DEAN’S CORNER

These days my time devoted to recreational reading is somewhat limited, but I recently spent an evening enjoying a book on the advice of a friend. He suggested I read the book “I Dare You” authored by William Danforth, founder of Ralston Purina Company.

The book suggests we don’t use our maximum capacity for productivity, including mental and physical activities. Danforth encourages the reader to step out of their comfort zone and live life large, to one’s maximum potential. The author encourages the reader to imagine the possibilities.

At the beginning of this academic year I challenged each faculty and staff member in the College to give one extra degree of effort this year. Many of you have risen to the challenge and have given an extra degree! For that I am grateful and deeply appreciative. Together we set a high standard for all to aspire.

I want to use this space to venerate the work of three faculty who took my challenge to heart and have given many extra degrees this year. Drs. Randy Winter (AGR), Lori Woeste (HSC), and Winn Mahatanakoon (ITK) each exemplify the outstanding faculty and staff in CAST, each though, for different reasons. Each of these faculty members were recognized during Founder’s Day ceremonies.

Dr. Randy Winter was recognized for his contributions to the Wind Energy team at ISU. Dr. Winter has been instrumental in advancing the notion of several forms of renewable energy and teaches a course in the new major devoted to the same topic. Randy is a highly sought after speaker on the subject of renewable and wind energy. Randy and the Wind Energy team were recognized at Founder’s Day as the recipients of the University Environmental Stewardship Award.

Dr. Lori Woeste was recognized for her contributions to service activities both on and off campus. She has been active as a Chairperson of CAST Council in addition to the CAST Curriculum Committee. Lori is a tireless contributor to the overall service mission of her department, CAST and the entire University. Lori was recognized at Founder’s Day as a recipient of the University Service Initiative Award.

Dr. Winn Mahatanakoon accomplished a feat seldom witnessed at ISU. He was recognized at Founder’s Day as the recipient of both the Teaching and Research Initiative awards. These awards are reserved for a faculty member early in their career who has demonstrated great promise in teaching, scholarship, or service. To be recognized in the same year for two of these awards is indeed a rare accomplishment.

These three faculty members epitomize the concept of “giving an extra degree” and obviously have taken to heart the advice of William Danforth by being daring in their work. Winn, Lori, and Randy have set a high standard for all to aspire and each deserves our admiration for their successes and our gratitude for the notoriety they have brought upon our College.

Please join me in thanking and congratulating them.

JAW

CAST Office

As you endure these days of cold weather, just remember that you are one day closer to spring! With the anticipation of spring, we are all looking forward to warmer weather and outdoor activities that do not involve snow. With that in mind, mark your calendar for the Celebrate CAST Golf Scramble on Friday, May 16, 2008.

The purpose of this event is to celebrate the end of the academic year, socialize with CAST colleagues, alumni, and friends of the college, and to enjoy an affordable golf scramble. For those of you not familiar with a golf scramble, in this format everyone in your group hits and then your group proceeds to the best shot. You continue to follow this format until you get the ball in the hole. Your score is a team score. This means if you hit a poor shot, it usually does not count and you just go pick it up and move to the best positioned shot. It is an enjoyable format that allows golfers of all levels to play and have fun. Even if you are not a golfer, you can help out with the event or just come out and socialize.

Each department and school in CAST has a representative on the Celebrate CAST Golf Scramble committee. Members of this committee this year are:

- AGR – Randy Winter
- CJS – Jeff Walsh
- FCS – Mardell Wilson
- HSC – Paul Ronczkowski
- CAST – Cindy Greskiwcz

Planning is underway for the event this year. It is a wonderful opportunity for departments and schools to invite friends and alumni back to campus. Each academic unit in CAST has different spheres of influence in the community, and this enables us to solicit a wide array of individuals and businesses as sponsors for our event. If you have ideas for sponsors and/or donations that can be used for door prizes, let your representative know. I certainly appreciate these individuals for agreeing to serve on this committee. As planning proceeds, more details will follow about the golf scramble this year. For now, mark it on your calendar – Friday, May 16, 2008 – and plan to participate.

ACL
DO YOU NEED A SECOND LIFE?

As I'm sure is true for most of you, it's all I can do to keep up with my first life. I don't have time for a second life! But, 3D virtual worlds seem to be emerging as the logical extension of traditional 2D World Wide Web spaces. And "Second Life" is arguably, with well over 1 million users, the most well known virtual world. So, is it time to make time for Second Life? I think so.

On March 28th at 2:00 p.m. in Turner 202, Dr. Bo Park, Department of Technology, will be leading a two-hour workshop to explore Second Life, the Internet-based, user-defined virtual world in which people can interact, learn, play, do business, and otherwise communicate. There is a growing interest in higher education, especially among faculty and staff who are interested in on-line and distance learning, in using Second Life as a second classroom, office, or field-trip site. It is also being used as a recruitment tool for perspective students and as a resource site for alumni.

While the possibilities for using Second Life in education are mind boggling, the objective of Dr. Park's workshop is to take the participants to a point where they feel that they could conduct a virtual meeting or office hours in Second Life. To that end, participants will learn the following:

- Basic SL (Second Life) terminology
- How to create and personalize an avatar
- Movement techniques in SL
- How to communicate with other avatars
- How to share files and other objects
- Methods for directing your students and colleagues to your SL location

And hopefully, we can provide you with a list of interesting and educational locations "in-world" for you to explore and be inspired by.

This workshop is being made available to CAST faculty and staff first, but we plan to make it available to others at the University if space allows. I will hold all seats for CAST until March 7th, so if you are interested in attending, be sure to contact me by that date at 438-2104 or kaplant@ilstu.edu. After March 7th, all remaining seats will be available to ISU's Second Life interest group and other ISU faculty and staff.

Kate Plantholt

CAST RESEARCH OFFICE

CONSIDER VOLUNTEERING FOR ONE OR BOTH STUDENT RESEARCH SYMPOSIA

Volunteers are needed to provide feedback to participants at the March 28th Graduate and the April 18th Undergraduate Research Symposia. The symposia will be held from 9-12 at the Bone Student Center. Please volunteer one hour of your time this year. The symposia will be held from 9-12 at the Bone Student Center. Please volunteer one hour of your time. This year all participants will be grouped by department and the feedback forms have been shortened. Please go to http://www.cast.ilstu.edu/downloads/volunteerform08.pdf to volunteer online. If you are unable to submit online, please print and mail to 4040 Graduate School.

SECURING TIME WRITE EXTERNAL GRANT PROPOSALS

There are two means by which CAST faculty can try to secure 25% reassigned time to prepare and submit a significant external grant proposal. One means is to apply to the new Grant Writing Mentorship Program sponsored by the University Research and Sponsored Programs Office. The deadline for applying for Fall 2008 reassigned time for this purpose is May 2nd. The "hot off the presses" guidelines and application form related to this program are posted online at http://www.rsp.ilstu.edu/internal_grant/ or http://www.rsp.ilstu.edu/internal_grant/Mentorship/Mentorship%20Program%20.pdf.

Another means is to apply for the CAST External Grant Development Program. This program has been in place for several years and is primarily aimed at newly tenured faculty, though senior faculty can also apply. The deadline for applying for Fall 2008 reassigned time for this purpose is May 19th. Guidelines can be found at http://www.cast.ilstu.edu/facultyresources/research/documents/External_Grant_Development_Fund_0808.pdf.

NEWS ABOUT INDIRECT COST RATES

As of July 1, 2008 our indirect rate will decrease to 42.5%. All grants awarded on or after that date must use that rate according to our negotiated agreement with HHS.

GRANTS GOV CHANGES

It is important for faculty who are considering submitting an application for a federal grant to contact the Research and Sponsored Programs office as soon as possible in the grant preparation process to discuss their application. There are several issues which have to do with required submission software, and computer operating systems and Vista and MS Office 2007 which could cause your application to be rejected or fail to submit completely. In addition to contacting the RSP office to discuss these issues faculty are encouraged to check the RSP website http://www.rsp.ilstu.edu and the Grants.gov website http://www.grants.gov for updates on the grants.gov submission process.

HIGHER EDUCATION COOPERATION ACT (HECA) OPPORTUNITY


The online application system will be available by February 22nd. These require BOTH an electronic submission through RSP as well as hard copy signature pages. The deadline for BOTH is Monday, March 31st, which means we must mail the signature pages on March 28th. Also, RSP will provide assistance in obtaining the required cooperative signatures if notified early enough.

NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH WEBCAST/PODCAST OPPORTUNITY

The NIH Office of Behavioral and Social Sciences Research invites you to attend "Leap into the Community," a webcast and podcast technical assistance workshop related to the Community-based Participatory Research (CBPR) program.

Community-Based Participatory Research (CBPR) is an applied approach that enables community residents to more actively participate in the full spectrum of research with a goal of influencing change in community health, systems, programs or policies. Researchers partner with the community to develop models and approaches to building communication, trust and capacity, with the final goal of increasing community participation in the research process. This collaborative approach to research equitably involves all partners in the research process and recognizes the unique strengths that each brings.

See the following for more details:

LEAP INTO THE COMMUNITY

Friday, February 29, 2008 10:00 am - 4:30 pm (EST)
National Institutes of Health (NIH) Main Campus
Natcher Conference Center
Building 45, Room E1/E2
Webcast at: http://videocast.nih.gov
Podcast at: http://videocast.nih.gov/podcasting
Department of Agriculture

The Wind Energy Team has been awarded the 2007 Illinois State University Environmental Stewardship Award. This award is coordinated by the University’s Green Team. Recognition of the award was part of Founder’s Day activities on February 14th. The Wind Energy Team was recognized for their development of the new B.S. degree in Renewable Energy and associated educational and outreach programs. Members of the Wind Energy Team are Drs. Randy Winter, AGR, Dave Kennell, TEC, and Dave Loomis, ECO.

Dr. Richard Steffen attended the National Agricultural Education In-service meeting held in Indianapolis from January 31-February 2. Teacher Educators, State Staff, Secondary Teachers, and FFA and Department of Education representatives participated in this joint meeting to review National Ag Education strategic goals, discuss current issues in Agriculture Education and develop plans to address recruitment and retention of Agriculture teachers. Dr. Steffen also attended the Southern Region American Association of Agricultural Educators’ annual meeting in Dallas, Texas from February 2-5 where he attended the Southern Region Ag Education Research Conference. While there he presented a poster entitled “Utilizing A Tablet Computer to Capture Evidence for Performance Based Assessment.”

Department of Family and Consumer Sciences

Drs. Jan Murphy and Mardell Wilson, Provost’s Office, and Dr. Connor Walters, FCS, presented “Professional Accreditations: Costs, Benefits, and Dilemmas” at the Council for Administrators in Family and Consumer Sciences Annual Meeting in San Diego.


Department of Health Sciences

President Bowman provided a lecture to Dr. Chris Grieshaber’s students in HSC 170, Safety and Society, on February 19th. He first touched on campus security issues, and then lectured on safety in extreme environments, illustrating his points with his experiences as a mountain climber.

Lucy Loftus, a senior in Environmental Health, made a presentation on biodiesel research at the Board of Trustees meeting, Friday, February 15th. The research, performed under the direction of Drs. Guang Jin and Tom Bierma, and with the participation of four other Environmental Health students, focused on the use of natural enzymes to convert waste greases into biodiesel. The research has resulted in a publication forthcoming in the Journal of Environmental Science and Health.

Paul Ronczkowski is a member of the OSHA Peoria Area Office “Z” Project Committee, which encourages employers to share innovative ideas in safeguarding employees. He attended a quarterly meeting, held on February 8th.

The student section of the American Society of Safety Engineers (ASSE) held their first meeting of the semester on February 6th. Safety alum Nick Sherrill, ’05, Safety Advisor at Clinton Power Station, was the guest speaker.

Safety faculty members Paul Ronczkowski and Dr. Chris Grieshaber, along with two student ASSE members attended the Central Illinois American Society of Safety Engineers meeting on February 12th. “Project Ignition” was presented by a group of high school students from Gibson City-Melvin High School relating to teen driving.

The Radon Awareness Program in the Department of Health Sciences hosted the annual Radon Networking Day on January 23rd in the BSC Old Main room. Seventy participants from around the state attended to learn more about radon and the ramifications of the new law that took effect on January 1st. Those attending included realtors, code officials, home inspectors, health department personnel and several representatives from the radon division of the Illinois Emergency Management Agency in Springfield. “Radon causes lung cancer - the most common cause of cancer death with the lowest 5 year survival rate - only 14% of lung cancer victims will reach the 5 year survival time. We can impact this cruel disease by encouraging homeowners to test for radon and mitigate if the level is above 4 picoCuries per liter.” states Ruth Ann Lipic, Program Director of the Radon Awareness Project at Illinois State University. Joe Klinger, assistant director of the Illinois Emergency Management Agency, presented the 2007 Illinois Excellence in Radon Award to Gloria Linnertz. Mrs. Linnertz instigated legislative actions with her State representative following the death of her husband, Joe Linnertz, from lung cancer caused by radon in their home. Her persistent actions, hundreds of phone calls and letters resulted in passage of the Radon Disclosure Law.

Paul Ronczkowski and Rod Simmons attended the Central Illinois American Society of Safety Engineers meeting on January 8th at the Red Fire Grill in Bloomington. Julie Hile, president and founder of The Hile Group, presented “Engaging Stakeholders to Transform Safety Culture.”

Drs. George Byrns, Chris Grieshaber, Rod Simmons, along with approximately 15 Safety and Environmental Health students, attended the Prairie Section meeting of the American Industrial Hygiene Association on January 24th at Eastland Suites in Bloomington. Mr. Ron Sands gave a briefing on NIMS (National Incident Management System).

The Health Sciences Department announced the 2007 Outstanding Faculty Awards: Ms. Christy Bazan, Teaching; Dr. Lori Woeste, Scholarship; and Dr. Lori Woeste, Service.

Dr. Lori Woeste received the Service Initiative Award at the Founder’s Day convocation on February 14th.
A team of students from the Department of Technology traveled to Orlando, Florida from February 13 - 17 to compete in the National Association of Home Builders residential construction management competition sponsored by Pulte Homes. The competition was held in conjunction with the 2008 International Builders' Show, which is attended by over 100,000 participants. The team finished in the top 40% of the 30 competing schools and received positive comments from the judges for both their written proposal, prepared at ISU, and oral presentation to a panel of industry experts. The team was lead by senior Dan Battist, returning from 2007, and first time members Adam Hebert, Sydney Hickey, Nate McClintick, Dustin Reynolds, and Alex Sherfy. Dr. Richard Boser was the faculty advisor.

Dr. Steve McCaw attended the mid-year Executive Board meeting of the American Society of Bio-mechanics in Boulder, Colorado on February 1 and 2. He is the Program Chair-elect for the national meeting to be held in August, 2009 at Penn State University. Dr. McCaw also attended the Leadership Conference of the Illinois Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance at Starved Rock Lodge on January 8 and 9. He is the Coordinator of the Grant Review Committee. The 5th edition of Recreation programming: Designing leisure experiences by Drs. J. Robert Rossman and Barbara Schlatter was released by Sagamore Publishing in January 2008.

Dr. Kevin Laudner co-authored an article entitled "Mobility and Stability Adaptations in the Shoulder of the Overhead Athlete: A Theoretical and Evidence-Based Perspective" published in the January edition of Sports Medicine.

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