DEAN’S CORNER

Today (Thursday, April 19, 2007) concludes our 7th annual Science and Technology Week. The week began with an exciting dedication of a new lab in the Department of Technology. The event was highlighted by a robot cutting the dedication ribbon, but the real stars of the event were the students themselves. Nearly 3 dozen students helped program and develop the demonstrations that took place as part of the ceremony. Each of the students participated in some way and they did so in a highly professional manner. It made me very proud to see each student that day present themselves in business attire suitable for the occasion. The students made a very positive impression on each of the vendors and donors in attendance; I know this because several told me so.

Tuesday was marked by a keynote lecture by Dr. Robert Ballard. His evening lecture was preceded by an informal chat with adults and children at Milner Library. An overflow crowd heard Dr. Ballard share stories not only about finding the infamous ‘Titanic’ but also about other significant scientific discoveries and technological developments. His keynote address drew a large crowd in Braden where he talked for over an hour about ‘Exploring the Living Dream’ and exploring the vastness of our planet, most of which is under water. His talk was exciting and inspirational to young and old alike. Dr. Ballard described expedition based learning and stressed the importance of young minds dreaming and doing. After the keynote address Dr. Ballard signed books until 10:00 PM.

Temple Grandin presented a lecture Wednesday on ‘Animals, Nature’ and Autism.’ She described the differences between verbal and visual based learners and her work with livestock handling facilities throughout the country. She gave an inspirational message about her challenges with autism and suggestions for others who suffer with the same challenges.

Thursday was marked by our annual CAST spring meeting. This year I decided to extend an invitation to faculty and staff alike in recognition of our 40th anniversary of the founding of the college. That event was bittersweet because we not only recognized achievements by faculty and staff, we bid farewell to those CAST colleagues who have announced their retirement. This year we will lose 8 colleagues that have collectively given 170 years of dedication and experience to CAST. We will miss Sally Scott, Barbara Becque, Paul Brauchle, Bev Smith, David Falcone, Joan Falcone, Sandy Groves, and Tom Ellsworth. Thanks again to each of you and best of luck with the next chapter of your life!

Colonel Richard Jenkins gave a very interesting presentation Thursday evening when he spoke about the Army Corps of Engineers. He effectively used pictures and videos of actual Corps research and development missions. Colonel Jenkins illustrated various technologies that have been developed through the Corps and the collaborative efforts between such disciplines as agriculture, technology and construction management, health sciences, information technology, and criminal justice.

It has been a very exciting and successful week in which CAST was showcased for the university community and beyond. To those who helped make it a success, thank you and congratulations!

JAW

CAST RESEARCH OFFICE

It was my honor this past week to spend time with Dr. Temple Grandin, one of our speakers for Science and Technology Week. Diagnosed as a child with autism and as an adult with Asperger Syndrome (a milder form of autism), Dr. Grandin is an internationally known scholar in the area of livestock management and humane treatment of animals. Her accomplishments have been in the Department of Animal Science at Colorado State University following completion of a Ph.D. from the University of Illinois. As I walked with her across the Quad from one meeting to another, I asked her about her prolific writing and her "secrets” for completion of many books and scholarly articles. Her response was direct, simple and so true. First of all, she writes her articles and books in order to “solve problems.” Dr. Grandin also said that she is so passionate about the treatment of animals that the passion helps her complete work even when she is tired or distracted with other responsibilities. She spoke about the importance of collaboration and that she would not be so successful without the incredible efforts of her co-authors, graduate students and editors. I told her that I was amazed at all of her travel and yet she continues to write and share her work in both scholarly journals and mainstream books. “Well that is simple,” she said. “I have to work at nights, weekends, and in the summer when I am not teaching.” Finally, I asked how she worked. As a result of her Asperger’s, she is not good at typing text directly on a computer but writes everything first in pencil, and it needs to be an “Eversharp mechanical pencil” to correct her errors. As with many people with autism, she thinks in “pictures” and then must struggle to turn her pictures into written word. This morning as I write this, I am inspired to get back to that article on emergency preparedness in health care that I have left on the shelf for several months. Working with others, passion, carving out time and giving up nights and weekends, trying to solve problems; simple but powerful reminders of what we all must do to be successful in scholarly productivity. Tonight, I am going to buy an Eversharp mechanical pencil! Thank you Temple Grandin. You are my inspiration. MJM

IMPORTANT DATES & DEADLINES:

• Friday, 4/20: Undergraduate Student Research Symposium at BSC (registration deadline 3/17)
• Friday, 4/27: Scholarly Writing Workshop (Register early, space is limited)
• Friday, May 4, Celebrate CAST cookout, Dean’s Office Patio
• Saturday, May 12: Commencement, Redbird Arena, 1:00PM
• Tuesday, May 15: Moving to Office 2007 Workshop, 9:30-11:30
• Tuesday, May 15: Microsoft OneNote and Outlook Workshop, 1:00-3:00
• Wednesday, May 16: Podcasting Workshop, 9:30-11:30
• Wednesday, May 16: Blogs, Wikis, & RSS Workshop, 1:00-3:00
• Thursday, May 17: Web Work Workshop, 9:30-11:30
• Thursday, May 17: Let’s Communicate Workshop, 1:00-3:00
• Friday, May 18: Celebrate CAST! Golf Outing, 12:00 PM, University Golf Course
Technology News

Spring may at last be here. The days are finally warmer, the grass is green, and you are counting down the days until exams are given, grades are turned in, and the summer break begins. The summer for most of you means a quieter schedule and time to regroup before starting over again in August. For your computer support staff it means setting up new computers, installing new software, and making sure everything is ready to go for the next academic year. Summer is always a busy time for us, but this summer promises to be especially busy.

Over the next few months we will be upgrading or replacing software that most of you use on a daily basis. By the time you return for the Fall semester, you will have a new version of Microsoft Office on your computer. We have already begun to upgrade computers to Office 2007 and will complete that upgrade this summer.

The other major change involves the calendar software that many of us use to schedule meetings and other activities. For several years most of us have been using Meeting Maker for that purpose. The University’s Meeting Maker license expires on June 30th and is not being renewed. So, our Meeting Maker calendars will be migrated to Microsoft Outlook by July 1st.

These changes are going to force us to work in new ways this fall, so I wanted to give you an opportunity to get a head start. On May 15th, 16th, and 17th we will be having a series of workshops in Turner 202 designed to familiarize you with the new Office suite, including Outlook, and to give you an opportunity to explore some teaching technologies that may be new to you. The workshop schedule will be posted on the CAST Website, and copies will be available in your department offices. I hope that many of you will be able to take advantage of this opportunity.

Kate Plantholt

Spring Sausage Sale

Now is the time to stock up on pure pork sausage. Processed from lean market hogs produced on the ISU Farm.

$3.00/lb

Sold in bundles of 10 one pound packages.

Phone 438-2489 for more information or see a NAMA Member

CAST Office


Dr. Gary Bachman and 11 members of the Illinois State University PLANET Team traveled to Michigan State University March 27th through April 1st to participate in the 31st Annual Professional Landcare Network (PLANET) Student Career Days. Fifty-four universities and community colleges brought more than 800 landscape and ornamental horticulture students to the annual event. Over 90 companies were represented at the career fair. The students competed in events ranging from Annual and Perennial ID, Wood Construction, Arboriculture, Pavers, Sales, Exterior Landscape Design, Construction and Maintenance Cost Estimation, Landscape Maintenance Equipment, Compact Utility Loader, Skid Steer, Leadership and Woody Plant ID. The competition portion of SCD has been accurately called the Landscape Olympics.


The Department of Agriculture and the American Petroleum Institute (API) are co-sponsoring an exhibit and presentation on April 26th, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in the BSC Brown Ballroom. America’s energy situation has been in the news with political and military conflict throughout much of the oil producing world and high world-wide energy prices driving a growing interest in greater energy independence and security for the U.S. You are invited to see and hear what the U.S. petroleum industries are doing in response to these challenges. The exhibit consists of a series of interactive displays that feature some of the exciting technology and computer applications in use today. Please encourage your students to attend to learn about career opportunities in the energy industries.

Dr. Rick Whitacre and 13 members of the Illinois State University Chapter of the National Agr-Marketing Association (NAMA) attended the organization’s national convention in Dallas, Texas from April 11th to April 13th. The students participated in the Marketing Competition that included 31 teams from across the United States and Canada. The ISU team advanced to the semi-finals, placing in the top 12. The team developed a marketing presentation for a product called Envirodek, which is a decking product made from the by-product of ethanol production. Drs. Aslihan Spaulding and Rick Whitacre are the Chapter Advisors.
**DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCES**

**Dr. Connor Walters** was recently elected for a two year term as Vice-Chair of the Higher Education Units of the American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences.

**Dr. Marilyn Morrow**, Health Sciences, was just re-elected as Chair of the University Chairs Council and **Dr. Connor Walters** was re-elected as Secretary.

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**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SCIENCES**

**Dr. Jim Broadbear** attended the annual meeting of the Illinois School Health Association (ISHA) on April 13th in Tinley Park, Illinois.

At the annual meeting of the Illinois School Health Association (ISHA) on April 13th, **Lisa Gillette**, a 2001 graduate in school health education, was named the ISHA School Health Educator of the Year. Gillette is a health teacher at Geneva High School who teaches sophomore health, developed and implemented the junior/senior Advance Health class at her school, advises the Students Against Drunk Driving Club and volunteers for Operation Snowball. She is also the president-elect of ISHA.

**Rafeek** was also at the ISHA meeting, School Health Education senior **Lauren Cheek** was awarded the Barbara Gray Student Recognition Award and the Candy Purdy Award. Each of these awards recognizes a school health education student who has demonstrated academic excellence and service to the profession. Cheek, from Naperville, will graduate this May after completing student teaching at Waubonsie Valley High School.

**Dr. Sara Cole** was recognized with a FOCUS Award at the Civic Engagement Celebration on April 11th.

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President Bowman addresses the crowd at Earth Day.
Dr. Pruthikrai Mahatanankoon presented a paper entitled "The Effects of Post-Educational Development Activities on Promotion and Career Satisfaction of IT Professionals" at the ACM SIGMIS-CPR'07 Conference in St. Louis, Missouri, April 19-21.

Dr. David Cox, a recent graduate of ITK's Master's program, and Dr. Doug Twitchell presented "An Investigation into the Effect of Personality Diversity on the Process and Results of Idea-Generating Groups as it Relates to Systems Security" at The 6th Security Conference in Las Vegas, Nevada. The paper received the "Best Research Paper" for the conference.

Dr. Kevin Devine and Mr. Dave Kennell hosted the Department of Technology's celebration of the formal dedication of the Caterpillar Integrated Manufacturing Laboratory (CAT-IML) on Monday, April 16th, with a formal ribbon-cutting ceremony and Open House in the lab, which is located in 115 Turner Hall. Students of the Department of Technology were on-hand during both events to demonstrate the advanced manufacturing systems to visitors. Visitors left with a customized box of candy that was automatically manufactured to their specifications using the robots, PLC's and conveyors in the lab. ABB, the manufacturer of the robots used in the lab, had their Mobile Demonstration Unit on-site for the day as well. Over 230 visitors attended the event.

Dr. Dan Wilson participated in an accreditation site visit to Pennsylvania College of Technology from April 11th - 13th. Dr. Wilson sits on the board of the Accrediting Council for Collegiate Graphic Communications (ACCGC).

The College of Applied Science and Technology, through its teaching, research, and service programs, will be a leader in preparing broadly educated, technologically competent professionals who can solve real-world problems in a workforce that builds economic viability and better communities in the State of Illinois and beyond.