The end of the semester is near. For some, it signals the end to something; for others, it is the beginning of new opportunities. Some will use the end of the semester to decompress and let the stressors of the academic year melt away. Others will utilize the end of the semester to attend faculty development activities or start a manuscript that had been relegated to a lower priority during the fall and spring terms. Some of you will teach a summer course and others will recharge their batteries through recreating or travel. Whatever your choices may be for the summer, all are entitled to breathe a hearty sigh of relief that the academic year is coming to a close and incredible achievements have been made largely due to your remarkable efforts.

As I mentioned during the State of the College address recently, the achievements over the past year include significant gains in reconnecting and recognizing our alumni; applying for and receiving significant external funding; proposing and revising a dynamic curricula; writing accreditation reviews, utilizing advisory committees; and proposing bold new initiatives. Your investment in “imagining the possibilities” yielded huge returns.

It is also worth repeating here something else I mentioned during the State of the College address. The real strength of the College is the faculty and staff. Because of your dedication in providing a premier undergraduate education and graduate education with a state, national, and international reputation for excellence; the College profile has increased tremendously. I commend each of you for your commitment to these important College objectives.

I would like to use this opportunity to wish everyone a productive and restful summer.

All the best,

JAW

CAST Office

In the spring 2002 semester, CAST pilot tested the IDEA student course evaluation, and this system was fully implemented in the 2002-2003 academic year. Thus, CAST has been successfully using this system for seven years. As we finish the 2009 spring term including the administration of the IDEA student course evaluations in our classes, it is a good time to report results from the 2008 IDEA fall administration. One of the advantages of IDEA is that we are able to get group summary reports for each department and school as well as overall report on CAST.

In the 2008 fall semester, we evaluated a total of 409 classes in CAST. The average response rate was 81% with the average class size being 30. Of these 409 classes, only 49 had a response rate less than 65%. The figure below shows the how CAST classes compare to the IDEA database. It is encouraging to see that CAST instructors score above the average on all three areas as well as the summary.

When results this fall are compared to the entire database of CAST classes (see Figure 2), it is interesting and encouraging to note that our adjusted summary fall course ratings are at the 66th percentile when compared to all CAST ratings from the previous five years. While the IDEA instrument is certainly not be used as sole judge of teaching effectiveness, this data suggests that teaching effectiveness of CAST faculty during the 2008 fall semester compares favorably with teaching evaluation data collected over the past 10 semesters. This data clearly suggests that CAST instructors have improved their teaching effectiveness as compared to past semesters. Your continued efforts to plan and deliver your classes in the best way possible each year is greatly appreciated.

Figure 2: Percent of Classes at or Above CAST Average

Figure 1: Percent of Classes at or Above the IDEA Database
CAST RESEARCH OFFICE

Caroline Helmkamp, a senior Apparel Merchandising and Design major in Family & Consumer Sciences, has been selected as the CAST Outstanding Undergraduate Researcher for 2009. Dr. Hae Jin Gam of FCS nominated Ms. Helmkamp and has served as her research mentor. Caroline has been a member of the "design for disassembly" research project, investigating practices that allow for the disassembly of apparel products to be reused and/or repurposed when they are no longer wanted. Her role has included investigating possible materials for jacket production, testing various hand and machine stitches, producing the ISU prototype at the Environmental Protection Agency Expo in Washington, DC. This was ISU's first time entering the competition and the team received Honorable Mention. Caroline also attended the International Textile Apparel Association 2008 Annual Meeting and presented this peer-reviewed project. Congratulations to Caroline for her outstanding work, and to Dr. Gam for her mentorship.

The Undergraduate Research Symposium was held Friday April 17 in the Bone Student Center. A total of 33 students from CAST were involved with 18 poster presentations. The CAST lineup included 1 poster and 4 presenters from CJS (J. Walsh, mentor), 5 posters and 15 presenters from FCS (B. Anderson, H.J. Gam and Y.J. Ma, mentors), 2 posters and 2 presenters from HSC (L. Woeste, mentor), 3 posters and 4 presenters from ITK (C. Jong and J. Vila-Ruiz, mentors), 5 posters and 6 presenters from KNR (M. Coleman, K. Lauder, T. McLoda, D. Thomas, mentors) and 2 posters and 2 presenters from TEC (I. Jalozie and L. Reifsneider, mentors). The CAST students were poised and knowledgeable while answering questions and discussing their research involvement. The CAST students were also grateful for the time invested in them by their mentors and projected a positive image for CAST to all attendees. (Note that a participating student is eligible for reimbursement from the Graduate School for costs incurred with presenting at either the Undergraduate or Graduate symposium; check for details at http://www.grad.ilstu.edu/downloads/grantforresearch.pdf. The student must have a receipt to be eligible for the support).

On behalf of the College, I want to thank the College Research Committee (Aslihan Spaulding, AGR; Jeff Walsh, CJS; Tom Biema, HSC; James Wolf, ITK; Kristen Lagally, KNR; Chris Merrill, TEC) for providing timely, thorough, and thoughtful reviews of the 25 applications. The total university-wide pool of funding for the FY10 URG program is not yet known, although it has been announced that CAST’s share of the available pool will rise slightly from 17.4 to 17.6%. It is expected that ISU will have a more clear estimation of the FY10 budget sometime this summer, and the funding for the URG program will be announced at that time. The CAST URG applications are ranked, and the announcement of successful projects and the distribution of funding will occur as soon as the FY10 budget is settled and the dollar amount is determined.

Reminder: 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

The Mapping Illinois Communities Workshop: an Introduction to GIS & Community Analysis will be held in Chicago on May 14th and 15th, 2009 [These are one day workshops (8:30am - 4:30pm). Participants choose which one day to attend]. The workshop is aimed at anyone interested in mapping their community using ArcGIS 9.3 to create thematic maps, address mapping (geocoding), and/or to download and map census & American Community Survey Data. More Information and Registration materials are available at http://www.nur-online.com/.

During the Summer of 2009, Illinois State University’s Center for Teaching, Learning & Technology will be offering three sessions of its very popular Future Professors Workshop. Designed for graduate students who plan careers in higher education, this four-day workshop offers an introduction to teaching in colleges and universities. Each graduate student who completes all four days is eligible for a $100 stipend. The CAST Dean’s Office will also match the $100 stipend.

Future Professors is not designed to replace traditional pedagogy courses, but instead offers an overview of the following teaching-related topics:

- What the Best College Teachers Do
- Designing Learning Outcomes
- Principles of Effective Undergraduate Instruction
- Designing a "Promising Syllabus"
- Starting with Students: Who ARE These People?
- Designing Learning Activities
- The First Day of Class . . . and Beyond!

Assessing Learning

The Summer 2009 Future Professors Workshops will be held on the following dates at the Center for Teaching, Learning & Technology:
- Monday-Thursday, May 18-21
- Monday-Thursday, July 6-9
- Monday-Thursday, August 3-6

Registration is required, and class sizes are limited. Register now at http://www.ctltbeta.ilstu.edu/programs/summerInst.php#Reqs.
**Department of Agriculture**

Drs. Randy Winter, Paul Walker, Pat O’Rourke and Ken Smiciklas were recognized as members of the Million Dollar Club on April 20. The Million Dollar Club is comprised of individuals who have garnered at least $1 million in external funding for the university.

Ten Department of Agriculture students representing the Illinois State University Chapter of the National Agri-Marketing Association (NAMA) attend the National NAMA Conference in Atlanta, Georgia from April 14-17. ISU NAMA placed fourth overall in the Outstanding Chapter Competition. Thirty-six chapters from across the United States and Canada competed for this award. The award recognizes the breadth and depth of Chapter activities over the past year.

Dr. David Kopsell traveled with the ISU 2009 PLANET Student Career Days Team to Cal-Poly, Pomona from March 26-29. 753 students from 59 different universities and colleges competed in 26 different horticultural & landscape judging events. Each student could compete in only 5 different events. Nick Parsley took 1st place in Woody Plant Identification and 4th place partnering with Bernie Healy in Truck & Trailer Operation. Nick had the 8th highest individual combined score at the event. Jonathan Damery took 15th place in Woody Plant Identification, Mike Moore, Kayla Obert, and Brittnay Whitted also competed and placed in the top 30% of individual combined scores. Costs for this trip were supported by the Ag Alumni Association, GROMARK, ISU Horticulture Club, Greenview Nursery, Penn Landscaping, Niepagan Greenhouses, and student fundraising activities.

Undergraduate students Samantha Gasca, Alicia Ackerman, Chase Brown, and John Robinson competed in the Academic Quadrathlon at the Midwest Section of the American Society of Animal Science held in Des Moines, Iowa March 15-18. Also at the meetings, two graduate students competed in the M.S. Student Poster Competition with the following abstracts:

Jason Carmack and Dr. Paul Walker, “Effects of distillers grain supplementation on dystocia and beef cow performance.”

Andrea Hanson, Jason Carmack, and Dr. Paul Walker, “High moisture distillers grains can be successfully stored during summer.”

**Department of Family & Consumer Sciences**

Drs. Mardell Wilson and Tricia Widner Johnson attended the Higher Learning Commission conference which was held April 17-21 and gave the following presentation, "Shared Learning Outcomes: Bridging the Assessment Divide Between General Education and the Disciplines."

Dr. Nweze Nnakwe published a textbook entitled, “Community Nutrition Planning Health Promotion and Disease Prevention” by Jones and Bartlett, 2009. The textbook used real-world examples to reinforce core nutrition concepts and explored the current and emerging issues in nutrition faced by today’s diverse communities. It presents the skills, cultural concepts, and background knowledge that are essential for promoting health and preventing diseases.

FCS senior Lacey Caldwell and Dr. Bill Anderson presented “Children and seniors: Mutual benefits at selected intergenerational shared sites” at the April 3 annual meeting of the Illinois Council on Family Relations.

Ms. Karen Stephens, Child Care Center Director, had two articles and several photos published in the March/April 2009 issue of Exchange Magazine. The articles published include: "Imaginative Play During Childhood: Required for reaching full potential" and "The Parenting Exchange CD: A bountiful resource for family-friendly programs."

Dr. Connor Walters is President-Elect for the Council of Administrators in Family and Consumer Sciences. CAFCS is a national organization of individuals who hold administrative roles in Family and Consumer Sciences in colleges and universities. This organization of two hundred plus active and lifetime members consists of Deans of Colleges, Schools, and Extension; Chairs or Heads of Family and Consumer Sciences Departments within Schools and Colleges; and other individuals in administrative roles such as President and Provost, relating to the profession of Family and Consumer Sciences.

Dr. Connor Walters will serve as the 2009-2010 Chair of the ISU Chair’s/Director’s Council and Dr. Marilyn Morrow, Health Sciences Chair, will serve as Secretary.

**Department of Health Sciences**

On March 26 Dr. George Byrns presented the topic, Respiratory Protection Against Biological Hazards at a meeting of the Prairie Section of the American Industrial Hygiene Association. Five Environmental Health students were also in attendance.

On March 27 two alumni (Erin Cropsey and Mica Torricelli) spoke with approximately 20 Environmental Health and Safety students and faculty including Dr. Tom Bierna, Dr. George Byrns, Dr. Guang Jin, and Mr. Paul Ronczkowski. Erin, who was recently hired by the Federal OSHA office in Peoria as an industrial hygienist, spoke of her transition from being a student to becoming an occupational health professional. Mica, the Acting Director of the Illinois On-Site Safety and Health Consultation program, discussed her experiences managing a major state agency.

The student Section of the American Society of Safety Engineers (ASSE) had their monthly meeting on March 25. Safety alum Angela Galvin presented to the students on safety management with Caterpillar, Inc. as well as the job situation in safety management in general industry.

Each year the American Society for Clinical Pathology recognizes students in the laboratory professions who demonstrate both academic excellence and a commitment to community service with its National Student Honor Award. Nine Illinois State University Clinical Laboratory Science students are being recognized this year. They are: Heather Bryant, Valerie Gosack, Alyssa Rae King, Brandy Lee, Jason Loser, Michael Plochocki, Jody Schultz, Jaclyn Scwartz, and RoDina Loivean Williams. Congratulations!

Mr. Paul Ronczkowski and Dr. Chris Grieshaber attended the Central Illinois Chapter of the American Society of Safety Engineers (ASSE) meeting on April 14. This meeting was sponsored by the student section of the ASSE, Mr. Mark Lies, an attorney specializing in occupational safety and health law, presented “Professional Liability Issues Confronting the Fields of Safety and Health and Risk Management Professionals.” Ten student ASSE members attended the meeting.
Twenty Technology Education students attended the annual International Technology Education Association (ITEA) conference in Louisville, Kentucky late last month. ISU students competed against sixty other teams of students from across the country in several events and earned a third place victory in the technology challenge contest.

The following presentations were made at the 2009 National Intramural Recreational Sports Association Conference in Charlotte, North Carolina. Dr. Dan Elkins co-presented “The Influence of Recreational Sports Participation on Sense of Campus Community.” Drs. Elkins and Brent Beggs presented “The Influence of Leisure Motivation on Leisure Satisfaction” and “Motivation for Participation in Campus Recreation Based on Activity Type.” Drs. Beggs and Elkins, and Mr. Andrew Read of Recreation Services presented “The Effectiveness of Web Pages in Marketing Campus Recreational Services.”

Dr. Chad McEvoy was named Co-Editor of the Journal of Issues in Intercollegiate Athletics.

Drs. McEvoy, Beggs, and former KNR master’s student Mr. Kyle Ehrhardt presented, “Who Should I Hire?: Successor Type and Coaching Performance in NCAA Division I Football and Men’s Basketball,” at the Scholarly Conference on College Sport in Chapel Hill, North Carolina on April 17.

Dr. Beggs was named to the Editorial Board for the Recreational Sports Journal.

Dr. Beggs co-presented “The Role of Competition in Recreational Sport Programming” at the Indiana Parks and Recreation Association State Conference in Bloomington, Indiana.

Dr. Deb Garrahy was informed that she will receive the Outstanding Service to the College of Education at the College of Education Spring Faculty Meeting on April 28.

Dr. Garrahy has also co-authored an international publication with colleagues from Indiana University and Arizona State University: Cothran,D.J., Kulinna, P.H. and Garrahy, D.A. (2009). “Attributions for and Consequences of Student Misbehavior.” Physical Education and Sport Pedagogy,14 155-167.


Also at the ITEA conference, Drs. Chris Merrill, J. Daughtery, and Joshua Brown delivered a refereed presentation entitled “The Future of TE Master’s Degrees: STEM.”

Dr. Chris Merrill and Mr. David Kennell were inducted into the “Million Dollar Club” at ISU on April 20.

Dr. Richard Boser will be a member of the Association of Technology, Management, and Applied Engineering accreditation team conducting a site visit at Norfolk State University from April 26 - 28.

Dr. Anu Gokhale, Professor in Technology, presented “Effectiveness of Synchronous Communication in Online Courses” at the Wimba Connect 2009 conference in Scottsdale, Arizona, April 5-8.