Because of my travel schedule this week and last week, I was unable to fully develop a Dean’s Corner for this issue of the NewsCAST. However, I did wish to thank the faculty for responding to the Collegiate Reorganization Survey. Although some differences of opinion surfaced, I appreciate your interest and willingness to participate in dialogue on the reorganization. Your CAST Senators will continue to monitor and keep you informed as these discussions progress to completion.

I have asked Associate Dean Wayne Lockwood to share with you the benefits of participating in the trip to China this Summer -- information follows below.

More later…

JRR

Have you ever been curious about what it would be like to stand on the Great Wall, walk in Tianenmein Square, face off with a Giant Panda, tour the Great Hall of the People, wander through the “Forbidden City,” visit the top Universities in China, attend a variety of cultural events – including the Beijing Opera, travel the length and breadth of the country (at least a good portion of it…hey folks, it is as big as the U.S.A.), see the ancient and the modern, visit schools and industries, and finish it off with a visit to Hong Kong? A number of us in CAST have been there, (more than once), done that (and more), and want to go back! Now is your chance – so don’t miss it.

The Dean has asked that I communicate with you regarding the CAST China Trip. Let me start by saying it is a life changing experience for anyone who has not been to China. It is certainly worth your consideration, particularly if you are a younger faculty member and will be able to capitalize on its impact for a substantial portion of your teaching and scholarly career. The format for this exchange will be altered after this year. It will be organized by themes, not colleges. So this may be the last opportunity for you to participate in a group that is composed primarily of CAST Faculty.

The trip will start shortly after Mothers Day, 2002. It will last about 3 weeks, with 18 days in China and a few days in Hong Kong, and will include a number of major cultural, industrial, and educational sites in China. We are very fortunate to have Frank Morn (CJS) leading the trip. Frank is a past Fulbright scholar, has been to China twice (once for 6 months), and will lead a seminar series to prepare participants for the trip. The cost will be $3,700. The Dean’s Office will pay over 1/3 of the costs for faculty who can show a relationship between the trip and their area of instruction or scholarship. This year, four honors students will be included, so space is limited. For information and an application, contact Frank (8-7853) or stop by the CAST Office. Also, talk to your colleagues who have been on this trip. They will convince you that this is an opportunity that should not be missed!

CAST On The Move

As the Campus Master Plan for the next decade and beyond takes shape, it is a good time to reflect on the direction CAST facilities are heading. First, within a year, final work on Felmley Hall should be concluded. The Department of Health Sciences will then have completely renovated offices and laboratories. As that project wraps up, Criminal Justice Sciences will relocate for 18 to 24 months while the first phase of the Schroeder Hall renovation is completed. In preparation for this, we are attempting to get funding to start remodeling the Ropp Building. If we are successful, the Agriculture Department would move into a new office complex in Ropp and CJS would temporarily occupy the space that Agriculture vacates in Turner Hall. CJS would then move back into a completely renovated space in Schroeder.

Funding has been requested for replacing the mechanical systems in Turner Hall and Stevenson Hall. Each of these will be a major remodeling project. It appears that these will come up for funding about the time that the Schroeder Hall renovation is completed. In preparation for this, we are attempting to get funding to start remodeling the Ropp Building. If we are successful, the Agriculture Department would move into a new office complex in Ropp and CJS would temporarily occupy the space that Agriculture vacates in Turner Hall. CJS would then move back into a completely renovated space in Schroeder.

WNL
Solutions for the School of Kinesiology and Recreation facilities are a bit more difficult to achieve. Two factors seem to be working in their favor. First, the emerging Campus Master Plan calls for the razing of McCormick Hall at some point in the future. While there is a great deal of sentimental attachment to McCormick, it cannot be architecturally reconfigured to become an efficient, functional office and/or instructional space. With the completion of the Business Building, McCormick sits on the only remaining space for future development on the Quad. Second, studies indicate that Illinois State has only a fraction of the recreational space needed per student. The new Campus Master Plan calls for a recreation center that would redress this problem. Student leaders are already thinking about a referendum to pay for this facility. Should this occur, KNR would need to be housed in or near this facility. The KNR portion of the facility would have to come from capital development funds – and might bump down some of the other projects already on the list, i.e., Turner Hall. However, it would pave the way for the unifying of KNR in a single location.

Applied Computer Science moved into the Old Union Building from Stevenson Hall several years ago. This past year, we were able to expand the number of offices in Old Union and also obtain much of what was the TV studio complex. Temporary renovations were made to address critical shortages in ACS classroom and laboratory space. The next step is to employ an architect to design permanent space arrangements for this area. Funding for construction is being sought.

Military Science was able to solve a long-standing storage problem. MSC is located in the ROTC Building, while its supplies are stored in the basement of Stevenson Hall. This past year, we were able to upgrade the basement for use as storage. Now, most of the items stored in the basement of Stevenson Hall have been moved to new area.

No discussion of space in CAST would be complete without mentioning the Farm(s). Progress on the Lexington Farm progresses. The move of livestock from the Gregory Street Farm will not occur until spring, or later. A great deal of concrete remains to be poured, utilities to be connected and other details taken care of ahead of final occupancy. It should be noted that the Campus Master Plan does not indicate what uses are to be made of the Gregory Street Farm land. Early in the process, a number ideas were put forward that, “upon further review,” were withdrawn. Plans are taking shape to use part of the land and some of the existing buildings for a temporary Horticulture Center. The Agriculture Department will continue to farm the land, maintain the Aquaculture Research Center, maintain the crops of the world plot, and work with the town of Normal on recycling.

When all of these projects are completed, it will be time to start over again … probably with Felmley.

CAST RESEARCH OFFICE

New Faculty Research Interests

As mentioned in a previous issue, the College Research Office would like to introduce readers to the faculty members that are new to the college and campus. Information about the research interests of two such persons follows below. Welcome, Rob Rhykerd and Amy Hurd!!

Dr. Rob Rhykerd, new assistant professor of Soil Science in the Department of Agriculture comes to CAST from Tarleton State University in Stephenville, Texas, where he served for two years as an assistant professor. While at Tarleton, he conducted research using plants to enhance remediation of soil contaminated with crude oil and collaborated with a scientist in Papua New Guinea exploring using various agricultural waste products as mulches to improve soil fertility and sweet potato yields. Additionally, he collaborated with the departments of Agricultural Engineering, Civil Engineering, and Horticulture at Texas A&M University where he had previously served as a postdoctoral research associate while studying phytoremediation of soils contaminated with PCBs, PAHs, and TNT.

During Dr. Rhykerd’s doctoral work, also completed at Texas A&M University, he studied bioremediation of soils contaminated with crude oil, which was in part funded by ARCO where he researched methods to enhance bioremediation of terrestrial oil spills. During his MS degree at Purdue University, he researched sorption and degradation of the herbicide atrazine as influenced by depth in a soil profile and under conventional-tillage and no-tillage. Utilizing his background in agronomy, he has also developed an expert system designed to manage alfalfa production in the Midwest. Rhykerd plans to continue researching the fate of organic contaminants in soil and method to enhance soil remediation at ISU. Rhykerd and his ISU mentor, Dr. Ken Smiciklas, have already received funding to study phytoremediation of crude oil contaminated soils using non-transgenic plants. He is interested in serving as a team member in multidisciplinary research projects where he can apply his expertise in soil science. He can be reached at 8-8550 or by e-mail at rhyker@ilstu.edu. Listed below are selected refereed publications that illustrate his research interests.


**Proceedings**


**Dr. Amy Hurd**, new faculty member in the School of Kinesiology and Recreation, summarizes her research interests in this way: Analyzing management practices and organizational structures in public parks and recreation organizations. As one learns of her dissertation and thesis topics, this focus is evident. The title of her dissertation is “An analysis of perceived competencies for chief executive officers in public parks and recreation agencies”, while the title of her thesis is “The influence of management styles upon the use of extrinsic and intrinsic rewards in selected public parks and recreation agencies.” Both of these studies were completed at Indiana University. While attending to these research efforts, she also gained experience at collecting and compiling data for the Annual Information Exchange project sponsored by the National Association of State Park Directors.

Dr. Hurd has been affiliated with the Champaign [Illinois] Park District, serving most recently as Marketing Director and, before taking on that role, serving as Special Events/Public Information Coordinator. She has also maintained a leadership role in carrying out several Gus Macker 3-on-3 Basketball Tournaments. The American Park and Recreation Society (APRS) has benefited from her service and leadership as well. Dr. Hurd has been a member of the board of directors, various tasks forces, and assorted committees within this professional organization. As a result, she has helped author or develop a strategic plan, recruitment video, policy manual, and marketing plan.

Those who may envision ways they could collaborate with Dr. Hurd can contact her at arhurd@ilstu.edu or 438-5557. Her office is in McCormick Hall, Room 213. To become further acquainted with her teaching foci, readers may also visit her course web pages at http://www.cast.ilstu.edu/hurd. As further illustration of her research interests, readers are encouraged to consult these refereed publications:


**Undergraduate and Graduate Student Research Symposiums**

The Undergraduate Research Symposium for this academic year is scheduled for Friday, April 5, 2002. This date is later than that for more recently held symposia. Such timing may allow faculty members to design learning activities within spring courses that can culminate in work that is ready for presentation at the symposium. However, 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.

The Graduate Research Symposium is scheduled for Friday, April 26, 2002. This date is similar to the one set for last year’s symposium for graduate student participants. Encourage students with high quality research projects completed this semester to save their work to enter in the symposium. However, students may find the late April date set for this event will allow them to feature thesis or dissertation research that will culminate in April or May. If you have not received publicity and entry forms for these two events, contact your department chair, the CAST Research Office, or the Graduate School Office. Entry forms and other helpful information can be found on the following website: [http://www.grad.ilstu.edu](http://www.grad.ilstu.edu). Among the members of the steering committee for these events are these CAST faculty members: Steve McCaw, Bev Smith, and Deb Gentry. They should be able to answer questions, too.

Also, encourage undergraduate and graduate students who have completed exemplary work for these occasions 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**

**Members of the agriculture education advisory committee met on September 25.** The purpose of the committee to advise the program coordinator of Agricultural Education at Illinois State University on such matters related to program content and implementation. The membership of the committee includes a teaching alumnus from agricultural education, five teachers of agriculture, an ISU administrative representative, a community college teacher, an Illinois State University student representative, and several other industry wide representatives. **Dr. Jeff Wood** serves in an ex officio capacity as program coordinator.

**Team Ag Ed**, comprised of Illinois State Board of Education staff and teacher educators in Agriculture from throughout Illinois, met on September 25 on the ISU campus. **Dr. Jeff Wood**, professor and coordinator of agriculture education, hosted them. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss curricular issues in teacher preparation in agriculture.

**Dr. Jeff Wood** attended a retreat for agriculture teacher educators in Springfield Illinois on October 5, 2001. The purpose of the retreat was to identify program quality indicators for the purpose of preparing teachers of agriculture for secondary schools.
APPLIED COMPUTER SCIENCE

Dr. Tibor Gyires was a reviewer in the National Collaboratories and High Performance Networks Review Panel for the U.S. Department of Energy's Office of Science, Environmental Sciences Division. Collaboratories link geographically dispersed researchers, data, and tools via high performance networks--such as Internet2, to enable remote access to facilities, access to large datasets, shared environments, and ease of collaboration. The review session was held in Washington D.C.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE SCIENCES

Dr. Deborah Linnell met with the Hoosier State Girl Scout Council in Indianapolis to discuss child safety on behalf of the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children.

FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCES

Jean Memken was a featured speaker at the University of Illinois Medical School's workshop for the Multi-Disciplinary Certificate Program in Geriatrics for Non-Physicians, held at Heartland College in Normal on September 21. The topic of her presentation was "Residential Alternatives for Elderly Today."

Jean Memken published an article in Housing and Society entitled, "Housing as an Indicator of Rural Vitality: The Methodology." Her co-author was Dr. Becky Yust from the Department of Design, Housing and Apparel, University of Minnesota.

HEALTH SCIENCES

A publication entitled, “Chemical Hazards in Radiology,” published in the ACGIH journal, and co-authored by Dr. George Byrns has won an award as the "best occupational medicine paper published in 2000 in U.S. Industrial Hygiene journals." Approximately 25 papers published in the AIHA Journal and the ACGIH Journal of Applied Occupational and Environmental Health were reviewed by a technical panel of committee members, and his paper was selected as the best overall for 2000.

This honor was awarded by the American Industrial Hygiene Association's Occupational Medicine Committee and includes a certificate and monetary award.

Paul Ronczkowski, George Byrns, and several environmental health and safety students attended the American Industrial Hygiene Association, Prairie Section Indoor Air Quality workshop in Bloomington on 10/3/01.

Dr. Paul Brauchle represented CeMAST and CAST at a National Science Foundation (NSF) Conference in Washington D.C., October 4-6. The conference focused on Advanced Technological Education (ATE) programs that have been funded throughout the nation to advance education in mathematics, science, and technology. At the conference, the NSF identified funding priorities for the next cycle, and presented a scope of work that they would like new programs to address.

TECHNOLOGY

Rodney L. Custer published an article entitled, "Assessment Standards for Technological Literacy," in the October issue of The Technology Teacher. The article discusses a range of assessment issues important to technology education, and describes the process being used by the “Technology for All Americans” project to develop these standards. Dr. Custer is serving as team leader for this project.

Dr. Louis Reifschneider attended the Society of Plastics Engineers Thermoforming Conference, September 15 through 17, in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Five students from the Integrated Manufacturing Sequence attended as well.

Dr. Louis Reifschneider delivered a full-day seminar, "Plastics: Materials and Processing," to thirteen professionals in the plastics industry Tuesday, September 25, in Itasca, Illinois. The Chicago Section of the Society of Plastics sponsored the seminar Engineers. Monies raised from the seminar are used to support schools in Illinois that teach plastics technology.

MILITARY SCIENCE

All Military Science faculty participated in and executed a Leadership Training Exercise at Marseilles National Guard Training Area during the weekend of September 21-23. One hundred and three ISU and IWU students participated in leadership training activities that included day and night land navigation, rappelling, a confidence building course, and numerous problem-solving, team-building, and communication/coordination activities.
The May Commencement Schedule for May, 2002, has been set, and there are some changes. Commencement ceremonies will be held on Saturday, May 11, and Sunday, May 12. The schedule change became necessary, as attendance at college Commencement Ceremonies has continued to outgrow seating capacity in Braden Auditorium. The Commencement Committee and the Provost's Advisory Council considered various alternatives, with the schedule below determined to be the best alternative.

**Saturday, May 11 (all ceremonies in Redbird Arena)**
- 9:00 a.m. CAST
- 1:00 p.m. Business
- 4:00 p.m. Education

**Sunday, May 12**
- 11:00 a.m. Nursing (Braden Auditorium)
- 1:30 p.m. Arts & Sciences (Redbird Arena)
- 4:00 p.m. Fine Arts (Braden Auditorium)

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**IMPORTANT DATES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Friday, October 12</td>
<td>CAST Outstanding Teacher and CAST Outstanding Service Awards due to CAST office.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday, October 19</td>
<td>CAST Outstanding Researcher Award materials due to the CAST Research Office.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday, October 29</td>
<td>Deadline for submitting URG proposals to the CAST Research Office.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday, November 1</td>
<td>Deadline for submitting U-Club scholarship applications.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday, November 5</td>
<td>Intent to retire letter due to Chair and Dean. (See beginning of this newsletter for details).</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday, December 1</td>
<td>Due date for selection of recipients for U-Club scholarship.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday, December 7</td>
<td>Scholarship Awards presented for U-Club Scholarship at University Club Event.</td>
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| Saturday, May 11   | Spring Commencement 2002.  
                    | **CAST ceremony will be held at 9 a.m. in Redbird Arena.**                      |
| Sunday May 12      | Spring Commencement, 2002.                                                      |