DEAN’S CORNER

Next week will be CAST’s time in the spotlight as we celebrate our ninth annual Science and Technology Week. Science and Technology Week was established to promote the College through a series of speakers, each associated with a discipline in the College. Additionally, the week is highlighted with a keynote address, typically delivered by someone with “curb appeal” and noted for having a distinguished career. We have hosted personalities from Bill Nye the Science Guy, Astronaut Sally Ride, Surgeon General Joycelyn Elders, Chef Charlie Trotter, and explorer Robert Ballard. This year we have added a new element to the Science and Technology Week through the addition of a theme. This year’s theme is “Applied Sustainability.” This suggestion came from our Director of Development, Dorothy Witte, and has proven to be a very good addition.

We will kick off Science and Technology Week with a presentation by Mr. Doug Farr. Doug will present his speech titled “Sustainable Urbanism: Urban Design with Nature” at 7:30 PM in the Old Main Room of the Bone Center. His presentation is co-sponsored by the Department of Technology and the Town of Normal.

On Tuesday April 14, Fran Mainella, former National Park Service Director and currently a visiting scholar at Clemson University will speak at 7:30 PM in Old Main. Fran’s talk is titled “No Child Left Inside” and is co-sponsored by the School of Kinesiology and Recreation.

The keynote event this year will be on Wednesday evening at 7:00 PM in the Brown Ballroom. This is a sold out ticketed event. Mr. Tim Gunn will present the keynote lecture when he talks about “Eco Design in the Fashion Industry.” His presentation will precede the Apparel Merchandising and Design Association Annual Fashion Show. The show will feature twenty student designers and nearly 120 outfits. Over 40 student models will walk the runway, coincidently built by our own Construction management students from the Department of Technology. How’s that for collaboration! Mr. Gunn will sign copies of his book immediately after the fashion show in the Circus Room.

Thursday will signal the official end of Science & Technology Week with a talk given by Mr. Jon Scholl, President of the American Farmland Trust. Jon’s lecture is titled “Agriculture’s Role in a Green Economy.” It will be at 7:30 PM in Old Main.

It will be an exciting and event filled week for the College. Hopefully you will find time in your busy schedule to attend one or more of the exciting venues and to learn more about “Applied Sustainability” in CAST.

JAW

CAST Office

As we approach the end of the year, I want to acknowledge the excellent work done by the CAST Curriculum Committee (CCC). There have been a number of curricular proposals that have been reviewed.

The CCC met on a regular basis since late August to review curricular proposals. I appreciate the spirit of professionalism brought to the review process by the members of the committee as they considered proposals.

Members of the CCC this year were: Lori Woeste (HSC - chair), Cara Rabe-Hemp (CJS - vice chair), Connie Dyar (FCS), Kerry Tudor (AGR), Anu Gokhale (TEC), Brent Beggs (KNR), Glen Sagers (ITK), Rebecca Saunders (FCS Student Representative), and Katherine Menedez (KNR Student Representative). For the third consecutive year, Lori Woeste has provided strong and experienced leadership to this committee. The consistent commitment of each member to attend the meetings and to provide lead reviews for their fair share of the proposals is also quite commendable.

The CCC has reviewed sixty-two proposals. The breakdown of proposals approved by the CCC during the past year is:

- New courses: 9
- Revised courses: 23
- Revised sequences or majors: 12
- New sequences or majors: 10
- Deleted sequences or courses: 7
- New Graduate Certificates: 1

Finally, I want to thank the many faculty members and chairs that attended the CCC meetings to clarify issues and answer questions about proposals they had submitted. Having colleagues in our meetings with first hand knowledge certainly facilitates the processing of most proposals. Developing good curricular proposals is a team effort, and I appreciate the efforts of each of you who have contributed to the successful work of the CCC this fall. Best wishes for a smooth close of the year and a wonderful summer.

ACL

CAST Spring Meeting: April 22, 2:30 p.m. @ the Circus Room

Spring Commencement: May 9, 12:30 p.m. @ Redbird Arena

Celebrate CAST Golf Outing: May 15 @ Weibring Golf Course

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CAST was represented by 21 students from three academic units (CJS, ITK, KNR) at the Graduate Research Symposium held in the BSC on March 27. Students had the opportunity to present and discuss their research with fellow students, faculty, university administrators and outside guests. On Friday, April 17 between 9 and 11 am, the 31 undergraduate students from CAST (CJS, FCS, HSC, ITK, KNR & TEC) enrolled for the University Graduate Research Symposium will get the same experience. Drop by the BSC and ask them a few questions. (Note that a participating student is eligible for reimbursement from the Graduate School for costs incurred with presenting at one of the symposia; check for details at http://www.grad.ilstu.edu/downloads/grantforresearch.pdf. The student must have a receipt to be eligible for the support.)

You should have received an invitation and template from the head of your academic unit to submit a one page summary of potential research. CAST wants to help faculty be ready to submit proposals as the Federal Stimulus Fund dollars are released, directly through federal funding agencies and indirectly through state agencies. While details on how and when the funds will be released are limited, it is expected that there will be millions of dollars available for research distributed on relatively short notice.

The purpose of compiling the CAST listing is three fold: 1) the keywords you provide will allow for efficient matching of faculty projects and the requests for proposal that are released by the agencies; 2) the listing of faculty projects can be shared with the ISU representatives in Washington and Springfield, and used in identifying potential external support for research; 3) the listing may facilitate identifying potential collaborations among faculty.

Submitting a summary of the proposal presents an opportunity for those willing to take a risk. It is expected that, once the funds are released, there will be rapid turnaround. The CAST research office will help as a clearinghouse between your ideas and disbursement of stimulus dollars. Send the completed copy of your “summary proposal” to the head of your academic unit for compilation and forwarding to the CAST Research Office. As funds are released, and relevant areas of faculty interest are supported, the CAST Research office will work closely with you and RSP to get a proposal submitted by the impending deadline.

The College Research Committee (CRC) will soon complete review of the proposals submitted to the University Research Grant (URG) program for FY10. As usual, many excellent proposals were reviewed. However, a critical missing component of the URG process is that the amount of funding for FY10 has not yet been announced by the Provost’s Office. Once funding is announced, the CRC will make recommendations to the Dean and the timeline for support will be announced.

Congratulations to the collaborators on the four projects from CAST selected to receive a Professional Development Grant from CeMAST, (The Center for Mathematics, Science, and Technology). These grants provide faculty support to enhance teaching, learning, and research in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). The projects supported for FY09 are:

Josh Brown (AGR) and Drew Abney (student) “The Biotechnology of Technology Education: A Descriptive Investigation of the conceptual foundations of Biotechnology Necessary for Technology Education Teachers”
Cara Rabe-Hemp (CJS), Anu Gokhale (TEC), and Lori Woeste (HSC) “The Under-representation of Women in Applied Sciences: The Impact of Perceptions and Availability of Role Models”
J. Randy Winter (AGR), David Loomis (Economics), David Kennell (TEC), and Sophie Theron (student) “Renewable Energy Team Travel to American Wind Energy Association WindPower 2009 Conference”
James Wolf (ITK) “An Experimental Examination of Techniques for Mitigating the Psychological Bias Against Physicians Who Use Diagnostic Decision Aids”

CeMaST received numerous proposals from faculty across the colleges at Illinois State University, and four of the eleven supported included CAST faculty.

CAST Research Office

Jessica Chambers (AGR), Nels Popp (KNR), James Wolf (ITK), Pruthikrai Mahatanankoon (ITK) and Yongning Tang (ITK) are CAST recipients of Grant Writing Initiative awards from Research and Sponsored programs. These faculty will attend the Summer Grant Development Workshop between May 12-15 and will subsequently prepare a proposal for external submission.

Please contact me (emccaw@ilstu.edu) if you have questions, concerns or suggestions on any CAST research program.

Reminders:

The Scholarly Writing Workshop supported by the College of Arts and Sciences will be held Friday April 17 from 3-5 pm in the Founders Suite. Although the RSVP deadline has passed, you can contact researchoffice@ilstu.edu to see if there is still space.

The Undergraduate Research Fellowship Program has an April 20 submission deadline. The Fellowship includes a $3,500 salary for an undergraduate student. More information and the application form are available at http://www.rsp.ilstu.edu/documents/UndergraduateResearchFellowshipProgram.pdf

Applications for the Grant-Writing Mentorship Program are due May 4. The program supports the development of external grant proposals by pairing an inexperienced faculty member with a senior faculty member who has demonstrated expertise and success in securing funding. The program remedies the problems of a lack of time to develop major research proposals and a lack of experience in writing competitive grant proposals, by providing reassigned time from a single course and access to a mentor that will help guide the development of the proposal. More details available at http://www.rsp.ilstu.edu/grant_writing/mentorship.shtml

Undergraduate Research Symposium
Friday, April 17, 9-11AM, Bone Student Center. SM

Dr. Kerry Tudor co-authored the paper "Milling Characteristics of Corn and Yellow, Short-season Field Peas Intended for Swine Diets" published in The Professional Animal Scientist, Vol. 25, pp. 8-16.

Dr. J. Randy Winter and herder Mr. Jeff Robb were co-authors of the paper “Inclusion of Yellow Field Peas and Carbohydrase Enzyme in Nursery Pig Diets to Improve Growth Performance” published in The Professional Animal Scientist, Vol. 25, pp. 17-25.

At the Founder’s Day Celebration held on February 19th, two faculty members from the Department of Agriculture were honored. Dr. Asilihan Spaulding received the University Research Initiative Award and Dr. J. Randy Winter received the University Service Award.
Science & Technology Week
April 13-16

Department of Health Sciences

Dr. Beverly Barham presented at the national Clinical Laboratory Educators Conference in Denver held February 18-21. Dr. Barham spoke about building a team dynamic among pre-professional practice Clinical Laboratory students to better prepare them for a seamless transition into the clinical laboratory setting during the 21-week professional practice experience in their senior year.

On February 18, Dr. George Byrns accompanied 12 Environmental Health students to the annual student research competition hosted by the Chicago Section of the American Industrial Hygiene Association. Two of these students, under the direction of Drs. Guang Jin and Tom Bierva, won first place in the undergraduate research competition. Their research poster summarized results from their work using switch grass to produce methane in anaerobic digesters. It was the preliminary research needed to begin work with ISU’s Department of Agriculture under a grant funded by the U.S. Department of Energy.

Professor Paul Ronczkowski attended the American Society of Safety Engineers meeting in Peoria on March 10. A presentation was given by the OSHA on-site consultation service and the OSHA Peoria Area Office.

Drs. Guang Jin and Tom Bierva have received a $67,000 grant from the National Science Foundation to promote science and technology education among non-science majors. It is part of a joint project with Illinois Wesleyan University and Heartland Community College to use biodiesel production as a means of engaging non-science majors in science and technology concepts in the classroom.

Department of Technology

Dr. Richard Boser and Mr. Keith Rahn attended the American Council of Construction Education midyear meeting in Jacksonville, Florida held February 18 - 21.

Dr. Bo Park and 6 undergraduate students participated in the 2009 National LEED (Green Building) Competition in Sparks, Nevada held February 11-14. The competition required the team to provide LEED analysis, various environmental reviews, action plans, cost analysis to meet project LEED goals, and ultimately show how the project could satisfy the local community and jurisdictional requirements with its sustainable construction. The 17 participating teams were judged based on the quality of their written and oral presentations. The ISU team represented the Mid-western region. This trip was sponsored by CIB (Central Illinois Builders). This student competition was one of the GreenFluence (Green Building Student Chapter) learning activities.

Dr. Dan Wilson was elected to the executive board of the Accrediting Council for Collegiate Graphic Communications (ACCGC) and will serve as Accreditation Committee Chair. Dr. Wilson and other ACCGC board members met in Chicago on October 19, 2008.

Dr. Ken Stier attended the Accreditation Board of Engineering Technology (ABET) Faculty Workshop on Assessing Program Outcomes in Louisville, Kentucky on October 28, 2008.

Drs. Josh Brown and Chris Merrill attended the 95th Mississippi Valley Technology Teacher Education Conference in St. Louis, Missouri November 5-6. Dr. Merrill served as the Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Education session chairperson.

Drs. Dan Wilson, Kevin Devine, and Rick Boser published “A Pragmatic Method of Implementing Outcomes Assessment for Collegiate Graphic Communications Programs” as a peer-reviewed article in the Fall 2008 edition of the Visual Communications Journal.

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

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