Dean’s Corner

With this issue, NewsCAST is going totally electronic in its distribution. We are excited about this and hope we do not have too many problems in getting copies to all that have received them in the past.

The last few weeks have been very busy in the College office. Below is a report on several proposals we have initiated—some are completed and others are just underway.

CFSC GUIDELINES for 2001

Everyone has had an opportunity to read and review the first draft of the CFSC Guidelines for 2001. The document, by design, is much different than our previous document. In length alone we have moved from 12 pages to 2. The approval process required for the new CFSC document is also different from the previous approval process. The final product must be accepted by at least one-half of the DFSC’s in the College. Thus, it will truly be a product of the College much more than was the case under previous guidelines.

Numerous faculty members have sent me copies of their feedback to their respective DFSC’s. I appreciate the thoughtfulness given to their feedback. However, some of the positions advocated are mutually exclusive and these will need to be sorted out by the DFSC’s in cooperation with the CFSC.

The credibility of the faculty of a college in the eyes of our colleagues across the university and to peers external to the University is, in part, established by the rigor of review embedded in our personnel documents. Thus, we need to make certain our expectations of each other are sufficiently rigorous to establish credibility with our peers, fair in what they expect us to accomplish given our workload assignments, and clear to all. We will keep you informed as we progress in adopting new CFSC Guidelines for 2001 although as I communicated earlier, we will often be on a short time-line.

EVALUATING TEACHING

An ad hoc committee of faculty members has been appointed to examine how we evaluate teaching in the college. The committee is carrying on work begun last year by the CFSC. This effort was encouraged by the CAST Council and the DFSC’s in the College. A primary goal of the committee is to identify what the current research into the student evaluation of teaching tells us about the items that may be included on such instruments. The instruments currently used by departments in the College vary widely in their quality and currency. Furthermore, how the data generated with the instruments is summarized and analyzed also varies widely. Dr. Jeff Wood, Dr. Frank Morn, Dr. Tom Bierma, Dr. Joaquin Vila, Dr. Mardell Wilson, Dr. Ryan Brown, and Dr. Steve McCaw have all agreed to serve on this committee.

OPENING THE RAPPELLING TOWER

Many of you saw a picture of me rappelling to officially open the University’s Rappelling Tower. It is ironic that this attracted more attention and questions than any other endeavor since my arrival. Here are the answers to the two most frequent questions. Was I afraid? No. One has no business doing this if they are afraid. Had I done it before? Well, yes. The week before the opening ceremony, Major Wesley White, an expert rappeller and a faculty member in our Department of Military Science, spent an hour with me training me to rappel. He is a very good instructor and brought my skill level to a point that I had confidence I could do it in this short time. At the opening day ceremony Major White wore his combat boots. Wayne Lockwood told me that these were to be used in case I became reluctant at the last minute. I don’t think Major White intended for me to wear them!
The tower is now open and available for use by the Department of Military Science and Campus Recreation.

A FOCUS ON TECHNOLOGY

On this campus, faculty members in the college are certainly leaders in developing and using technology. We not only use technology to teach; we also teach technology. The preparation of a technologically competent workforce to serve employers in the State is currently a central issue for the Illinois Board of Higher Education. Of course, this is what we in CAST currently do and have done for years. However, because of the pressure from the IBHE I believe we will see additional initiatives from across campus to develop programs that prepare students with high tech skills and abilities. The College has initiated several activities related to this and is participating in others initiated by the Provost.

Provost Goldfarb asked Dean Mills and me to appoint faculty committees to address several concerns he has regarding the preparation of information technology workers. Dean Mills and I have appointed a joint committee from the College of Business and the Department of Applied Computer Science to investigate the possibility of designing a common core of classes that could be offered as the base offerings of discipline based computing programs that may be developed. Dr. Carol Chrisman, Dr. Mary Elaine Califf, and Dr. Kent Walstrom were appointed from CAST to this joint committee. The committee will also examine other ways the two units could cooperate.

In addition, the Provost asked that I appoint a committee from the Department of Applied Computer Science to advise him on the technological competencies that all undergraduates at ISU should possess. Dr. Barbara Becque, Dr. Tom Schambach, Dr. Robert Rariden, Dr. Billy Lim, and Dr. Jim Coliz have all agreed to serve on this committee.

The College is assuming a leadership role to organize a University-wide Faculty of Technology. This will be a loosely organized group of faculty that cuts across departments, disciplines, and colleges. It will be an assembly of faculty members who are interested in discussing issues of technology. It is envisioned that the group will meet once per semester. At the first meeting we plan to have a round-table discussion regarding “What should be the attributes of a technologically competent baccalaureate graduate from ISU?” This will be an open forum discussion. Provost Goldfarb has agreed to preside at this first meeting. All faculty members from across the University will be invited to join in this discussion. The first meeting will be at 3:00 p.m. on December 7, 1999 in the Old Union Room in the Bone Student Center. You will receive additional information about this but I hope you will mark this time on your calendar now and plan to join us.

Finally, the College has submitted a proposal for the Campus Theme Celebration for 2000-2001 academic year. We have requested that the theme be a Celebration of Technology. Other proposals were submitted as well and we are waiting for a decision about this. If it is accepted, it will offer us, and others around campus, an exciting opportunity to showcase our technology programs, technology research, and technological capabilities to the campus and local communities.

Happy Fall Break Day. More later……. JRR

CAST Research Office

The Undergraduate Research Symposium for this academic year is scheduled for Thursday, March 30, 2000. Because that date falls just after mid-semester and spring break, it may be difficult to design learning activities within spring courses which can culminate in work that is ready for presentation at the symposium. Thus, it may be better to think about those research-related learning activities that are being undertaken by students this semester. Faculty should encourage students who complete high quality work this semester to save such work for presentation at the symposium next semester.

This year’s Graduate Research Symposium is scheduled for Friday, April 28, 2000. Though this date is later in the semester than the
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Undergraduate Research Symposium, making it more likely that students will complete work during the spring semester that can be shown on that date, it still is a good idea to keep this event in mind as you evaluate work done by graduate students this fall semester. Encourage students with high quality research projects to save their work to enter in the symposium. If you have not received publicity information and entry forms for these two events, contact your department chair, the CAST Research Office, or the Graduate School Office.

Also, encourage undergraduate and graduate students who have completed exemplary work to consider presenting their research at off-campus conferences. The Graduate School/University Research Office, CAST Research Office, and some CAST departments can provide matching funds to support student travel to conferences for purposes of presenting their work. Students, with the assistance of faculty advisors/mentors, can apply for these funds.

Agriculture

Dr. Randy Winter attended the annual meeting of the American Association of State Colleges of Agriculture and Renewable Resources (AASCARR) in Nashville, Tennessee, October 2-5. At the meeting, he was co-presenter of a session concerning "Future Faculty Roles Using the California, Texas and Illinois Models." Dr. Winter also completed a three-year term as secretary and newsletter editor for the organization.

The 1999 Agriculture Career Day (ACD) attracted 22 companies on Wednesday, October 6. Nancy Watson's Quantity Foods class prepared the noon meal for and Kerry Tudor (Advisor) and the Alpha Zeta Chapter arranged breakfast treats for the company representatives. Organized by Patrick D. O'Rourke, ACD is an annual event for the Department. ACD supports the Department's efforts to assist graduates in beginning their professional careers. About 180 employers will also receive a copy of the Senior Resume Book following ACD.

Miguel Gómez attended the session of The Commission on 21st Century Production Agriculture held in Chicago, September 20-21.

Applied Computer Sciences

Bill Yurcik, new Assistant Professor in ACS, will present a paper entitled "Survivable ATM Group Communications Using Disjoint Meshes, Trees, and Rings" at the First International Workshop on Networked Group Communication in Pisa, Italy, November 17-20. The paper was accepted after rigorous peer review. This workshop is the first and only international event in this area. If anyone would like to browse the conference, the web URL is: http://www.iet.unipi.it/~luigi/ngc99/


Dr. Carol Chrisman was elected co-chair of the Computer Science Panel of the Illinois Articulation Initiative at the Computer Science panel meeting September 17. This panel has two co-chairs, one from a 4-year school and the other from a community college. The panel's recommendations for computing majors completing their first 2 years at a community college and planning to transfer to a 4-year school can be found at www.iTransfer.org.

Criminal Justice Sciences

David N. Falcone recently had his article: "The Illinois State Police as an Archetypal Model" published in Police Quarterly. Police Quarterly is the official publication of the Police Executive Research Forum, based in Washington, DC. Dr. Falcone also presented a paper entitled: "The Evolution of State-Level Policing in the United States," at the annual meeting of the
Midwestern Criminal Justice Association held in Chicago on October 8.

**Mark Fleisher** was invited to join a national panel for a discussion of *Girls, Gangs, and Violence* on MSNBC, the cable channel designation of NBC-TV, on September 23. Dr. Fleisher discussed girls and gangs based on his book, *Dead End Kids*. Dr. Fleisher also gave a keynote address on delinquency and gangs, and conducted a three-hour extended training workshop on female delinquency, at the annual conference of the Minnesota Correctional Association, September 30, 1999.

On September 28, **Thomas Ellsworth** delivered a Brown Bag Research Presentation, titled, "*School Crime and Violence*" to a group of faculty and students. This was the first in a series of presentations sponsored by Alpha Phi Sigma, the National Criminal Justice Honor Society.

The CJS department entered a float entitled "Cage the Panthers" in the ISU Homecoming parade. Faculty, staff, and students were involved in making it a success. The department also held an alumni gathering in a tent north of the football field that same day. Due to the success of our departmental homecoming festivities, we hope to make this an annual homecoming tradition.

**Diana Peterson** attended the Government College Relations Council on October 1 in Chicago. The mission of the GCRC is to foster communication and cooperation between universities and governmental communities. She was also invited to be a steering committee member with the GCRC.

### Health, Physical Education & Recreation

The annual fall Physical Education Advisory Council meeting was held on campus September 30, where approximately 20 members interacted with students and faculty, met with classes and provided expertise within the areas of Athletic Training, Exercise Science & Fitness and Teacher Education. Council members are from Illinois and surrounding states and return to campus two times per year.

Dr. Mike Torry from the Steadman-Hawkins Sports Medicine Foundation in Vail, Colorado was on campus October 1 and 2 as the Outstanding Alumnus of the Department of Health, Physical Education and Recreation. Dr. Torry received his B.S. in Athletic Training in 1989 and his M.S. in biomechanics in 1992 from Illinois State and his Ph.D. from SIU in 1995. While on campus, Dr. Torry presented in two classes on the biomechanics of injury. Guests from the university community, local orthopedic surgeons and their staff attended a reception hosted by the Department and Dr. Torry's lecture entitled, “Biomechanics 2000: Helping Physicians Make Clinical Decisions.” Dr. Torry was the 1999 winner of the Outstanding Clinical Biomechanics Award from the International Society of Biomechanics. In his position as Director of Lower Extremity and Clinical Biomechanics, Dr. Torry has accepted interns from ISU to work in both the research and clinical settings of the Foundation.

An Exercise Physiology Lab Open House and Reception was held on September 30 to showcase the newly renovated lab and newly purchased lab equipment. Past faculty members, Dr. Robert Liverman and Myrna Stephens, were recognized for their contributions to the Exercise Science and Fitness sequence and were presented with a plaque that will be displayed in the lab. **Dr. Dale Brown**, lab director, L.I.F.E. club officers and other faculty were present to explain the equipment and lab functions to the guests. The Advisory Council members were also recognized at this time.

A Homecoming Tailgate on Saturday, October 1, was organized for alumni, emeriti and current faculty and students in the Ropp parking lot prior to the ISU football game. A good time was had by all, regardless of the weather, with charbroiled hot dogs served up by **Dr. Alan Lacy**, new HPER chair. The Athletic Training Club won the contest (the student club with the most members
The seventh annual fall Physical Education Scholar Lecture Series is scheduled for October 19-21, with motor development specialist, Dr. Jane Clark, University of Maryland. A reception and dinner will be held at Jumer's Chateau on Tuesday, October 19. Dr. Clark will present lectures in two classes each day, and interact with students and faculty throughout the week. She will present a lecture on Wednesday, October 20 at 7:30 p.m. in the Old Main Room, BSC. The lecture is free and open to the public, with a reception following in the Founder's Suite.

In September, Dr. Barbara Schlatter was an invited speaker at the Nebraska Recreation and Park Educational Institute in South Sioux City, Nebraska. She presented "Designing programs for optimal experiences" and "Time management strategies."


Dr. Steve McCaw was elected to the Executive Committee of the Biomechanics Interest Group of the American College of Sports Medicine at their annual meeting in Seattle. The Executive Committee is responsible for planning all biomechanics symposia and colloquia at the annual meeting. At the same meeting, Dr. McCaw presented on the topic of "Mechanical basis of ankle bracing" in the symposium "Prophylactic ankle bracing: Neuromuscular and mechanical mechanisms underlying effective design". Undergraduate student Vicki Pittenger presented the paper, "Ground reaction forces in one and two leg rope skipping," which was co-authored by Dr. McCaw and Dr. Dave Thomas.

Former graduate student Jim Cerullo, now a doctoral candidate at the University of Pittsburgh, co-authored with Dr. Steve McCaw the paper "Prophylactic ankle stabilizers affect ankle joint kinematics during drop landings." The paper was published in Medicine and Science in Sports and Exercise, the official journal of the American College of Sports Medicine.

Health Sciences

Jane Turley facilitated the Quarterly Coding Roundtable at St. Mary's Hospital in Decatur, September 23. Topics included coding for vascular procedures and coronary artery disease, HCFA's Payment Error Prevention Program, and admission criteria for observation patients.

Dr. Tom Bierma presented a paper, co-authored with Frank Waterstraat, entitled "Innovative Supply Programs that Promote Pollution Prevention." The paper was presented at the National Railroad Environmental Conference in Urbana, Illinois on September 28.

Paul Ronczkowski and Dr. George Byrns attended the first meeting of the year for the American Industrial Hygiene Association, Prairie Section. The speaker for the dinner meeting was Dr. Tom Bierma from Health Sciences. Tom presented information on the new Masters of Environmental Health and Safety as well as discussing innovative chemical supply management based on his book "Chemical Management, Reducing Waste and Cost Through Innovative Chemical Supply Strategies."

Industrial Technology

Dr. Ken Stier, Society of Manufacturing Engineers (SME) Faculty Advisor, and four student officers (Todd Eichorst, Travis Knox, Dan Sammons, and Shane Tredup) attended the SME Region 10 Chapter Officers Conference on October 1-3 in Branson, Missouri. The conference focused on preparing newly elected officers for their role in the professional and student
chapters. Workshops are provided on communication, leadership and management skills.

Different competitions are available to students who attend the conference. Dan Sammons won first place in the job interview competition at the conference by presenting a job description and his resume in a mock interview conducted by two senior chapter members from industry. He was evaluated on the quality of his job description and resume, appearance, attitude, presentation skills, and experience related to the job described.

Military Science

Dean Rossman put his best foot forward for students recently by taking a calculated leap off the University’s 60-foot rappel tower. On Thursday, 30 September, Dean Rossman and Cadet Battalion Commander (ISU Senior/Criminal Justice major) Phil Thompson officiated at the opening of the University’s new rappel tower north of Horton Field House.

Cadet Thompson opened the ceremony by recognizing attending VIP’s – Dr. Al Goldfarb, Dr. Susan Kern, and Ms. Jude Boyer. He then acknowledged the assistance of Dean Rossman and CAST in having the tower constructed and for their support of the ISU ROTC program.

Before descending the tower, Dean Rossman congratulated ROTC students for getting involved in the ROTC experience. He then emphasized that leadership and confidence-building exercises, such as rappelling, are critical in preparing students for future success. Dean Rossman also thanked several others who assisted with funding and tower construction.

Without question, the highlight of the morning’s event was Dean Rossman’s rappel off the open face of the tower. Under the direction of Major Wes White, the ROTC training officer, Dean Rossman snapped a 120 foot rope onto the Swiss seat, slowly backed up to the edge of the tower, and suddenly leaped off the edge. Within a few seconds he was safely on the ground having set a superb example for the 60 ROTC cadets who greeted his performance with applause and praise. All cadets then followed Dean Rossman’s lead by rappelling.

ROTC students learn rappelling as part of the weekly Thursday morning leadership lab (Military Science 200). Other scheduled events for this course includes the leader reaction course, the one-rope bridge, first aid, and weapons familiarization. For more information, contact Major Wes White at 438-2676 or Captain Steve Harraghy (enrollment officer) at 438-2856.

Important Dates

October 22 - Deadline for next NewsCAST items

October 22 - Deadline for CAST Outstanding Researcher Award

October 29 - Deadline for submitting URG proposals To the CAST Research Office

CAST Office Notes

There was a typographical error on the CAST Directory (green, 10-page listing) that was sent out to everyone last month. Please make a note that the CAST Office’s fax number is: 438-5037. It was listed incorrectly.

JDR