their NSF-funded study at the 8th Annual Hawaii International Conference on Education, held in Honolulu, January 7-10, 2010.

Department of Health Sciences

On January 28th, Rod Reibold, chemical engineer with Marathon Oil presented a session on "Process Safety Management" to approximately 70 students and safety and environmental health faculty.

On February 2, 2010, the Student Section of the American Society of Safety engineers had their monthly student meeting. Parent Chapter member Don Cooper presented on State Farm's Hazard Assessment program. Approximately 30 students attending as well as all 3 safety faculty.

On February 9, 2010 the Central Illinois American Society of Safety Engineers held their monthly meeting. Dr. Chris Grieshaber, Dr. Lezah Brown and Paul Ronczkowski all from the safety program attended the meeting. 12 Student ASSE members attended. Mr. Mike DeVore, Fire specialist with State Farm presented on Life Safety Code updates.
CAST Chili Cook-Off 2010

Winners:
1st Place: Jeff Wood
2nd Place: Tal Parmenter
3rd Place: Rick Whitacre

Founder's Day 2010