Dean’s Corner

Homecoming evokes thoughts of crisp autumn air, parades, and football Saturday. This year is no exception at ISU but there will be much more in and around campus during the week of October 12-18, 2009. In this issue of NewsCAST I will describe some of the events that are happening in the College and University that may be of interest to you.

A popular event held each year during homecoming week is the Faculty and Staff Appreciation Luncheon. During this luncheon A-P and Civil Service Scholarship recipients are announced as well as the winner of the campus decorating contest. Always a popular event, I hope to see many CAST folks at the luncheon on October 15.

On Friday, October 16, each department or school in CAST will welcome a distinguished alumni guest. Several departments/schools have scheduled time for these individuals to meet with students or make presentations in classes. CAST will host a reception for these distinguished alumni guests in the Founder’s Suite of the Bone Student Center immediately prior to the Homecoming Luncheon.

This year’s Homecoming Alumni Day guest and keynote Luncheon speaker is Dr. David Wildt. Dr. Wildt graduated in 1972 with a degree in Agriculture and is currently the Senior Scientist and Head, Center for Species Survival, at the Smithsonian’s National Zoological Park. As head curator at the Park, Dr. Wildt is responsible for studying the reproductive biology of animals that are considered endangered.

Dr. Wildt has studied the reproductive habits of cheetahs in the Serengeti and giant pandas in China. He currently serves as chairman of the Wildlife Advisory Board of the Morris Animal Foundation and has more than 220 publications in peer-reviewed literature and 30 book chapters spanning more than 50 vertebrate species. As the featured Alumni Day guest at Homecoming, Dr. Wildt will make a presentation at a luncheon on October 16 in the Brown Ballroom at 12 noon. Dr. Wildt is a wonderful representative of successful alumni who graduated from CAST.

On Saturday, October 17, 2009, CAST will again have an entry in the homecoming parade. In keeping with tradition, CAST Council will facilitate the construction of a parade float that fits within the homecoming theme, “Rock the Red!” In order to applaud the work of student registered organizations within
Homecoming evokes thoughts of crisp autumn air, parades, and football Saturday. "

- Dean Wood

My column this month draws upon data gleaned from a survey of ISU faculty during fall 2008. I requested the data for CAST full-time faculty so I could learn more about how the respondents describe their role as a faculty member and to learn how I might tailor programs and workshops to individual and group needs. As always, survey data must be read carefully with an eye on the response rate and how the items were constructed. We all understand that validity and reliability are paramount when generalizing the data in a way to accurately impart change. With those factors in mind, the survey yielded useful anecdotal and frequencies data that can serve to influence future programming and faculty support offerings. In all, 91 full-time faculty members responded to some or all of the survey items. Given that there were 150 surveyed, the response rate was approximately 60% overall. Questions on the survey covered a broad spectrum of subject matter related to faculty roles and responsibilities as well as specific topics in research, teaching, and service.

Of particular interest was an item that asked faculty to indicate the importance of developing students’ abilities to write effectively in their field. In all, 83.6% indicated responses from moderate to high importance (6 to 10 out of 10) for this item. Anecdotally, faculty have noted that many students are not particularly strong at written expression. Since we have noted that it is important to develop these skills, one might assume that we provide assistance to improve writing skills and that we require assignments that promote effective writing in the respective major. However, this assumption is false based upon the objectives selected by faculty in the IDEA Faculty Information Forms (FIFs). Objective 8 relates to “developing skill in expressing oneself orally or in writing.” Only 25% of FIFs in CAST have this objective selected as “Important” or “Essential.” That may come as no surprise given the applied nature of our disciplines. However, we already indicated that this skill is of moderate to high importance. In addition, if a particular faculty member requires a writing assignment for a course (term paper, group writing project, written lab reports, etc.) he or she may select Objective 8 as important or essential. But, unless the instructor also teaches the student how to write and provides feedback and grading of the development of the writing skills, this objective would actually be considered “Minor or No Importance” to the course.

CAST will again sponsor a tailgate tent in the Redbird Tent Zone. We have invited all CAST alumni to join us for brats and burgers prior to the football game. This event is free of charge for all alumni, faculty, staff, and students. The National Agri-Marketing Association, a registered student organization in our Department of Agriculture will begin serving lunch immediately following the Homecoming Parade. For a full slate of Homecoming activities see http://illinoisstatehomecoming.com/ for event details and dates. I hope you enjoy Homecoming and are able to reconnect with an alumnus.

If you visit us in our new temporary location at 305 North School Street you will likely see some new faces. I would like to welcome Deb Wylie, Dick Folse, Al Light, and Brian Barnes to the CAST family. These folks came to us with the recent disestablishment of Extended University. Deb will be working with Dr. Lori Woeste on Constituent Relations.

Southeast side along south main street view of the new KNR building

Dick Folse and Al Light will continue their roles in producing Gamma Phi Circus, which is now housed within the College. And, Brian Barnes will provide bookkeeping duties for Gamma Phi. Please join me in welcoming these fine individuals into our College.

Rock the Red!

JAW

Associate Dean McLoda

CAST and to recognize faculty on the college council, plan on attending the homecoming parade. Another important, though under recognized CAST contribution to Homecoming, is our Military Science Department who has been tasked with parade staging and control. The cadets and cadre from our Military Science Department make sure the parade runs smoothly and in a timely fashion. They do this each year with little notoriety or fanfare.

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Rock the Red!

JAW
There are, of course, many strategies available for teaching students how to write and to provide the ongoing feedback necessary to develop those skills. One useful strategy is the submission of writing drafts by the students to facilitate ongoing feedback and development of skills. The drafts may or may not factor into the overall grade but the value for the students is immeasurable in terms of developing writing skills along the path to final submission similar to chairing a thesis and providing informal feedback along the way. Of course, proofing drafts may be impractical for many writing assignments but any opportunity to teach the student how to write will reap rewards that will be observed in future written assignments and in the overall development of the applied practitioners that our students become. Writing assignments do not have to be long to be effective. Short essays can be just as useful to the development of writing skills as lengthy term papers. In all, 70% of CAST students report that there is some or much writing in the classes they evaluate. If you do not feel particularly confident in your ability to require meaningful writing assignments or if you believe the grading process will be too time-consuming, consider the workshops on this area provided by CTLT. There is programming available that addresses these very topics and, although the schedule of workshops for this fall is more than half complete, most of the programs will be offered again next semester. If you are not already among those who foster and develop student writing skills, I encourage you to consider not only adding writing assignments to your course plan, but to also take a bit of time to teach the students how to write. If we accept this responsibility at a level that matches up with how important we deem student writing skills, we can collectively make a positive difference in this ability.

Turner Hall

In a CAST Chairs’ meeting in early September, Jon Rosenthal and Julie Huber from Enrollment Management and Academic Services (EMAS) provided information about enrollment numbers this year. It was great news for CAST. CAST has 3543 undergraduates and 354 graduate students in Fall 2009 compared to 3266 undergraduates and 341 graduates in Fall 2008. Every department and school in CAST increased enrollment numbers from Fall 2008 to Fall 2009. In difficult financial times, we are increasingly dependent on tuition dollars so these healthy enrollments are extremely important.

Each academic unit has established target enrollments for Fall, 2010. These figures are given to EMAS as ISU is already starting to admit students for next fall. We have many diverse academic programs in CAST. Some of these programs are oversubscribed and others have capacity for more students. In our enrollment efforts, it is a constant challenge to have appropriate numbers of students in our programs. Faculty, academic advisors, and chairs/directors cannot do enrollment management in isolation. It requires cooperation and clear communication with entities across campus.

It is critical that we have good working relationships with Admissions and University College. We work with Admissions to set enrollment targets for incoming freshman and transfers. We also should work closely with academic advisors in University College. All of our freshman students are advised by these advisors. General students (no declared major) are also advised by University College. These advisors can be valuable allies for CAST in referring students to our undersubscribed majors and sequences. Thus, it is critical that we provide up-to-date information to both Admissions and University College about the nature of our programs and where we have enrollment capacity.

In my ten years at ISU, I have noted distinct improvement in the working relationship between CAST, Admissions, and University College. This is especially true in the last several years. Beyond academic advising, University College also includes Instructional and Curricular Services, the Minority Student Academic Center, the TRIO program, and Student Support Services, Preview, University Center for Learning Assistance, and University College Testing Services. Check out their website at www.ucollege.ilstu.edu for more information.

Working with Admissions and University College in a collegial and cooperative way should create a symbiotic relationship. This type of mutually beneficial working relationship helps everyone. It helps Admissions recruit high quality students, it helps University College provide services to students and place general students into appropriate majors, and it helps our departments and schools control enrollment in our high demand programs and increase enrollment in our programs that have capacity. Ultimately, all of this should help students be more successful and have a more satisfying educational experience at ISU. I think we can all agree that this is a most worthwhile goal!
Assistant Dean Woeste

Homecoming is always a special time for the interaction of alumni, current students and faculty. We are excited to be welcoming back 10 distinguished guests of the college:

**Agriculture:** Steve Myers

**Criminal Justice Sciences:** Mike Emery

**Family Consumer Sciences:** Cheryl Bielema

**Health Sciences:** Tonda Thompson, Jennifer Zajac and Thomas Anderson

**Information Technology:** Jeffrey Ricketts

**Kinesiology & Recreation:** Nate Henry and Kathleen O’Connell

**Technology:** Mark Sanders

CAST is honored to also be hosting the University alumni speaker David Wildt. As in years past, we will be continuing the tradition of participating in the parade with a float entry…I assure you this year’s theme and representatives will not disappoint you. If you are interested please contact either myself, Emily or Dr. Tricia Johnson (CAST Council Social and Morale committee chair) as to how you can help us decorate the float! After the parade…please join us in the tent zone for food and festivities. As you participate in all things Homecoming, please do not forget to capture your honored guests’ quotes, stories and photographs.

We are always on a quest for alumni stories, quotes and pictures to integrate into our website and other college materials. These testimonials from alumni aid in recruitment of future students as well as help to showcase the diversity of career opportunities within our college. Homecoming is always a great place to engage alumni so that they can connect with the next generation of CAST…our own CAST circle of life!

As you gather these captured moments, please do not hesitate to send them to either myself or Emily at lawoest@ilstu.edu or eahoffm@ilstu.edu

Once again we look forward to seeing you at Homecoming as we “ROCK THE RED” CAST style!

LW

2008 Homecoming

Department of Agriculture

Dr. Randy Winter attended the annual meeting of the Illinois Society of Professional Farm Managers and Rural Appraisers (ISPFMRA) on September 24 & 25 in Peoria, IL. Highlights included Brandi Daugherty, agricultural communications and animal industry management double-major, being recognized as a recipient of an ISPFMRA scholarship and Doug Reeves (Class of ’69) being recognized with the ISPFMRA Service to Agriculture Award.

Department of Criminal Justice Sciences

**Presentations**

The Midwest Criminal Justice Association conference was held September 24-25 in Chicago where the following presentations were made.

Elizabeth Wilson and Dr. Dawn Beichner presented “Investigating the Long-Term Effects of Drug Courts: A 10-Year Recidivism Analysis.”

Dr. Dawn Beichner presented “The Challenges of Mothering From Prison.”

Dr. Jan Hill presented "Prosecuting Child Sexual Abuse Offenders: Where Do We Go Next?"

Dr. Sesha Kethineni presented a co-authored paper titled, "Reflections on evaluating redeploy Illinois in its early stages."

Kevin Matthews and Dr. Jessie L. Krienert presented "Filicide: A gendered profile of offender, victim, and event characteristics in a national sample of reported incidents, 1995-2005."

Dr. Jeffrey A. Walsh and Dr. Jessie L. Krienert presented, "Examining the Relationship between Teacher Immediacy, Classroom Context, and Academic Dishonesty", on September 24. The research and presentation travel were supported by a grant from SoTL.

Also at the conference, Dr. Michael Gizzi was elected to a three year term as treasurer of the Midwestern Criminal Justice Association.

Publications


Dr. Cara Rabe-Hemp, Susan Woollen, and Gail Humiston published “A comparative analysis of student engagement, learning, and satisfaction in lecture hall and online learning settings (2009)” in Quarterly Review of Distance Education, 10 (2), 207-218

Dr. Ralph Weisheit has published a chapter in the edited book, “21st Century Criminology: A Reference Handbook.” The chapter is titled "Drugs and the Criminal Justice System."


Department of Family and Consumer Sciences

"Teaching Children to Resolve Conflict Respectfully" by Karen Stephens, Child Care Director, appeared in the Spring 2009 issue of The Space for Anything About Early Childhood magazine, which is published by Childspace Early Childhood Institute of Wellington, New Zealand.

Department of Technology


Adam Burke and Dr. Dan Wilson accompanied 22 Graphic Communication students to PRINT 09 at McCormick Place in Chicago on September 14th.

PRINT 09 is the largest convention and trade show for the graphic communications industry with 40,000 attendees.

Adam Burke, Doris Burke, and Dr. Dan Wilson attended the GACS Teacher’s Conference, held in conjunction with PRINT 09 from September 11th to the 13th.

Dr. Dan Wilson and Stacy Birk's research entitled "Influences for Pursuing Graphic Communications Careers" was presented to all attendees and the trade press at the Education Summit, held on September 13th at PRINT 09. The Education Summit Committee is a group of associations, printing companies, manufacturers, and individuals charged with working to improve industry perceptions, attracting skilled employment candidates, and providing clear industry communication.
Department of Health Sciences

*Illinois State University Geologists lead Radon Field Trip*

The Radon Awareness Program sponsored a continuing education day for radon professionals from across the United States on Sunday Sept 20, 2009. As a pre-symposium CE Class for members of the American Association of Radon Scientists and Technologists (AARST), who met in St. Louis for their International Symposium, our two outstanding and energetic Geology/Geography Faculty members, Dave Malone, PhD, Department Chair, and Robert "Skip" Nelson, PhD, lead a busload of 39 Radon Professionals into Southeast Missouri in search of granite and measuring radiation emanation from it.

A mini-grant for $500. was presented to the Ecology Action Center (EAC) for developing radon display materials to promote their sale of Radon Test Kits to the community. This mini-grant was given by the Midwest Chapter of American Association of Radon Scientist and Technologists.

The student American Industrial Hygiene Association and the Student Section of the American Society of Safety Engineers in the Department of Health Sciences, co-sponsored the first parent chapter meetings for both organizations in Felmley Hall on 9/8/09. The speaker for the meeting was Environmental Health Alumnus Erin Cropsey, OSHA Compliance Officer/Industrial Hygienist. Well over 100 students attended her presentation from environmental health, safety and from the HSC 156 course, Environmental health in the 21st Century.

Paulette Miller, RHIT-HIM Online Sequence Coordinator, and Dr. Frank Waterstraat, HIM Program Director, spoke about the Online Sequence on September 24, 2009, at ISU’s Community College Counselor Day. About 35 Illinois community college counselors attended the session.

The Student Health Information Management Association is co-sponsoring an event titled: "Health Care: National and Local Issues" featuring Wendell Potter, Senior Fellow on Health Care with the Center for Media and Democracy, Tuesday, October 27 at 7 pm in the Brown Ballroom at the Bone Student Center. Mr. Potter is the former CIGNA executive, who has become a leading advocate for health care reform. He has been interviewed on PBS, CNN, MSNBC, NPR, Bill Moyers Journal, and The News Hour with Jim Lehrer. At the conclusion of his presentation, he will join in a panel discussion with members of the local health care community: Shirley Drazewski, Executive Director of the Community Health Care Clinic, Roger Hunt, President and CEO of BroMenn Healthcare System, and Jane Turley, Instructional Assistant Professor for the Department of Health Sciences.
School of Information Technology


The School of Information Technology is extending an invitation to the retirement reception for Dr. David Wallace, who began his teaching career at Illinois State University on August 16, 1984. He will be retiring on November 1, 2009. The reception will be held on Thursday, October 15th, from 2-4 p.m. in Old Union, Room 202.

D. C. Chou and Dr. Amy Y. Chou authored "Information systems outsourcing life cycle and risks analysis" published in Elsevier’s Computer Standards & Interfaces, September 2009.

School of Kinesiology and Recreation

Dr. Kevin L. Burke published "The Associations of Competitive Trait Anxiety and Personal Control with Burnout in Sport" in Athletic Insight: The Online Journal of Sport Psychology. You can view the article at www.athleticinsight.com/Vol11Iss1/Burnout.htm.

Drs. Amy Hurd, Dan Elkins, Barb Schlatter, and graduate student Malin Dejitsak published a comparison of travel decisions between U.S. and international students in LARNet.

Drs. Amy Hurd & Brent Beggs published "Board Member Competency Development: A Q Methodology Approach" in the Journal of Unconventional Park, Recreation & Tourism Research

On Saturday, September 26, Drs. Margo Coleman, Mary Henninger and over 30 students in the Physical Education-Teacher Education program volunteered for the World Wide Day of Play at the Bloomington YWCA. The World Wide Day of Play is a national event sponsored by Nickelodeon to encourage children and their families to turn off the television and electronic devices and rediscover the joy of play. Students created a variety of developmentally appropriate activities for children of all ages. The emphasis was on activities that were high energy, fun and required limited equipment to encourage the children to continue pursuing healthy active play habits.
CAST Welcomes Alumni

Agriculture:
Steve Myers: Graduated in 1986.

Criminal Justice Sciences
Mike Emery: Graduated in 2003.

Family Consumer Sciences:
Cheryl Bielema: Graduated in 1967.

Health Sciences:
Tomas Anderson: Graduated in 1987.
Tonda Thompson: Graduated with a Master’s degree in 1988.

Information Technology:
Jeffrey Ricketts: Graduated in 1983.

Kinesiology and Recreation:
Nate Henry: Graduated with a Master’s degree in 2005.
Kathleen O’Connel: Graduated with a Master’s degree in 1988.

Technology:
Mark Sanders: Graduated with a Master’s degree in 1978.

Along with the updated NewsCast, an additional section is added. Each month a faculty or staff member will be chosen for a spotlight feature. The individual selected will have the honor to discuss accomplishments as well as future goals.

In the Spotlight: Cindy Greskiwcz

Need to know how the Redbirds are doing in football? Ask Cindy. While I was growing up, our local high school football coach lived right next door to me. He, along with my Dad, made me into a sports nut. Being a sports nut combined with a strong family tradition at Illinois State University has made me into one of the biggest Redbird fans alive.

My mom, aunts, sisters, brothers-in-law, and numerous cousins all attended ISU. Every year at Homecoming most of us get together to tailgate, watch the parade, and attend the football game. This year will be no different. All of the family alumni, along with numerous friends and other ISU alumni will be setting up our tailgate at 8:00 a.m. before heading over to watch the parade at 9:30 a.m. After the parade we will start cooking up some New Orleans cuisine since our theme for this tailgate is Mardi Gras. Around 1:30 p.m. we will start packing up so we can get in and watch the Big Red Marching Machine pregame show and then cheer the Redbirds on against the Sycamores of Indiana State University. After the game we will hang out for awhile and then pack everything up to store away until the next home Redbird game (November 7th).

During basketball season my life is scheduled the same as it is during football season, around the Redbirds. My family and friends know not to schedule something with Cindy during a game. The day after a game is a lot easier on me than it was when I was a student. No lost voice from screaming and no remnants of face paint on my body or clothes.

The love of the Redbirds is something I can enjoy with my family, friends, and co-workers since so many of them are alumni’ of the first public University in Illinois, Illinois State University.