WELCOME BACK

Welcome back for spring semester 2002. By the time you read this, you will have met your classes for this semester. It is one of the joys of what we do that each class is somewhat different from any other. The need to adjust how each class is taught keeps us constantly challenged and renewed as professional people. I wish each of you much success with your classes this spring.

SABBATICALS

We received good news in early December about your colleagues in CAST who were awarded sabbaticals for the next academic year. Below are the five faculty members from the College who were awarded sabbaticals with a brief description of their activities.

- Dr. Robert Zant (ACS) will investigate queuing in a web-based protocol. His work will result in a publication, improved classroom instruction, and improved curricula.
- Dr. Frank Morn (CJS) will complete a book on the contributions of a pioneer in criminal justice sciences, Robert McClaughry.
- Dr. Mike Daugherty (TEC) has been invited as a visiting scholar in technology education and technological literacy to teach and interact with the faculty at Helsinki University in Finland.
- Dr. Beverly Smith (CJS) will complete several research projects during her sabbatical that require extensive time off campus to complete data collection. Her work is cross-disciplinary and explores relationships between criminal justice science, history, and literature.
- Dr. Anu Gokhale (TEC) will complete a cross-cultural study of the effectiveness of curricular programs and instructional techniques used in preparing information technology workers in India and the United States. This is an important area because of the great shortages of information workers in both countries.

Congratulations to each of these faculty members. Completion of these projects should return much benefit to the College and our students.

More later…

JRR

CAST Research Office

The Fall 2001 (Vol. 12, No.2) issue of The Department Chair: A Resource for Academic Administrators featured an article (pgs. 1-2) entitled, “What Makes It Scholarship?” The answer to this question is answered by highlighting these six characteristics that Diamond and Adam (1993) identify in their book Recognizing Faculty Work: Reward Systems for the Year 2000:

- The activity requires a high level of discipline-related expertise.
- The activity breaks new ground or is innovative.
- The activity can be replicated or elaborated upon.
- The work and its results can be documented.
- The work and its results can be peer reviewed.
- The activity has significance or impact.

Additionally, Glassick, Huber, and Maeroff (1997) answer the question “What Makes It Scholarship?” in their book Scholarship Assessed. They identify these six qualitative standards that can be applied to scholarly work:

- Maintains clear goals
- Demonstrates adequate preparation
- Utilizes appropriate methods
- Reveals significant results
- Disseminated via effective presentation
- Encourages reflective critique

The deadline for submitting applications for the CAST Outstanding Undergraduate Student Research Award will be here soon: Friday, March 1. It is hoped this date will facilitate a timely announcement of name(s) of the awardee(s), such that the person(s) might be recognized at a departmental student award event at the close of the semester.

Information about this award and procedures for applying can be found at this website: http://www.cast.ilstu.edu/Research/honor.htm#COU. Once all applications are received in the CAST Research Office, members of the CAST Research Committee will review and rank them, eventually selecting the most noteworthy effort.

CRC members hope there will be ample submissions this year. Those readers who actively supervise undergraduate student research projects, do consider helping one or more students to prepare and submit application materials.
AGRICULTURE

The Department of Agriculture has two new faculty members on staff this fall.

**Mr. Doug Kingman**, a native Texan, is a graduate of Texas A&M and expected to graduate with a Ph.D. from the Department of Agricultural and Biological Engineering at Purdue University in December 2001. Doug and his wife Stacey have two daughters, six-year old Darby and three-year old Jolie Anne. Doug’s recent research has been in the area of intervention strategies targeted at reducing engulfments in on-farm grain bins.

**Dr. Rob Rhykerd** is a native of Indiana and has a B.S. in Agronomy, M.S. in Soil Microbiology from Purdue University, and a Ph.D. in Soil Microbiology from Texas A&M University. Joining him in Normal is his wife Kim and their one-year-old son John. Rob’s recent area of research include bioremediation of crude oil contaminated soils, and phytoremediation of soils contaminated with TNT and PCBs.

**Drs. Kerry Tudor and Rick Whitacre** attended the American Agricultural Economics Association meeting in Chicago on August 6.

**Drs. Patrick O'Rourke, Randy Winter** and **Rick Whitacre** attended the WCC-72 Agribusiness Education Conference in Las Vegas on June 11 and 12. Dr. O'Rourke presented a paper, "Development And Implementation Of A Web-Based Farm Supply Firm Simulation For Teaching Agribusiness Management" and Dr. Whitacre presented a poster, “Characteristics of Rural Entrepreneurs.”

The Department of Agriculture hosted the McLean County Chamber of Commerce program, Business-After-Hours. Several hundred area visitors took tours of the various farm enterprises and enjoyed eating some Tilapia that was produced at the farm’s aquaculture facility.

**Dr. Jeff Wood** accompanied 14 ISU students on a study abroad trip to France this past summer. The students studied at the Ecole Supérieure d’Agriculture while in Angers, France. During the month long program students studied language, history, art, culture, architecture, food science, viticulture, agronomy, horticulture, and agri-business. Included in the program were field trips to Belgium, Normandy, Paris, Versailles, and several farms and agribusinesses in the Loire Valley. **Dean Robert Rossman and his wife** visited the students at the Ecole Supérieure d’Agriculture. At the end of the study abroad trip the students were guests at a reception held in their honor and to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the program.

FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCE

Lisa Lee and Barb Gallick, Head Teachers in the Child Care Center, presented "Taking the Chaos Out of Your Day: Ideas for Transition Times" to the entire staff of the Pekin YWCA Child Care Center on December 27, 2001.

Dr. Deborah Gentry had an article entitled, “Resolving middle-age sibling conflict regarding parent care,” published in the fall 2001 issue of Conflict Resolution Quarterly. She also had a book review published in Families in Society.

HEALTH SCIENCES

**Dr. Gary Erisman** attended the American Society of Safety Engineers Central Illinois Chapter meeting in Champaign on January 8, 2002. A presentation on “Critical Incident Debriefing” was given.

TECHNOLOGY

**Dr. Ryan Brown** and **Dr. Kenneth Stier** published an article in the Journal of Industrial Technology (V. 18, No. 1) entitled, “Selecting Rapid Prototyping Systems.”

On December 14, **Dr. Ryan Brown** conducted a workshop entitled, “In-depth 3D Modeling with AutoCAD 2000” for technology teachers represented in the Kaskasia Community College Technology Consortium. The workshop was held at the Kaskaskia CC Training Center in Centralia.

**Dr. Dan Brown**, new Coordinator of Graduate Programs and Research, was just approved for full graduate faculty status.

Dr. Dan Brown published a refereed research article based on the paper that accompanied an invited presentation to the Mississippi Valley Technology Teacher Education Conference. The paper, “Cognitive Science Concepts and Technology Teacher Education,” was published in the Fall 2001 issue of the Journal of Technology Studies. The Journal of Technology Studies is the journal of Epsilon Pi Tau honorary technology society.
Dr. Dan Brown attended the National Association of Industrial Technology conference in Dearborn, Michigan from October 29-November 3. He also attended the Mississippi Valley Technology Teacher Education Conference in Chicago, Illinois, November 9.

Dr. Dan Brown attended the National Association of Industrial and Technical Teacher Educators annual conference, December 13-15, in New Orleans, Louisiana. Serving his second year of a two-year term as Vice-President for the Military and Industrial Training section, he attended executive board meetings and helped preside over the annual Breakfast meeting of the membership. He participated as a member in the editorial board meetings of the Journal of Industrial Teacher Education.

Richard Boser was recently accepted as a member of the American Institute of Constructors (AIC). Membership is conferred only after an extensive review of professional credentials that includes a personal interview. The primary purposes of the AIC are to promote excellence in construction by (a) establishing high standards of ethics and competence for the professional, (b) recognizing the professionalism of individual constructors, and (c) promoting the study and advancing the practice of construction related fields.

**IMPORTANT DATES**

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<tr>
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<td>January 31</td>
<td>Authors of FY2003 URG proposals notified of review results.</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 2</td>
<td>Deadline for CAST Outstanding Undergraduate Student Research Award applications.</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 29</td>
<td>Deadline for CAST Presentation Travel Program applications.</td>
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<td>April 22-26</td>
<td>CAST sponsored “Science &amp; Technology Week.”</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 14-17</td>
<td>Tentative dates for university-wide grant writing workshop sponsored by the University Research Office.</td>
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