In the last issue, I began writing about the CAST Family Comprehensive Campaign initiatives. The Science and Technology Lecture Endowment fund will enable us to continue the excellence of our first two Science and Technology Weeks.

After this year’s program, we will have brought to campus two keynote speakers who have helped us showcase programs in the College to the wider University campus and the McLean County community. In addition, we have been able to use our alumni and friends to round out the week’s program of lectures focused on issues in science and technology.

High profile keynote speakers bring unique attention to the week that cannot be achieved with other alternatives. Bill Nye the Science Guy’s appearance was discussed throughout the community for several weeks after he was here. We were worried that we would not be able to achieve the same impact again, but at this point we seem to be exceeding last year’s exposure with the appearance of Dr. Sally Ride, America’s First Woman in Space.

On April 23, 2002, Dr. Ride will be speaking at an invitation only luncheon for McLean County high school students about her rise through the male dominated NASA. The luncheon on Women in Science and Technology will feature her speech "Reach for the Stars." All of our tenure track female faculty members have been invited to host a table of students to help showcase women in science and technology careers. We think this is an important recruitment activity for the College in addition to showcasing our programs.

Sally Ride will also deliver the keynote address for the week, "Leadership and America’s Future in Space," at 7:30 p.m. in Braden Auditorium. The lecture is open to the public. We will again be providing College faculty and staff an opportunity to submit questions to her and to also obtain priority seating for the program. Details about these opportunities will appear in a future NewsCAST.

These individuals are expensive to bring to campus. We have enjoyed financial help from several on-and-off campus sponsors who have enabled us to operate our first two programs. To insure the continuation of high caliber programs, we need a more reliable source of funds that could be provided by the Science and Technology Endowment that we have established. It now needs patrons who share this vision and commitment to help fund it.

More later…

JRR

CAST RESEARCH OFFICE

Outcome Assessment Panel Study: 2000 graduates from CAST have lots to say

In the spring of 2000, nearly 90 students who were about to graduate with undergraduate degrees from the College of Applied Science and Technology programs of study agreed to participate in a longitudinal panel study to assess various outcomes of their academic preparation. These students were asked to complete an on-line survey in early June, 2001. In addition to completing this survey at the one-year post-graduation mark, they will also be asked to complete a similar survey on the three-year and five-year anniversaries of their graduation. What follows below are highlights from the results of the survey conducted last June.

• Seventy-five percent of the panelists were employed in the field, or a related field, they prepared for while studying at Illinois State University. Of those who were not employed in their field of study, six attended graduate school full-time; six found the salaries in the field too low; one was no longer interested in the field; one perceived she/he was ill-prepared to proceed in the field; one did not desire to relocate in order to find a position in the field; three were not seeking such employment; and four indicated hiring freezes had presented a barrier to them.

• Forty-nine percent had been hired in their first professional position at the time they graduated; 88 percent had such a position within three months of graduating; and 97 percent had such a position within six months of graduating. Sixty-four percent are still employed in this first position.

• Among the position titles held by these panelists were consultant, logistic coordinator, sales assistant, design engineer, medical technologist, soil conservationist, teacher, technical analyst, Web developer, farm manager, systems analyst, junior programmer, rehabilitation technician, district manager, personal trainer, fitness trainer, compliance officer, underwriter, interior designer, nutrition technician, director of animal health, print service coordinator, and marketing manager and accountant.

• Ninety-four percent perceived they are as well prepared, or even better prepared, than colleagues of their same status who graduated from other institutions of higher education.
• Seventy-five and 62 percent, respectively, attributed their current sense of on-the-job competence to knowledge and skills learned in courses within their major or to knowledge and skills they learned at Illinois State related to critical thinking.

• Fifty-nine percent have advanced their careers by taking advanced training, and 25 percent have engaged in graduate coursework.

• Twenty-five percent have already sought a promotion during this first year of employment. Of those who have taken this step, most attributed their success in eventually receiving such a promotion to their performance on the job.

• Fifty-nine percent have received up to two pay raises in their first year of post graduation employment.

• Fifty-two percent reported earning up to $29,000 a year, while 23 percent earn $30,000 to 39,000 a year, 13 percent earn $40,000 to 49,000 a year, and 12 percent earn more than $50,000 a year.

• Seventy-nine percent perceived the academic preparation they received from courses in their major has been highly, to extremely valuable to them, both professionally and personally.

Panelists graduating in May, 2001, have been identified. They will be contacted several months from now, in mid-May or early June, and asked to complete the same on-line survey. Likewise, a new cohort of panelists graduating in May, 2002, will sign on as participants in this study. As data accumulates, comparisons within and between cohorts will be made.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE SCIENCES

Dr. Deborah Linnell and Michael Kocet have published an article entitled, “Ethical Awareness for Training counselors and counselor Educators,” in the February issue of Counseling Today.


FAMILY & CONSUMER SCIENCES

Family and Consumer Sciences would like to welcome the following new part-time faculty to the department:

Tim Bayley, Interior Construction and Building Systems

Vickie Beals, Interior Construction and Building Systems and Environmental Lighting Design

Rose Harms, Apparel Product Development I

Kim Smith, Interior Design I

Dr. Nweze Nnakwe published an article entitled, ”Medication and Dietary Practices of Independent Living Healthy African-American Older Persons,” in the Journal of Nutrition for the Elderly, Vol 21, Number pp 139-59

HEALTH SCIENCES


Dr. George Byrns and Dr. Paul Ronczkowski attended the American Industrial Hygiene Association, Prairie Section meeting, January 24. Aaron Trippler, Director of Governmental Affairs, AIHA National, spoke about legislative affairs that may affect rules on worker health and safety. Mr. Trippler spoke with environmental health and safety majors earlier in the day on the legislative process and how AIHA influences laws and rule making in Congress, in state legislatures, and at federal agencies, like OSHA.

Dr. Harvey Thomas made two presentations at the Leadership Conference for Naval Hospital, Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, on "Bioterrorism," and "Web-Based Competency Training." This is the web site that he developed for his military command. He also led two breakout sessions to incorporate new design features in the web-based competency training.

Frank Waterstraat, delegate for the Illinois Health Information Management Association, attended the quarterly board meeting in Chicago, January 10-11.

The following HSC faculty were departmental award winners for the past year.

Teaching Paulette Miller Health Information Management

Scholarship Mark Temple Health Education

Service Frank Waterstraat Health Information Management

These three faculty will be honored at Health Sciences end of year luncheon.
KINESIOLOGY AND RECREATION

The Recreation and Park Administration program has been busy in the past month. At the Illinois Parks and Recreation Conference held in Chicago, Jan 24-27, numerous honors were accrued. Holli Rapp, RPA student in program management, received a student scholarship; Mary Maroun, RPA student in commercial recreation and program management sequences, was elected President of IPRA Student Section. Tina Clough, RPA student in program management, was elected as secretary of the IPRA student section. Sandy Blondin and Dustin Weeks, both Therapeutic Recreation Students, have been appointed to represent Illinois State University on IPRA boards. Fifteen students took part in the conference attending educational sessions, networking with professionals, and interviewing for internships.

On Wednesday, February 6, the Parks and Recreation Student Society, the Recreation Alumni Society, and the School of Kinesiology and Recreation held a summer job/internship fair at the Bone Student Center. Over 200 students attended the event. They had the opportunity to visit with over 25 park, recreation, and leisure service agencies.

Nancy J. Niebur, RPA professional practice coordinator, presented at the Illinois Campground Association conference on Tuesday, February 19, held in Normal. She spoke about Designing Internships to Meet University and Agency Expectations, and Games and Activities for Campgrounds.

TECHNOLOGY

Drs. Richard Boser, Hank Campbell, and Ed Francis attended the National Association of Home Builders International Builders Show in Atlanta, Georgia, Feb. 7-10. Also attending were six ISU Construction Management students who participated in a residential development competition. Students analyzed a potential development and produced a 60-page project feasibility study, the results of which were presented to a panel of housing experts. In addition, Dr. Boser is serving a one-year term as Chairperson of the National Association of Home Builders Student Chapters Advisory Board. The Board’s annual meeting is held in conjunction with the Builder Show.

Dr. Anu A. Gokhale has been elected Secretary of the Central Illinois section of IEEE (Institute for Electrical and Electronics Engineers). This is a two-year term.

Dr. Klaus Schmidt had a refereed article published in the Journal of Industrial Technology entitled, "The Web-Enhanced Classroom" (Volume 18-2, February 2002). It is available online at www.nait.org. The paper addresses four fundamental components of successful web teaching: administration, assessment, content, and community. The paper also discusses web-tools that can be used to meet the technical requirements for each of these four components.

Dr. Louis Reifschneider published a peer-reviewed article in the Journal of Injection Molding Technology in December, titled "Documenting and simulating flow imbalances in geometrically balanced runners."

The Illinois Occupational Skill Standards published the "Plastics Molding Cluster Skills Standard," developed by Dr. Louis Reifschneider, in December. The document outlines occupational training skills needed by technicians working in the plastics molding industry.

IMPORTANT DATES

**February 21** Deadline for Academic Senate candidate names—due in CAST office, Turner 143 by 4 p.m.

**February 21** Academic Senate nominations by petition. Candidates may be nominated by petition. Each petition must carry the signatures of at least 20 percent of the electorate of their respective department. Qualified petitions must be presented to the College Elections Committee, Turner 143, by 4 p.m.

**February 25** Deadline to secure absentee ballot for Academic Senate election—may be picked up at Turner Hall 143

**February 25** Registration deadline for Undergraduate Research Symposium to be held April 5.

**February 27** Academic Senate Election takes place.

**March 1** Academic Senate Election results announced by CAST Election Committee by 4 p.m.

**March 1** All CAST awards forms due in the Dean’s Office.

- Larry R Miller Scholarship
- CAST Associate’s Award
- Alumni Association’s CAST Recruitment Award
- Alumni Association’s CAST Retention Award

**March 1** Deadline for CAST Outstanding Undergraduate Student Research Award applications.

**March 11-15** Spring break
March 22  Registration deadline for Graduate Research Symposium to be held April 26.

March 29  Deadline for CAST Presentation Travel Program applications.

April 5  Undergraduate Research Symposium.

April 8 & 9  Workshops on Scholarly Writing Publication.

April 22-26  CAST sponsored “Science & Technology Week.”

April 26  Graduate Research Symposium.

May 14-17  Tentative dates for University-wide Grant Writing Workshop sponsored by the Research and Sponsored Projects Office.

May 11-12  ISU Spring 2002 Commencement.  
http://www.commencement.ilstu.edu/schedule.shtml

May 11:  CAST Commencement in Redbird Arena at 9:00 a.m.  Reception at 10:30 a.m. in Linkins Dining Center