Dean’s Corner

I am writing this in the midst of homecoming week at Illinois State University. The excitement is considerable throughout campus and what better way to celebrate than to participate in homecoming activities. The week began with an appreciation luncheon for all ISU faculty and staff. I was pleased to have been able to meet and greet many loyal employees who give generously of their time and talents to make ISU, and CAST in particular, a wonderful place.

Other activities included a dorm do-over contest, BBQ on the quad, and a bon fire, all culminating in the homecoming parade, football game, and a sesquicentennial gala. Whether you participated in one or more homecoming events, I hope you enjoyed the week-long celebration. The sense of pride and celebration is well deserved!

Another exciting opportunity lies before us in the College. A revised CAST mission and vision statement has been posted on a blackboard discussion page for your feedback. The entire College is invited to participate in a robust dialogue about a new strategic plan. This visionary document requires input from all members of the College, whether faculty or staff, tenured or probationary, recently hired or veteran employee. The document I envision will be long-lasting and will serve us well into the future as we collectively work to “Educate Illinois.” Our strategic plan should have a line of sight toward both the University’s plan and to each departmental or school plan. The effort to develop a well conceived and written plan will take untold hours of input by many within our College. The effort will be worth the investment of time as we collectively seek to craft our future and that of our College.

I encourage each of you to log on to blackboard and participate in discussions that will help shape the future of CAST. Be part of the plan and thanks for giving an extra degree of effort!

JAW

CAST Office

At ISU, we are in the midst of a number of different facilities projects. I will highlight a few that may be of interest to CAST. You may have seen the front page article on the Sunday, October 7, 2007 edition of the Pantagraph that provided a lengthy account of the planning and construction timeline of the Student Recreation and Kinesiology and Recreation Building. Demolition of Dunn, Barton, and Walker residence halls and the west side of McCormick will begin this summer. This project has obvious implications for the School of KNR but will also create many positive effects on the entire ISU community.

The construction activity that you may have seen on the Northwest part of campus between Redbird Arena and Horton Fieldhouse is the installation of a chiller unit that will serve this sector of campus. As I write this article, workers are feverishly repairing the sidewalks to prepare for homecoming festivities. There is also a chiller that has been built on the Southeast corner of campus near Watterson that will serve that part of campus.

As you probably know, the Stevenson-Turner Life Safety Project is underway. Work is being done on the 3rd and 4th floors of Stevenson this year. Stevenson will be completely vacated this summer for more extensive utility work to be done. In the fall, faculty will move back into the top two floors, and work will continue on the 1st and 2nd floors in the 2008-2009 academic year. In the spring of 2008, all CAST faculty and staff in Turner Hall can “look forward” to vacating Turner Hall during the 2009-2010 year for the life safety work that will be done on this building. With the exception of some lab spaces that will reopen in January, 2010, the building will not be used during this academic year.

Finally, if you drive west on Gregory you will observe tennis courts being built almost due north of the motorcycle teaching area. Large berms surround the 12 courts that are supposed to be completed this fall. A detention basin is being constructed on the southeast corner of the area by the drive to the President’s residence. Further west on Gregory, new intramural fields have been created. In the spring a parking lot to serve the tennis courts and intramural fields is scheduled to be constructed between the two areas.

For a full listing of recently completed, active, current, and planned construction projects at ISU, you can visit http://www.facilitiesplanning.ilstu.edu/projects/. A number of these projects directly impact CAST and all of them are designed to enhance ISU. Combined with all the construction projects in “Uptown Normal”, it is indeed a time of great change in our facilities on campus and in our community.

ACL
CAST Research Office

The University Research and Sponsored Programs Office is disseminating funds to each college unit on campus to support what is being called a "Research and Scholarship Development Program." Additionally, the College is contributing some funds. The amount allotted to support one interdisciplinary team research project in CAST is $18,000. This is the third year for this program.

CAST tenure track faculty undertaking innovative research collaborations with others are encouraged to submit a proposal for these funds to Associate Dean Gentry on or before 3:00 p.m. on Friday, November 9th. Interested team members should select one person to formally submit the proposal on everyone's behalf. The team can be composed of members from different departments/schools within the college. While there could be members of the team from outside of CAST, it will be difficult for them to directly benefit from the funds associated with this program.

Program guidelines, directions for composing the proposal, and review criteria were distributed by the College listserv earlier this week. They can also be found at the website http://www.cast.ilstu.edu/facultyresources/research/documents/researchweb.pdf.

Please contact Deborah Gentry by phone or in person to discuss ideas or to seek answers to questions that come up while contemplating this grant opportunity.

DBG

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Dr. Randy Winter coordinated the visit of several Japanese agribusiness representatives to the central Illinois area on October 1. The visitors learned about precision agriculture and its application in farming. They had an opportunity to ride a tractor guided by RTK technology at the University Farm, observe a harvest operation featuring a combine with yield monitoring technology, and visit a fertilizer plant to learn about precision application technology in use in that industry. Russ Dorrango, ISU Farm Manager, and Dr. Dick Steffen assisted with the event.

Dr. Randy Winter will present an update and overview of wind energy at the annual meeting of the Illinois Society of Professional Farm Managers and Rural Appraisers in Champaign, Illinois on October 25. The Illinois Society is the largest state chapter of the American Society of Farm Managers and Rural Appraisers. The President of the Illinois Society is ISU Agriculture alumnus Andy Brosen. The President of the American Society is ISU Agriculture alumnus Ray Brownfield.

Dr. Gary Bachman and The PLANET Landscape Team competed in the 2007 Illinois Landscape Challenge September 29 hosted by Joliet Junior College. The team placed 2nd (beating SIU and UJIUC) amongst ten 2- and 4-year colleges and universities from Illinois with three 1st place (Woody Plant ID, Landscape Cost Estimating, and Paver Installation) and one 3rd place finish (Landscape Sales). This competition is a prelude to the PLANET Student Career Days national competition to be held in Atlanta during March 2008.

Drs. Paul Walker, Tim Kelley, and Rob Rykerd received the State of McLean County, Illinois Government Affairs Municipal “Community First Award” presented by the McLean County Chamber of Commerce on October 4, 2007.

The 2007 Agriculture Career Day was held on September 26th in the Ballroom of the Bone Student Center. Forty-four agricultural and horticultural firms, and 170 agriculture students participated in the activities. This year's Career Day was cosponsored by the Illinois State University Student Chapter of the National Agriculture Marketing Association, the ISU Horticulture Club and Alpha Zela.

Dr. Asilhan D. Spaulding was reappointed to Illinois Farm Bureau Grass Roots Issue Team (GRIT) for Specialty Crops and Labor. Designed to enhance IFB’s existing policy development process, GRITs are comprised of IFB members who have demonstrated leadership or interest in promoting their commodities or issues and who will work on behalf of IFB.

DEPARTMENT OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE SCIENCES

Dr. Jessie Krienert and Jeffrey Walsh presented their research titled, Elder Abuse in America: An Empirical Analysis of Offender, Victim, and Event Characteristics in a National Sample of Reported Incident, at the annual Midwestern Criminal Justice Association conference in Chicago on September 28th.

Dr. Ralph Weisheit also attended the conference and presented his paper titled, Methamphetamine and Children.

Dr. Cara Rabe-Hemp co-authored with Dr. Amie Schuck (University of Illinois at Chicago) on the article titled, "Violence Against Police Officers: Are Female Officers at Greater Risk?". It is to appear in the December 2007 issue of Police Quarterly.

DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCES

Dr. Deborah Gentry was an invited speaker at the 2007 Family and Consumer Sciences Teacher Education Conference held September 21-23 in Indianapolis, Indianapolis. Her talk was entitled “Scholarship of Teaching and Learning in Family and Consumer Sciences Education.”

Dr. Martha Bauman Power, with Dr. Brenda Krause Eheart (Generations of Hope), Dr. David Racine (University of Illinois, Springfield), and Dr. Niranjan S. Kamik (Stanford University) published the peer-reviewed article "Aging Well in an Intergenerational Community: Meaningful Relationships and Purposeful Engagement" in the Journal of Intergenerational Relationships: Programs, Policy, and Research.

Dr. Deborah Gentry was one of four members of an external program review team to conduct a site visit for the Individual and Family Studies Graduate Program at the University of Delaware from September 30 - October 3.
**Department of Health Sciences**

Dr. Frank Waterstraat presented a paper entitled "Utilizing College Campuses for Emergency Medical Surge Response" at the 22N (Gross to Net) Conference in St. Louis, Missouri on September 17th. The conference was attended by CEOs and CFOs of both metropolitan and rural hospitals.

Dr. Chris Grieshaber attended the 51st Annual Meeting of the Human Factors and Ergonomics Society held in Baltimore, Maryland, during October 1-5. At the conference, he presented a peer-reviewed paper titled "Self-ratings of perceived difficulty during obstructed manual hose insertion tasks" in the Applications of Ergonomics session on October 4.

Dr. Marilyn Morrow attended an Illinois Society for Public Health Education (ISOPHE)-sponsored workshop on Needs Assessments and Social Marketing held at the Illinois Department of Public Health Training Center in Springfield on October 5.

Professor Paul Ronczkowski and four Safety majors attended a dinner meeting of the Central Illinois Chapter of the American Society of Safety Engineers, held jointly with the Eastern Illinois Safety Network, on October 9th in Urbana. Roger Witt, Electrical Engineer, State Farm Facilities Management, presented "Conducting an Arc Flash Analysis."

Dr. George Byrns and six students from the Environmental Health and Safety programs attended a presentation on comprehensive exposure assessment sponsored by the Prairie Section of the American Industrial Hygiene Association in Bloomington on September 27th.

Dr. Marilyn Morrow is serving as Continuing Education Chair for the Illinois Society for Public Health Education (ISOPHE). In October and November, continuing education for Certified Health Education Specialists (CHES) will be provided for a large number of public health educators at two regional workshops. The Association for Women in Science, Heart of Illinois Chapter recognized Dr. Lori Woeste for her work with the Women in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) Career Pen Pal Mentor program during the past four years. The recognition ceremony was held on October 5th at the Faculty Commons in the Bone Student Center.

**School of Kinesiology and Recreation**

On Saturday, September 29, Dr. Margo Coleman and students from the Physical Education Teacher Education program participated in the Worldwide Day of Play held at the Children’s Discovery Museum in Normal. She and the students presented activities to children that emphasized the value of play, required little equipment and were developmentally appropriate. Several hundred children came through the museum and participated in the various activities.

Dr. Rodney L. Custer co-edited the book entitled “Analyzing Best Practices in Technology Education” that was recently published by Sense Publishers. Part I of the book consisted of a series of practitioner-developed descriptions of practice from around the world. The second part of the book is comprised of a series of critical essays focused on key issues facing technology education. Dr. Custer’s essay in this section is entitled “Ethics in a Technological World”. The book is patterned after a successful document that focused on best practices in science. Sense Publishers is located in the Netherlands.

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