**Dean’s Corner**

*Fire it Up* is this year’s ISU Homecoming theme. In CAST we are using “firing it up” each and every day as we provide instruction in exciting and dynamic disciplines throughout the College. During President Bowman’s State of the University address, he reported that grant awards have increased 23% over last year and CAST can be credited with contributing to the overall increase. I want to congratulate each of you who “fire it up” every day in CAST!

I am pleased to announce that three CAST graduates will be recognized this spring with ISU Alumni Awards. Dr. J. Michael Adams, a graduate from Technology will be the recipient of the ISU Distinguished Alumni Award. Dr. Adams is a widely respected leader in higher education, becoming Farleigh Dickinson University’s sixth president on July 1, 1999. Mr. Mac Condill graduated with a degree in Agriculture and will be the recipient of the Outstanding Young Alumni Award. Mac is the owner and operator of the The Great Pumpkin Patch in Arthur, Illinois. He has made significant contributions to the establishment of the ISU Horticulture Center. Ms. Kimberly Travers earned a degree in Technology and will be the recipient of the E. Burton Mercier Service Award. She is employed by Heartland Community College where she teaches and advises in technology education. Each of you shares in these awards because of the passion you ignite in our students through your teaching and research. Please join me in congratulating our alumni award recipients and accept my heartfelt thanks for the fine work you do!

I want to use this opportunity to extend an invitation to you to join me and your CAST colleagues at our tailgating event during this year’s homecoming on October 18. Once again we will have a parade entry which will include a tram for our distinguished alumni to ride. We will continue the homecoming celebration by having a tailgate in the Ropp Agriculture Building immediately following the parade. Come join your colleagues and help greet our alumni. It is an enjoyable way to reconnect with former students and to update them on your teaching and scholarly activities. Having visited with many CAST alumni over the past couple of years, I can attest that our alums are extremely interested in you and are eager to visit with their former professors. I encourage you to engage your former students in conversation and by doing so I guarantee you will re-ignite their passion for CAST and ISU!

I’m looking forward to “Fire it Up” as CAST demonstrates its Redbird pride during this year’s homecoming festivities. JAW

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**CAST in Focus**

**October 16**

Ralph Weisheit, Criminal Justice Sciences

*The Mysteries of Methamphetamine*

NV Ultra Lounge, Normal, IL

This presentation addresses methamphetamines; how they affect the Midwest, the general disciplines throughout the College. During President Bowman’s State of the University address, he reported that grant awards have increased 23% over last year and CAST can be credited with contributing to the overall increase. I want to congratulate each of you who “fire it up” every day in CAST!

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**November 20**

Julie Schumacher, Family & Consumer Sciences

*Food Safety: An Important Ingredient for Your Thanksgiving Meal*

Illinois State University Alumni Center

Foodborne illness is very serious, but easily prevented if foods are handled, prepared, and cooked properly. As Thanksgiving approaches, learn more about cooking the traditional turkey dinner to ensure a delicious and safe meal for you, your family, and your friends.

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**December 11**

Doug Twitchell, Information Technology

*Cyber Threat: How to keep your identity and information private in today’s interconnected world*

The Chateau, Bloomington, IL

The rise of the Internet has brought new threats to security and privacy. Chief among them is the stealing of one’s own identity. Given these threats, which technologies and actions can provide security and privacy?

All events run from 4–6 p.m. • Lectures begin at 5 p.m.

There are opportunities to mingle/network before and after the presentations. For more information, visit www.cast.ilstu.edu/
CAST OFFICE

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 over five years. Faculty have received their spring 2008 course evaluations and, hopefully, feedback from students have helped you as you have prepared for and started the 2008 fall term.

As part of the IDEA reporting system, we are provided a Group Summary Report for the College for all courses evaluated in the 2008 spring term. In CAST, we evaluated 376 classes. The average response rate was 80% with the average class size being 28. Of these 376 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 to the right shows how CAST classes compare to the IDEA Database. I am pleased to report that CAST instructors scored well above the 50th percentile on all three areas as well as the summary.

When results this fall are compared to the database of CAST classes over the past five years (see Figure 2), it is interesting and encouraging to note that our summary fall course ratings are at the 72th percentile when compared to all CAST ratings from the previous five years. As a comparison, results from Fall 2007 were at the 67th percentile. While the IDEA instrument should certainly not be used to be sole judge of teaching effectiveness, this data suggest that your teaching effectiveness this past fall was better than in the past. These results clearly show that ratings from the IDEA student course evaluations have improved over the five year period. We should feel good about these positive findings as we continue to strive to maintain and 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!

ACL

CAST RESEARCH OFFICE

Let me start with a correction, for I have failed you and caused confusion. The deadline for the CAST Outstanding Researcher application is October 10, 2008. One copy of the application needs to reach the CAST office by 4:00 p.m. on that date. The applications will be reviewed by the College Research Committee. The Outstanding Researcher will make a presentation at the CAST Spring Meeting, will receive $500 in research support, and have the option of taking ¼ released time to be used for research during the subsequent semester. Many faculty have the scholarly accomplishments meriting recognition as the College Outstanding Researcher, and all are encouraged to apply.

Dates have been set for two popular CAST workshops. Both workshops are open to all faculty. To ensure proper planning, please RSVP to Cindy Greskiwcz (cagresk@ilstu.edu) by the deadlines indicated.

The CAST University Research Grant (URG) workshop will be held Thursday, October 30 from 2:00 - 4:30 p.m. in Turner 104. All faculty are encouraged to attend. Changes in the format of the URG application and the electronic submission process that will be implemented this year will be covered. The URG guidelines and application form will be posted to the CAST Research website by mid-October, pending final revision by the College Research Council. RSVP for the workshop by Tuesday, October 28.

The CAST Journal Writing I Workshop will be held on Friday, November 7 from 2:00 - 4:00 in Turner 104. The workshop focuses on the preparation and submission of a manuscript to a peer-reviewed journal. The panel for this workshop will consist of Dr. Ralph Weisheit (CJS, Distinguished Professor), Dr. Paul Walker (AGR, University Outstanding Researcher in 2002-03) and Dr. Amy Hurd (KNR, Research Initiative Award winner in 2005-06). These accomplished scholars will share insights that have allowed them to maintain outstanding scholarly records as an integral part of their success in the classroom and lab. RSVP for the workshop by Wednesday, November 5.

Elsewhere in this issue of NewsCAST, Dr. Chris Merrill (TEC) provides more detail on CeMaST, and how the center can help you with your scholarship and teaching. Chris’s work on behalf of CAST is deeply appreciated.

The ISU Office of Research and Sponsored Programs will host a “Meet and Greet” on October 21 from 8:00 - 10:30 a.m., location to be announced. Take advantage of this informal session to meet the directors and staff of RSP, the people who facilitate and process your external funding applications.

Finally, in the words of guitar virtuoso Bill Kirchin, “Time’s fun when you’re having flyers.” As is typical, the remaining semester is quickly diminishing as we try to accomplish our long list of goals. Please contact me if you have questions, concerns or suggestions on any CAST research program.

SM
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Drs. Richard Steffen, Jeff Wood, and Ms. Jessica Chambers were co-authors of a poster “Engaging Community Volunteers to Establish a Teaching and Learning Center in Horticulture” which was selected as first runner-up in the Innovative Posters session of the North Central Region American Association of Agricultural Education annual conference in Ithaca, New York. As one of the top three posters in the NC region, the poster will advance to the National AAAE conference in Louisville Kentucky to be held May 20 - 22.

Dr. Rob Rhykerd presented “Agriculture in the 21st Century: Can Technology Feed the World and Save the Environment?” to the Illinois State Academy of Seniors from September 16 - 23.

Collegiate FFA will be hosting a Red Cross Blood Drive on October 8 from 3:00 - 7:00 p.m. in the Ropp Agriculture Building Room 107. Contact Jody Hughes jlhugh2@ilstu.edu or Dr. Richard Steffen rwsteff@ilstu.edu to schedule an appointment.

Mr. Erik Hanks, Motorcycle Safety, was nominated by the Motorcycle Safety Foundation (MSF) from a list of over 250 Chief Instructors nation-wide to participate in a military sportbike training course and quality assurance training. The training, held at Eastern Kentucky University, makes Hanks one of twelve Chief Instructors in the nation who are certified to conduct training for the military sportbike training course and MSF national quality assurance in motorcycle safety.

Jeffrey A. Walsh presented a paper titled, “Sibling Abuse in America: An Empirical Analysis of Reported Incidents.” Dr. Cara Rabe-Hemp also attended the conference and presented “Responding to First Responders: Exploring Police Departmental Policies Regarding Light Duty Injuries.” Dr. Michael C. Gizzi and Dr. Patrick Gerkin (Grand Valley State University) presented “Meth Use and Criminal Behavior: Results from 200 Offender Interviews.”

DEPARTMENT OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE SCIENCES

On September 26 Dr. Ralph Weisheit gave a presentation at the annual meeting of the Illinois Association for the Education of Young Children in Springfield, Illinois. His presentation, “Methamphetamine and Children” focused on the effects of parental methamphetamine use and production on young children, and on the effects of stimulant drugs in general when taken by children.


At the Midwestern Criminal Justice Association Conference in Chicago, Drs. Jessie L. Krienert and Jeffrey A. Walsh presented a paper titled, “Sibling Abuse in America: An Empirical Analysis of Reported Incidents.” Dr. Cara Rabe-Hemp also attended the conference and presented “Responding to First Responders: Exploring Police Departmental Policies Regarding Light Duty Injuries.” Dr. Michael C. Gizzi and Dr. Patrick Gerkin (Grand Valley State University) presented “Meth Use and Criminal Behavior: Results from 200 Offender Interviews.”

DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCES


On September 18, Dr. George Byrns and several Environmental Health students attended a panel discussion sponsored by the Prairie Section of the American Industrial Hygiene Association. The panel consisted of ISU alumni working in industry, consulting and with OSHA, who discussed their experiences in the field of industrial hygiene.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SCIENCES
School of Kinesiology and Recreation

On Saturday, Sept. 27, Dr. Margo Coleman and 26 Physical Education-Teacher Education (PETE) majors participated in the World Wide Day of Play at the Children's Discovery Museum in uptown Normal. The day is a national celebration urging children to be active and engage in vigorous play. The PETE students assisted children with a variety of play ideas using limited equipment to show children how they could be active on their own.

Department of Technology

Dr. Anu Gokhale serves on the Educational Activities Board of IEEE and chairs the Sections Outreach Committee in addition to serving as the Region 4 Student Activities Coordinator. She attended a series of Executive Committee meetings at the IEEE Sections Congress in Quebec City, Canada from September 16th to the 20th

Opportunities Available to CAST Faculty through CeMaST

The Center for Mathematics, Science, and Technology (CeMaST) is focused on stimulating, conducting, and supporting integrative science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education across Illinois State University. CeMaST is well-connected to CAST, including my position as an Associate Director. My responsibilities include helping to guide the Center’s mission, supporting faculty through Center initiatives, and submitting proposals for funded projects. For example, I am the Principal Investigator on the STEM Education and Leadership Program funded through the Illinois State Board of Education. In addition to my project, three other ISU faculty members have successfully developed proposals through the support of CeMaST.

CeMaST provides support to faculty interested in pursuing funded activities centered on STEM education. For example, travel grants are available to ISU faculty members who are working on a grant proposal to visit the funding agency’s program officer. (For more information on this opportunity visit: http://www.cemast.ilstu.edu/travel/) In addition, the Center is available to help faculty formulate ideas, link with other faculty, prepare proposals, and assist in the submission process. The Center can also help faculty administer programs, serve as evaluators, or locate other needed resources. For more information about CeMaST, visit http://www.cemast.ilstu.edu/ or call 309-438-3089.

Chris Merrill, Ph.D.
Technology Education

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.