DEAN’S CORNER

Welcome back! I hope each of you had a restful break. Much has happened in the College since the conclusion of the fall semester. The Dean’s staff and your unit leader worked on our consolidated budget requests for the next fiscal year. I worked on re-connecting with our alumni and cultivating new friends and donors. Dr. Morrow worked to transition to the duties of Associate Dean for Research as result of a sabbatical leave taken by Dr. Gentry. And, plans were being made for productive spring and summer semesters.

I am pleased to announce a new initiative that was launched in CAST. I have tasked Associate Dean Lacy to work with each unit leader to develop a new distance education initiative within the College. We have aptly named this effort “Technology Enhanced Active Learning” or TEAL. It is an effort to increase our presence in the realm of distance education within each department or school in the College. The goals of this initiative are twofold. First, by utilizing the technology that has become so characteristic of CAST, the distance education course inventory of the College will be increased. It seems logical in a College such as ours that we utilize technological developments we teach “about” as part of our instructional delivery system. Second, given the significant renovation projects on the horizon and the need to vacate many of our classrooms and laboratories, it seems prudent to help ourselves by investing in ways to maintain our instructional capacity when we are called upon to relocate to spaces less conducive to teaching and learning. I have indicated that we will invest resources into the project by supporting one faculty member per department and school to develop an on-line course to be delivered this coming summer semester. This on-line education cohort will then be obligated to help mentor others within their own units as an extension of the initiative.

TEAL is an exciting venture that I am interested in expanding as resources permit. And, rest assured, we will not sacrifice quality of instruction just to expand our instructional capacity. We will remain committed to delivering the best education possible to our students.

This spring semester promises to be a very busy one. There are several College activities that have been planned in addition to the University wide year-long sesquicentennial celebration. I encourage each of you to participate in Founder’s Day activities as well as many other exciting events planned throughout the year.

Best of luck to each of you for a productive semester.

JAW

CAST RESEARCH OFFICE

First of all, I want to thank so many of you in CAST who have welcomed me to Turner Hall and offered help and assistance. It has meant so much as I make the transition from the Chairperson position to Acting Associate Dean for Research this spring. I have learned so much already and met a number of CAST faculty and staff whom I did not know. This experience has caused me to realize how much potential for collaboration and sharing exists among the faculty and departments/schools in CAST and across the university. Although I have only been in this position for three weeks, I have helped facilitate eight external grant applications through the process. The applications have come from four different departments and schools and included a wide range of research projects. Again, the diversity in CAST is so apparent. I have received at least one request for the Publication Incentive program funding each day, demonstrating that many CAST faculty are very productive in their research agendas.

The deadline for University Research Grants (URGS) is approaching. Nine copies of the URG proposal are due in the CAST Office by the end of the work day on Monday, February 5th. The proposals need the signature of the appropriate Chair/Director, so allow enough time for that. There are two categories of URGs, the Grant Development and the Research Development Program. Both provide up to a total amount of $5,000.00 to be used for the direct cost of research, including salary. Read the guidelines carefully as the Dean’s Office is offering a supplementary match up to $1,500 in funding for non-salary budgeted items. A link to the application for URGs is available through the CAST Web page.

If I can be of assistance in preparation of the URG, please contact me at 438-5697 or mmorrow@ilstu.edu. Although I am learning my way through this and other programs, Associate Dean Gentry has provided many resources and tools to make my job easier. I look forward to working with you this spring.

DEADLINES:

- Monday, 2/5: University Research Grant proposals due to CAST Dean’s Office
- Thursday, 2/15: Founders Day
- Tuesday 2/20: CAST Outstanding Undergraduate Student Research Application deadline
- Saturday, 3/10-Sunday, 3/18: Spring Break
- Friday, 3/23: CAST Presentation Travel Grant applications due to CAST Dean’s Office
- Friday, 3/23: Graduate Student Research Symposium at BSC (registration deadline 2/20)
- Monday, 4/16-Friday, 4/20: Science and Technology Week.
- Friday, 4/20: Undergraduate Student Research Symposium at BSC (registration deadline 3/17)
In the spring 2002 semester, CAST pilot tested the IDEA student course evaluation, and they were fully implemented in the 2002-2003 academic year. Thus, CAST has been using this system for five years. Faculty have received their fall 2006 course evaluations and, hopefully, feedback from students has helped you as you have prepared for and started the 2007 spring term.

As part of the IDEA reporting system, we are provided a Group Summary Report for all courses evaluated in the 2006 fall term. We evaluated 408 classes. The average response rate was 81% with the average class size being 30. Of these 408 classes, 54 had a response rate less than 65%. According to IDEA, a 75% rate is desirable, and 65% is the minimum for desirable results. Thus, it is suggested that if you are going to administer the IDEA course evaluation on a day where there is a high rate of absenteeism, you should reschedule the administration until you have an appropriate percentage of students in class.

The figure below shows how CAST classes compare to the IDEA Database. It is encouraging to see that CAST instructors score above the average on all three areas as well as the summary.

When results this fall are compared to the entire database of CAST classes (see Figure 2), it is interesting to note that our aggregate fall course ratings are over the 60th percentile on all measures. This suggests that your teaching effectiveness this past fall was better than in the past. That is great news and certainly we should all be striving to improve our teaching effectiveness.

The CAST Dean’s office appreciates your efforts in the wide variety of teaching environments that we have in our college. Keep up the good work and have a great spring semester!


Dr. Gary R. Bachman, Mr. Edgar Davis and Dr. Sandra Reed (US National Arboretum Floral and Nursery Plant Research Unit in McMinnville, TN) announced the new plant release of Callicarpa dichotoma ‘Duet’ in November 2006. First selected by Bachman and Davis in 2000 while at Tennessee Tech University, this is the first stable variegated cultivar in the genus Callicarpa. More information can be viewed at the US National Arboratum website: http://www.usna.usda.gov/Research/Callicarpa_Release.html

Dr. Aslihan D. Spaulding has been appointed to the Illinois Farm Bureau’s GrassRoots Issue Teams (GRITs). These Teams are comprised of IFB members who have demonstrated leadership or interest in promoting their commodities or issues and who will work on behalf IFB members across the state. GrassRoots Issue Teams work with local county leaders to identify issues that should be discussed at the local level as part of IFB’s traditional policy development.


Dr. Jeff Walsh has published two entries in the Encyclopedia of Juvenile Violence, entitled “The United States Department of Justice (USDOJ)” and “PRIDE Surveys.”
Safety faculty members Dr. Chris Grieshaber, Professor Paul Ronczkowski, and Dr. Rod Simmons attended the January 9 meeting of the Central Illinois chapter in Lincoln, Illinois. Dr. Nancy Khardori, from the SIU School of Medicine, Springfield, spoke on infection control, bird flu and a variety of related topics.

The following presentations were made at the 7th Annual University-Wide Symposium on Teaching and Learning, held on January 10 at the Doubletree Hotel and Conference Center in Bloomington:

Dr. Beverly Barham presented "Meet the KeyPURS".

Dr. Paulette Miller and Cheri Toledo (Curriculum & Instruction) presented "Transferring Face-to-Face Teaching & Learning Principles to the Online Environment".

Dr. Lori Woeste presented "Walking the Talk: Reflecting on the Positives of Student Mentoring".

To learn more about how they can help increase public awareness of this health hazard, nearly 50 public health officials, educators and governmental officials gathered on January 17 for the Illinois Emergency Management Agency’s (IEMA) annual Radon Networking Day at Illinois State University. During this conference, IEMA recognized Ruth Ann Lipic with the agency’s first-ever Illinois Excellence in Radon Award. Lipic, Director of the Radon Awareness Program at Illinois State University, was recognized for her work with the McLean County Radon Task Force and Illinois State University. For the past several years, Lipic has worked to provide radon information and training to citizens, health professionals, radon professionals and state and county officials in Central Illinois. She also assists IEMA in bringing radon awareness to women at various women’s conferences.

Dr. Amy Hurd had an article published in the Physical Education & Health Education Journal entitled "Constraints to Participation in Campus recreation Services".

Dr. Kevin Launder and Justin Stanek, a doctoral student, had the article "Assessing Posterior Shoulder Contracture: The Reliability and Validity of Measuring Glenohumeral Horizontal Adduction" published in the Journal of Athletic Training.

Justin also published his thesis, entitled "The effects of external support on electromechanical delay of the peroneus longus muscle," in Electromyography and Clinical Neurophysiology. The manuscript was co-authored by Drs. Todd McLoda, Steve McCaw, and Kevin Laudner.

Dr. Jan Shane was elected President and Dr. Connor Walters was elected Vice-President for the Council of Administrators in Family and Consumer Sciences. CAFCS is a National organization of more than 200 individuals who hold administrative roles in Family and Consumer Sciences in colleges and universities. The mission of CAFCS is to strengthen family and consumer sciences and related units in higher education through the development of excellence in administration and leadership.

Dr. Bill Anderson co-authored the article "Marital satisfaction, and child care provision by mothers of adolescent mothers: Considerations to make when providing services" for the peer-reviewed journal, Children and Youth Services Review.
Dr. Ed Livingston attended the Illinois State Advisory Committee for PLTW (Project Lead The Way) Pre-Engineering meeting at the University of Illinois as the ISU Representative.

Dr. Mohamed El-Gafy presented a paper entitled "Resource Allocation in repetitive Construction Schedules using Ant Colony Optimization" at the Joint International Conference on Construction Culture, Innovation, and Management (CCIM 2006) held November 26-29, 2006 in Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

Professor Keith Rahn and Dr. Mohamed El-Gafy presented "Exploring The Effect of Team Leaders Who Are Autonomous Learner in Enhancing Team Learning within Construction Management Classes" at the 7th annual University-wide Symposium on Teaching and Learning. The symposium was held at the Radisson Hotel Conference Center in Bloomington, Illinois on January 10, 2007. Dr. El-Gafy also presented "Teaching Design of Building Structures Using Visualization and Animation Techniques"