Dean’s Corner

I am pleased to write my first NewsCAST article as continuing Dean of the College of Applied Science and Technology. I want to use my space in this issue to thank everyone for the outpouring of support you have demonstrated. I can’t remember a time when I have been so energized by an opportunity like the one I have been entrusted with. I don’t expect a honeymoon typically associated with a new appointment because there is much at hand to be accomplished. To name just a few, we have the Turner Hall life safety renovation project looming just over the horizon and the beginning of new construction for the KNR/Student Wellness Building.

There is always work to be done in the area of curriculum development and I'm especially interested in building a cogent argument and sound rationale for a Ph.D. in the College. There are many faculty searches currently underway and at least one active search for a Department Chairperson within the College. These are important jobs that require a concerted effort among many in the College.

Our spring semester will be very busy with several alumni events scheduled. We will celebrate our inaugural CAST Hall of Fame in February when we honor eight very accomplished people who represent each of the disciplines in the College. We will showcase CAST in April during our annual Science and Technology Week, and we will continue the CAST in Focus series where we will feature faculty speakers at various off-campus venues.

I continue working on promoting the College to internal and external constituencies and in keeping us true to our recently crafted strategic plan. I am excited about our College and look forward to working with each of you as we define the future for ourselves and our students.

I want to wish you all the best as we move into the last part of the semester.

JAW

CAST Office

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 relations 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 improvements 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 symbiotic relationships. 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!

ACL
CAST Research Office

Dr. Kristen Lagally from the School of Kinesiology and Recreation is the CAST Outstanding Researcher for 2008-09. Dr. Lagally joined the faculty in 1999, and in her time at ISU, Kristen has developed a research agenda focused on using perceived exertion to regulate the intensity of resistance exercise. The use of perceived exertion provides a subjective method of intensity regulation, providing a participant with personal control of an exercise program. This sense of control may positively affect long-term participation in exercise programs. Dr. Lagally has published extensively in highly cited journals in her discipline, and she has been invited to participate in multiple symposia on the topic of perceived exertion and exercise prescription at international conferences. Her expertise has been recognized through external funding of her research, invitations to contribute chapters in textbooks, and references to her research in the clinical literature. Congratulations to Dr. Lagally on her selection as CAST Outstanding Researcher. We look forward to her presentation at the Spring CAST Faculty Meeting.

Within 24 hours of posting to the web, the first application for the revised CAST Student Travel Support program was received and processed. The FCS senior Caroline Helmkamp used CAST support to present at the International Textile & Apparel Association meeting in Schaumburg, Illinois on November 6. Caroline and her mentor Dr. Hae Jin Gam (FCS) have collaborated on multiple projects, and CAST is proud to support their participation at conferences. All CAST faculty are encouraged to apply to the CAST Student Travel program on behalf of students making presentations, and to recommend student participation in the spring ISU Research symposia to make additional travel support available to the student.

Dr. David Kopsell (AGR) and Dr. Jeff Walsh (CJS) will be participants during Spring 2009 in the Grant Writing Mentorship Program funded by ISU Research and Sponsored Programs. In this program, participants receive a ¼ reassignment from teaching to work on proposal development with a mentor who has demonstrated a record of success at external funding. CAST also provides funding for reassignment from teaching to develop external proposals (see http://www.cast.ilstu.edu/facultyresources/research/GrantDevelopmentFund.shtml). Funding reassignments from teaching reflects acknowledgement of the time and effort required by faculty to develop competitive proposals, and the commitment by RSP and CAST to provide resources to faculty interested in this important aspect of research and creative activity.

On October 22, fourteen former mentors and current heads of CAST academic units met for a lunchtime discussion of the CAST Research Mentoring program. Differing opinions on the logistics of the program were discussed passionately, with final consensus that the program should continue with revisions being warranted. Suggestions from the attendees are being compiled and will be incorporated into a revised set of program guidelines. The guidelines will be reviewed by the College Research Committee prior to posting to the CAST Research Support website. One item of particular interest is the ultimate use of the Research Agenda developed by a mentee and the mentor. There was support among the attendees for the idea of extending its life into a dynamic three year plan, revised annually by all CAST tenure-track faculty, to serve as a template for an individual’s research agenda. The plan would be incorporated into the annual review process. Of course, this would entail extensive discussion at the college and academic unit levels on how the research plan fits into the ASPT process. Your input on this topic will be encouraged as discussion continues.

A workshop on revisions to the CAST University Research Grant (URG) program was held on October 30. Turnout was excellent, and included previous recipients of a URG, research mentors, and many who will be submitting a URG for the first time. As you are aware, submissions will be electronic and there are some slight changes to the formatting of the application. The revised guidelines for the URG program are now available as a link on the CAST Research Office website, and the template for a URG submission will be posted well before the February 4, 2009 deadline. It is expected that the program will be very competitive this year.

The CAST Scholarship I workshop (formerly the Writing I workshop) was held on Friday, November 7. The workshop was led by ISU Distinguished Professor Dr. Ralph Weisheit (CJS), ISU Outstanding Researcher Dr. Paul Walker (AGR) and ISU Research Initiative Award winner Dr. Amy Hurd (KNR). These successful faculty presented and discussed the strategies they used and use to develop and maintain active scholarly careers. I am grateful that members of CAST are willing to share their expertise with others.

Requests for Proposals:
The National Institute of Child Health and Human Development/NIH/DHHS has announced a request for proposals on The Science and Ecology of Early Development. The program has multiple submission dates, and seeks to fund “research focused on the mechanisms through which social, economic, cultural, and community-level factors, and their interactions, impact the early cognitive, neurobiological, socio-emotional, and physical development of children.” More information on the program is available from http://grants1.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-08-069.html. Contact me (smccaw) if you would like the web address emailed to you.

The Department of Defense will be sponsoring projects based on numerous academic disciplines, including, environmental engineering and information sciences, with topics focusing on (among others) energy and power management, quantum information sciences, human sciences, information assurance, information fusion and decision science, and energy and power management. Additional information is available at http://www.grants.gov, under the DOD “Strategic plan for basic research”.

SM

Department of Criminal Justice Sciences

Dr. Michael Gizioni was featured in an MTV.com choose or lose blog in the southwest on methamphetamine titled, “Guns, Gas, and Meth” on October 15, 2008.


On October 13, Dr. Ralph Weisheit was interviewed by RC McBride at WBNQ regarding the issue of methamphetamine and on October 14th, he was interviewed by Jim Brown at WGLT regarding the same issue. Dr. Weisheit also had published an article on marijuana production in the second edition of the Encyclopedia of Rural America.
Department of Family and Consumer Sciences

Dr. Jean Memken attended the Housing Education and Research Association Annual Conference in Indianapolis, Indiana on October 8-10. She presented a paper entitled, "Using Research Techniques to Teach Housing Theory." Dr. Memken's attendance at the meeting was funded in part by the Center for Teaching, Learning and Technology through their Scholarship of Teaching and Learning Travel Grant Program.


The article, "Fashion Adoption Categories: A New Investigation of Personality Facets and Demographics" by Dr. Tricia Widner Johnson was published in the Research Journal of Textile and Apparel, August, 2008.

In September, Dr. Widner Johnson received a Visual Retailing software donation valued at $10,000 per license/computer. The software is used in the retail fashion industry as a visual merchandising and database tool. It will be used in both Apparel Merchandising and Design and Interior and Environmental Design courses.

The Child Life Graduate program at ISU has 3 students completing their graduate internships during the spring semester and all three have been accepted into outstanding programs nationally recognized for excellence. Heather Looney has been accepted for an internship at St. Jude Children’s Research hospital. John’s Hopkins Hospital accepts only two interns per term and this coming spring both positions will be filled by students from the same institution for the first time ever; Kim Richfield and Jamie Siegel.

Department of Health Sciences

On October 23rd, Dr. George Byrns and five Environmental Health students attended a dinner meeting of the Prairie Section of the American Industrial Hygiene Association. Ray Redell from Argus-Hazco was the guest speaker.

On October 24th, Dr. Tom Bierma, Dr. George Byrns, Mr. Paul Ronczkowski and 15 Environmental Health and Safety students attended a presentation on "Life After College." Dr. Fred Tremmel and Daniel Zbinden from British Petroleum discussed the field of industrial hygiene as a career choice.

On October 14th, Mr. Paul Ronczkowski and 4 safety majors attended the Central Illinois American Society of Safety Engineers (ASSE) tour and presentation of the University of Illinois Fire Service Institute in Champaign, Illinois.

Dr. George Byrns on October 29th, gave an "Introduction to Occupational Health," lecture to a group of students at Illinois Wesleyan University in Bloomington.

Mr. Paul Ronczkowski attended the Central Illinois American Society of Safety Engineers meeting in Bloomington on November 10th. State representative Dan Brady gave a legislative update.

Dr. Tom Bierma and five Environmental Health students attended the 2008 Illinois Energy Expo on Friday, October 3. The Expo, in Bloomington, included presentations on financial incentives and technologies for improving business and residential energy efficiency.

Dr. Bierma and eight Environmental Health students attended the annual educational conference of the Illinois Environmental Health Association on Friday, October 10. The conference, in Peoria, included updates on indoor air quality, foodborne illness prevention, and the Environmental Health Profession.

The Clinical Laboratory Science program in the Department of Health Sciences was awarded seven years accreditation by the Board of Directors of the National Accrediting Agency for Clinical Laboratory Sciences. The program’s accreditation will continue until October 31, 2015.

On November 11th, 105 students from Morton Junior High visited the Environmental Health research laboratory to learn about bioenergy research being conducted by Environmental Health students under the direction of Drs. Guang Jin and Tom Bierma. Senior Lucy Loftus explained the production of biodiesel from campus waste fryer oil, Junior Amanda Landers explained her work culturing oil-producing algae, and Freshman Ian Campoli explained the production of methane from switchgrass (a joint project with ISU’s Department of Agriculture).
Dr. Barbara Schlatter presented "Improving community through curriculum planning in leisure and sustainable tourism management: An international partnership" at the 10th World Leisure Congress in Quebec City, Canada on October 6, 2008. At the same venue she participated in the annual meeting of the American Leisure Academy as President Elect.

Dr. Steve McCaw and colleagues from the Hospital for Special Surgery in New York City and the University of Delaware, published the paper "Side-to-side differences in overuse running injury susceptibility: A Retrospective Study" in the latest issue of the peer-reviewed journal Human Movement Science.

Dr. Lim also presented the paper entitled "Mobile Computing With Web 2.0: Current State-of-the-Art, Issues, and Challenges," which is co-authored with Hiren Nagar, a former ITK student currently working for Hewlett-Packard Company.

Drs. Billy B. L. Lim and Winn P. Mahatanankoon attended the IACIS (International Association for Computer Information Systems) annual international conference from October 1-4 in Savannah, Georgia. They co-presented the paper entitled "Influence of Trust Predictors on Different Dimensions of Trust in M-Commerce," which is co-authored with Sunitha Mogenahalli, who is to defend her Master's thesis on the topic later in the fall 2008 semester.

Accompanied by 28 Graphic Communications students, Mr. Adam Burke and Dr. Dan Wilson attended the GraphExpo Conference and Convention held October 26-28 at McCormick Place in Chicago. Mr. Burke and Dr. Wilson also attended the GASC (Graphic Arts Show Company) Teaching Conference held in conjunction with GraphExpo.

Drs. Josh Brown and Chris Merrill accompanied 18 technology education majors to the 15th Annual Illinois Technology Education Conference in Peoria, Illinois on October 24-26. The technology education majors competed in the Midwest Technology Education Collegiate Association events where they earned three first place victories and two second place awards in five events. Dr. Chris Merrill delivered a presentation entitled "Growing a Student Organization" at the conference.

Dr. Anu Gokhale coordinated the annual IEEE (Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers) Region 4 Student Leadership Workshop and Ethics Competition from 8:30 am to 4 pm at the University of Illinois–Urbana Champaign on October 25, 2008.

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The College of Applied Science and Technology graduates individuals skilled in critical thinking with a life-long passion for learning and a strong commitment to civic engagement.