I am pleased to share with you more good news about CAST faculty. Dr. Steven McCaw, Professor of Kinesiology, received notice that he has been selected as an Outstanding University Researcher for 2002. Dr. McCaw’s work is in biomechanics. He will be recognized at the Founders Day Ceremony.

His award makes a clean sweep for the School of Kinesiology and Recreation. They had an award recipient in each category this year—research, teaching, and service. I think this is a new precedent for the College—at least during the past five years. Congratulations to the individual award recipients and to all of the faculty members in the School for being such supportive colleagues.

The University was fortunate to have representatives of the firm, Noel-Levitz, on campus a couple of weeks ago. They specialize in helping universities with advanced retention dynamics. Their basic premise is that a university’s retention rate is a performance indicator of how well the campus is working. They examined a wide set of documents, procedures, and policies including our publications that are used to communicate with prospective students and how we go about recruiting and admitting native freshmen. A second premise of their firm is that to attract superior, highly motivated students a university must provide good opportunities for student learning and satisfaction with their campus experience. Consistently, these students seek lively, substantive learning opportunities and opportunities for personal growth. The shared pedagogy in CAST that provides individualized laboratory instruction and internship opportunities are ideal for creating these kinds of opportunities. Our faculty members do an especially good job of providing individualized attention.

Further evidence of our success in this area was confirmed with the publication last week of the Illinois State University Fact Book for 2001-2002. For the fourth year in a row, the average composite ACT score for students in the College has risen. Last year, for the first time, the College average equaled the University average. This year, for the first time, the College average of 22.9 exceeds the University average of 22.8. Thus, we continue making progress in implementing Educating Illinois by attracting more highly motivated students to our programs. Thanks to each of you for your help in accomplishing this.

So, as we break for the holiday, we can depart in good spirits about our success in attracting high achieving students. Best wishes to each of you for a peaceful and productive 2002.

More next year….

JRR

CAST RESEARCH OFFICE

Nearly all of the faculty members new to CAST this fall have been introduced to the readers of this newsletter. It is hoped that information about their research, consultation, and teaching interests will prompt readers to think of ways to collaborate.

Dr. Dan Brown, Department of Technology

Dr. Dan Brown is the new Coordinator of Graduate Programs and Research in the Department of Technology. In addition to teaching graduate classes, his responsibilities include recruiting and advising graduate students, as well as supporting the research and publication efforts of faculty across the Department. He is familiar with qualitative and quantitative research methodologies, as well as recent developments in program evaluation and action research. His research has focused on numerous aspects of teaching and learning in technical environments. This has led to investigations of aspects of instructional techniques, education reforms, organizational culture, curricula development, and cognition.

Besides serving on numerous university committees over the years, Dan’s service activities have also occurred at the state and national level. Nationally, he has served as a Vice-president of the National Association of Industrial and Technical Teacher Educators (NAITTE), in 1998-99, and again in 2000-2001; has been a member of the Undergraduate Studies Committee, Council for Technology Teacher Education, International Technology Education Association affiliate since 1992; and served as a faculty fellow/mentor at the National Center for Research in Vocational Education, Urban Schools Network Summer Institutes in 1994 & 1995.

At the state level, while in Kentucky, he served as Area I, Region I Representative of the Kentucky Association of Vocational Education Special Needs Personnel in 1999-2000. He was also a faculty instructor at Kentucky New Teacher Institute for new in-service accredited trade and Industrial Teachers from 1994-2000. He also served as an at-large member of the Kentucky TSA Executive Committee, 1997-1999; a member of the Manufacturing Skills Assessment Taskforce of the Kentucky Department of Education, Division of Secondary Career and Technical Education in 1998-1999; and as a member of the Kentucky Tech Prep Task Force in 1995.

In an effort to encourage scholarly activities in the profession, he served as an editorial board member of the Journal of

Besides his mentoring, research, and teaching activities, Dan enjoys the shooting sports, tinkering in his home workshop, and traveling with his wife, Shirley. He and Shirley have three grown children: James, who recently went to work on a ranch in Oklahoma; Scott, who is soon to graduate from Murray State University as a Criminal Justice major; and Rebekah, who is an Accounting major at Murray State University. Dan has enjoyed a variety of careers. He was a real estate appraiser, manager, and broker in Illinois and Oklahoma; a farmer/rancher, and farm implement dealer in Oklahoma; and a high school teacher in Texas. His last position before coming to Illinois State University was on the faculty of Murray State University in Kentucky. At Murray State, he was initially Coordinator of Career and Technical Education in the College of Technology and Industry; then, after the university reorganized, he became Chair of the Department of Adolescent, Career and Special Education in the College of Education. One of Dan’s most memorable experiences involved teaching a summer graduate course in Educational Program Evaluation for the University of Illinois and USAID at the University of Cape Coast, in Ghana. He is very interested in collaborative research and writing. Give Dan a call at 438-2695 or contact him at dbrown@indtech.itilstu.edu.

Publications


Recent Non-Peer Reviewed Articles, Reports, Monographs, And Presentations


Brown, D., Cognitive Science Concepts and Technology Teacher Education. Mississippi Valley Technology Teacher Education 86th Conference, St. Louis, Missouri, November 5, 1999.


Mark Comerford, Department of Technology

Mark Comerford is a new faculty member supporting the interdisciplinary Construction Management program in the Department of Technology. Mark has practiced architecture since 1985 in Massachusetts, Colorado, and Illinois. During this work, he developed an interest in understanding the complex processes by which design decisions are made throughout the course of the design phase of the project. He is particularly interested in how the tools of the architectural profession (which would include manual and CAD drawing technologies and other communication tools such as field notes, faxes, telephone calls, memorandums, etc.) affect the design process.

Mark is interested in several research threads related to his work as a practicing architect and as a teacher of drawing. Within the architectural profession, the preparation of working drawings has been the primary mechanism for architects and draftsmen to learn construction technology. He is interested in investigating how the transition between manual drafting techniques and CAD has affected the learning process of students and professionals within the construction industry.

Mark is also exploring the field of sustainable architecture and construction, particularly, as it applies to residential construction. Research currently underway focuses on the question as to the potential of transforming existing economical housing stock into more energy efficient structures. He is looking at home designs of the 60s and 70s to establish a short list of typical plans of that period. He will then redesign the interior of these standardized plans based on planning techniques previously developed within the industry for new solar house construction. Then, the new (remodeled) designs will be tested against the original designs using industry standard heat-loss/heat-gain calculations to determine the viability of using established new-construction solar spatial planning techniques applied to existing housing stock.

Mark’s professional experience in architecture has also involved a significant amount of work conducting American With Disabilities Act (ADA) and School Life Safety surveys and design. His role in architectural practice has always been technical in nature, and he has significant interest and experience in the design of masonry cavity wall systems and low-slope roofing systems, and in the preparation of specifications. He would be interested in collaboration with other faculty or researchers on these or related topics as well.

Mark completed his Bachelor of Arts degree in 1980 from Oberlin College, majoring in mathematics; and his Master in Architecture degree in 1988 from Harvard University; and became a licensed architect in the state of Illinois in 1992. He has worked at Edward Nilsson and Associates, Architects, in Boston; Hoover Berg Desmond, in Denver; Hilfinger Asbury Abels, in Bloomington; LST and Associates in Peoria; and, for the past two years, has been principal of his own firm, Mark Comerford Architect, in Bloomington. He is a past president of the Bloomington-Normal Chapter of the American Institute of Architects and past member of the Constructions Specifications Institute. He has taken numerous professional courses, offered by the University of Wisconsin (Milwaukee), and MIT, on the following subjects: Specifications, Selection of Materials, Low Slope Roofing, HCSS Estimating, and Passive Solar Design. For the past 10 years, he co-taught Art 352, Rendering for Interior Designers, at ISU, and has taught for 3-1/2 years in the Architecture/Architectural Construction Technology program at Illinois Central College.

In addition to his teaching, professional, and research interests and responsibilities, Mark enjoys playing soccer and swimming, and spending time with his wife, Lynda, and their two children, Kayla and Sean. Contact Mark at comerford@indtech.it.ilstu.edu or 438-2986. His office is in Turner Hall, Room 121D.

APPLIED COMPUTER SCIENCE


Dr. Robert F. Zant attended the National Information Technology Leadership Conference in Provo, Utah held December 6-8, 2001. He was invited as one of only 40 participants to the Conference.

Dr. Robert F. Zant was selected as the Chair of the National Information Technology Model Curriculum Committee at the recent Information Technology Leadership Conference.
HEALTH SCIENCES

Vern Hanks, Director of the Motorcycle Safety program, has received notification from the Illinois Department of Transportation that the Motorcycle Program will be funded for the upcoming year. The newly awarded grant will exceed $908,000.

George Byrns attended a Prairie Section AIHA meeting on December 6. The featured presenter, Dr. Paul Nord, OSF Medical Group, discussed the clinical presentation of bioaerosols.

Jane Turley facilitated the Central Illinois Coding Roundtable. Topics were related to Medicare coding and reimbursement changes for FY 2002. The featured speaker, an interventional radiologist, presented advanced closed surgical techniques. Of particular interest, was the destruction of cancerous liver lesions by radio frequency and chemoembolization.

Paul Ronczkowski presented "Conquering the Great Divide: Keeping Your Alumni Group Connected to Students and Faculty" for the Illinois State University annual Leadership Conference.

IMPORTANT DATES

Saturday, December 22, 2001 through Tuesday, January 1, 2002 ISU Shut Down

Wednesday, January 2, 2001 ISU reopens

Monday, January 14 2002 classes begin.

Monday, January 21 Martin Luther King Holiday

Thursday, February 21, 2002 Founders Day Convocation, Ballroom of the Bone Student Center, 3 p.m.

Saturday, May 11 Spring Commencement, 2002.
(All ceremonies in Redbird Arena)
9:00 a.m. CAST
1:00 p.m. Business
4:00 p.m. Education

Sunday, May 12 Spring Commencement 2002.
11:00 a.m. Nursing (Braden Auditorium)
1:30 p.m. Arts & Sciences (Redbird Arena)
4:00 p.m. Fine Arts (Braden Auditorium)