The CAST Annual Fund campaign is in full swing. The ISU Telefund Center employs approximately 70 student workers who place calls to our alumni for the purpose of program, faculty and student support. The priorities for funds that are solicited this year are threefold. They include increasing the scholarship support for our students, enhancing faculty development, and re-capitalizing much needed equipment in the College.

The CAST annual fund campaign, which is managed by Mr. Adam Goduto, began in earnest on January 17 and will continue through June 1, 2007. The goal this year is to reach more alumni and increase the average gift. The CAST campaign objective is to reach $140,000 this year which is a loftier goal than the previous target of $135,000. To date, the annual fund effort has resulted in a much higher gift average, exceeding last year’s mean by nearly 30%.

I have taken the initiative to visit the student Telefund workers who are working on behalf of the entire College. I have promised to re-visit them every two weeks to provide them with incentives and to allow each of our Chairpersons/Directors to visit with them also. These visits are used to help put a face on our College for the student workers and to allow your Chair/Director to explain in some level of detail the programs we have in CAST.

The students have responded well to our priorities and are working diligently to meet our annual fund goals. I will provide you with updates regularly as we collectively make progress on this important initiative.

JAW

Cast’s Corner

DEAN’S CORNER

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JAW

Happy Valentine’s Day!

CAST Research Office

There are two excellent university-wide scholarship activities that will be available to members of CAST in the near future. The first is the Scholarly Writing Workshop, to be held on Friday, April 27, 2007 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. with a luncheon provided. This workshop is designed to help faculty members break through writing blocks and accomplish more professional writing. Topics to be covered include how to generate ideas, overcoming major obstacles to writing, sustaining productivity and developing support networks. Dr. Robert Lucas, Director of the Institute for Scholarly Productivity in San Luis Obispo, California will conduct the workshop. Dr. Lucas has presented this workshop at Illinois State University previously and participants found it very helpful. Space is limited and registration is required so give it consideration and register as early as reasonably possible. I will be sharing flyers and registration materials with members of the College Research Council (CRC), CAST mentors/mentees, and Chairs/Directors. Please email me at mmorrow@ilstu.edu or call 438-5697 and I’ll be glad to provide the information directly to you. We are hoping for at least 5 members of CAST to take advantage of this workshop.

A second opportunity is the Summer Grant Proposal Writing Workshop that will take place from May 15-18, 2007. Although everyone is eligible to attend, priority will be given to newer and less experienced principal investigators, regardless of their rank or years of service. Each participant will receive $500 after attending the workshop, and an additional $500 upon submission of a full grant proposal no later than June 30, 2008. Registration is limited and I have heard in meetings that there is a lot of interest. Apply soon. The link is http://www.rsp.ilstu.edu/internal_grant/index.shtml#GWI or go to the website of Research and Sponsored Programs. I will use the same distribution methods for flyers and other materials as for the Lucas Workshop. Again, let me know and I will be glad to provide you with guidelines and applications directly. Please contact me if I can help with either of these opportunities.

MJM

Important Dates & Deadlines:

• Thursday, 2/15: Founders Day
• Tuesday 2/20: CAST Outstanding Undergraduate Student Research Application deadline
• Friday, 2/23: 4:00 PM Registration Deadline for Summer Grant Proposal Workshop May 15-18 (Go to the Research and Sponsored Program website for guidelines and applications.)
• 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)
• Friday, 4/27: Scholarly Writing Workshop (Register early, space is limited)
CAST Office

ISU is an institution that expects and values quality teaching. One way that CAST shows commitment to assessing and improving teaching is through the use of the IDEA student course evaluation system. Next spring will mark the tenth semester that we have used this instrument. While IDEA provides valuable end of semester feedback, it does not provide the opportunity for an instructor to know what students are thinking during the semester.

At mid-semester of this past fall, I suggested that a more informal assessment would be appropriate to complement the IDEA instrument (see October 13, 2006 NewsCAST at http://www.cast.ilstu.edu/newscast/). Let me suggest that another alternative to a mid-semester assessment would be to contact the CTLT to schedule a Midterm Chat. You probably received a flyer early in the semester in campus mail about this. This Midterm Chat is more formally called a Small Group Instructional Diagnosis. According to CTLT, it is a feedback process through which instructors can gain insights into the progress of a particular class during a particular semester.

If you choose to do this, it should be done between the 5th and 10th week of the semester. A CTLT facilitator will meet with your class and ask students to respond to three or four standard questions. You can add some specific questions if you wish.

You would have an initial meeting with the facilitator and a follow-up summary meeting after the “midterm chat”. This process is voluntary and confidential and may provide some valuable insights that can help your students this semester. Why not give it a try? See www.teachtech.ilstu.edu for more information.

ACL

Department of Agriculture

The Department of Agriculture hosted the Annual Agriculture Alumni Meeting on February 2nd. Approximately 50 people attended. Dean Wood gave a welcome and CAST update.

The ISU Horticulture Club is raffling a $150 Gift Certificate donated by Midwest Groundcovers, St. Charles, Illinois, to raise funds for Team PLANET. The Gardendoc (Gary Bachman) will accompany the winner to help select plants. There may also be a round of golf involved if the lucky winner plays. Raffle tickets are $5.00. Please contact Gary Bachman or any Hort Club member.

Department of Criminal Justice Sciences

Dr. Jeff Walsh and Ralph B. Taylor of Temple University have just published a peer-reviewed article entitled, “Predicting decade-long changes in community motor vehicle theft rates: Impacts of structure and surround,” in the Journal of Research in Crime and Delinquency / 44(1), 64-91.

Department of Family and Consumer Sciences

Dr. Julianne Trautmann’s article entitled “Body Dissatisfaction, Bulimic Symptoms, and Clothing Practices Among College Women” has been accepted for publication in "The Journal of Psychology: Interdisciplinary and Applied." Her co-authors are Dr. Sheri L. Worthy, Mississippi State University, and Dr. Kristine L. Lokken, University of Alabama–Birmingham.
Dr. Sandra Klitzing attended the Illinois Park and Recreation Association conference held January 25-27 in Chicago. At the conference, she was awarded the Illinois Therapeutic Recreation Section Special Recognition Award for her ongoing work with inclusion. David Dauphin (RPA student) and Dr. Klitzing presented a poster entitled “Basketball Camp for Children with Autism.” Dr. Klitzing and Donna McCauley, from Moraine Valley Community College, presented “Can You Hear Me Know?” which focuses on advocating for the therapeutic recreation profession. Dr. Klitzing also presented “Teen Inclusion”, communicating ideas on how to include teens with disabilities into general recreation programs. Dr. David Thomas, Interim-Director for KNR, attended the annual Leadership Development Conference of the Illinois Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance (IAHPERD), February 1-3 at the Starved Rock Lodge and Conference Center.

Dr. Chad McEvoy’s article “An Investigation of the Relationship Between Television Broadcasting and Game Attendance” was published in the peer-reviewed International Journal of Sport Management and Marketing. The article was co-authored by former sport management master’s student, Alan Morse.

Dr. Anu Gokhale was invited to present a two-hour program on “Careers in Science and Technology” for youth, ages 16-21, at the Bahai International Social and Economic Development Conference held in Orlando, Florida, December 19-23, 2006.

Dr. Bryan Hosack has an article forthcoming in the journal Decision Support Systems titled “The Effect of System Feedback and Decision Context on Value-based Decision-making Behavior”. Dr. Hosack joined the ITK faculty from Florida State University in August 2006.

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.