Thursday is a long way away from Normal, Illinois, and I would not recommend doing the trip in a one week time-frame. But, we had a very successful trip.

ISU has had a Memorandum of Understanding with Srinakarinwirot University for almost 20 years. The College of Education has been the principle unit that developed classes to be taught there as well as hosting Thai students for classes at ISU. The success of their graduates in Thailand is evident. They are leaders of universities and highly placed in the educational ministry of the national government. Each is very proud of their degree from ISU. They have one of the most successful ISU alumni chapters in the world.

Srinakarinwirot University is now expanding their offerings to undergraduates and seeking assistance from other units at ISU. At this point, they are in search of help for the development of a recreation administration and management program as well as some additional degrees in health. Dr. Schlatter, Dr. Groves, and I are going to provide them with a curriculum assessment and recommended changes to the recreation curriculum they have proposed within the next month. Other parts of the possible cooperation will follow from our report to them. Opportunities to host Thai faculty on our campus as well as opportunities for our faculty to teach in Thailand are both possible outcomes.

They are also interested in exploring new programs in health, especially health promotion and management information systems. These are exciting new initiatives for the college.

On a more solemn note, I wanted to publicly acknowledge the contributions of Dr. Charles Porter, founding dean of the college, who passed away this week. We were all saddened by his loss. He was a fine gentleman who pushed to acquire technology for the college, especially computer technology, when doing so was truly pioneering. His family has asked that memorial contributions be made to the Porter Scholar for Leadership fund that supports an annual scholarship for a student in Technology, his home department.

More later... JRR

IDEA feedback for faculty is used for two major functions within CAST. First, IDEA results, when combined with another form of evaluation, can provide a valuable insight into our teaching performance. This is especially useful when considering merit adjustments and deliberating personnel actions such as promotion/tenure decisions. A second valuable function that IDEA feedback provides is a diagnostic mechanism that can be used for individual faculty development. To that end, the IDEA Center maintains a web site devoted to teaching improvement best practices. What follows are selected excerpts from that website:

Focus First on Strengths. The IDEA report provides a mechanism to facilitate the initial discussion about strengths and improvement.

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These reports typically begin with a discussion of strengths, which are highlighted on page 3 of the IDEA Diagnostic Form Report.

Discussion of Appropriate Objectives – Multi-section Courses. Faculty members who teach sections of the same course get together to choose appropriate objectives. This helps them ensure a solid and similar base for all their students.

Improves Performance and Builds Confidence. By using the recommendations afforded by the IDEA analysis, individual faculty are able to formulate changes in their classroom behavior and course structure that have tangible results in next semester's scores. Thus, young faculty members who start with low scores and, through considered management of their classes, establish an upward trend toward excellent teaching. Among those who take teaching seriously, this happens almost every time. Within two years, these folks are feeling enabled and confident.

Reflection and Specific Feedback. IDEA provides a mechanism to stimulate semester-to-semester reflection and provokes questions about the instructor's contribution to the success of the classroom. Enough detail is provided about strengths and potential areas for improvement that over time, stronger teachers are developed.

The IDEA feedback you receive will help with identifying areas that need strengthening and those that should be retained in order to maximize your teaching efforts.

JAW

IMPORTANT DATES & DEADLINES:

- **Saturday, 3/11-Sunday, 3/19:**
  - Spring Break
- **Friday, 3/24:**
  - CAST Presentation Travel Grant applications due to CAST Dean’s Office
- **Friday, 3/24:**
  - Graduate Student Research Symposium at BSC
- **Tuesday, 4/4:**
  - Writing workshops conducted by Robert Lucas
- **Monday, 4/17-Friday, 4/21:**
  - Science and Technology Week
- **Friday, 4/21:**
  - Undergraduate Student Research Symposium at BSC (registration deadline 3/17)
- **Saturday, May 13:**
  - Commencement, Redbird Arena, 1:00PM
The following ideas about grant writing were formulated by Joan Straumanis, a former program officer for FIPSE (Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education). Dr. Sara Cole, Assistant Professor, Health Sciences Department, acquired this write-up and passed it along to the CAST Research Office. Now, these ideas are being shared with NewsCAST readers.

FUNDING YOUR BEST IDEAS: A 12-STEP PROGRAM

Part I: Before Writing

1. Innovate, and if you can’t think of anything brand new, do something unexpected. This is your angle; now feature it.

2. Do your homework. Find your niche. What are others doing about this issue? Show that you know, and place your project within this context.

3. Build a team. Mix things up. Build and cross bridges-among departments, disciplines and schools and colleges. Include students and administrators. Be generous: share work and disseminate but don’t give them anything brand new. Be someone unfamiliar with your field, your project. Not an editor/proofer. Have them read final draft without taking notes. Then ask them to tell you from memory-what the project will do, how it will do it, why it is significant, and how it is different. Rewrite proposal if these answers aren’t clear and correct, or they don’t flow effortlessly.

4. Find the right funding agency. Know agency interests, culture, and style. Submit applications to agencies who were recognized were Drs. Simmons and Kelley, both of the Department of Health Sciences.

5. Use the phone. Call a program officer, briefly summarize your idea, and prepare specific questions. Take the program officer’s advice very seriously, but exercise your own best judgment. Some agencies are more directive than others.

Part II: While Writing

6. Use a journalistic writing style. Use the “W” words of journalism: Who, what, when, where, why, and how. Also use bullets, lists, outlines, diagrams, tables. Don’t obsess on any topic, even if important. Make it interesting, let every sentence do a job. Assume that your reviewer is reading in bed, falling asleep-which is very likely true.

7. Follow guidelines to the letter. Keep them before you as you write (but don’t quote them back to the agency). Match headings in the proposal to headings in the guidelines so the reader doesn’t have to hunt for needed information.

8. Build in continuation, evaluation, and dissemination. Factory installed, not an add-on and not postponed to the last year. Continuation plans are an indicator of institutional commitment. Evaluation should be independent and objective, but doesn’t need to meet standards of the Journal of Psychometrics-use common sense. What would you want to know about the success of an idea before you would consider adopting it? Evaluate “politically”—i.e., with an eye toward later publicity. What would you want to see in headlines? Note the difference between passive and active dissemination. (The first disseminates admiration, not innovation.)

9. Watch the bottom line. Share costs. Know how to cut costs without hurting the project: request replacement salaries instead of released time, charge actual instead of estimated benefits, follow agency recommendations on indirect costs.

10. Leverage funds. Solicit funds from third parties, contingent on grant funding. This can be done in advance (to beef up cost share and make proposal more attractive), as well as after project is funded.

11. Get a sharp (toothed) reader. Best: Someone unfamiliar with your field, your project. Not an editor/proofer. Have them read final draft without taking notes. Then ask them to tell you from memory-what the project will do, how it will do it, why it is significant, and how it is different. Rewrite proposal if these answers aren’t clear and correct, or they don’t flow effortlessly.

12. Write the abstract last. Put in your key innovation. Write 3 versions: one page (first page of proposal, whether requested or not), one paragraph (if requested), and one line, the proposal title-which you should think of as a mini-abstract (descriptive and intriguing). Don’t repeat abstract or proposal text. Prepare for the possibility that some sleepy reviewer might read only the abstract.

Other good advice:
- Request reviews. Use the phone to ask agency staff why the project was or was not funded. If you are rejected, you can always try again.

Invitation Extended by SIUE

Interested members of faculty are invited to a National Science Foundation outreach event co-sponsored by the SIUE Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice Studies and the SIUE Graduate School. Dr. Beth A. Rubin, Sociology Program Director at NSF, will conduct two workshops on March 17, 2006, at 10:00 AM and 2:00 PM in the third floor conference room of the Lovejoy Library on the SIUE campus. The first session will include a general overview of opportunities at NSF, particularly as they relate to the social, behavioral, and economic sciences. With your help, the second session will include an interactive workshop on successful proposal preparation. Please feel free to bring general and specific questions about your anticipated project.

In order to prepare for this event, please e-mail Denise Cobb at pcobb@siue.edu to let her know if you plan to attend either or both sessions. While pre-registration is not required, it would be helpful. Please feel free to email or call Denise Cobb with any questions. You may reach her via e-mail or by phone at 618-650-2945. You can access a map of the SIUE campus at http://www.siue.edu/maps/.
Department of Health Sciences

Dr. John P. Allegrante is the 2006 Scholar in Health Education and was a guest of the Department of Health Sciences February 19-21. Dr. Allegrante is a Professor of Health Education and CEO of the National Center for Health Education. Dr. Allegrante made presentations to 4 classes, met with representatives from the President, Provost's and Research and Sponsored Program Offices, and made a public presentation on Childhood Obesity. The Scholar in Health Education is made possible through funding provided by Dr. Ann E. Notte, Distinguished Professor Emerita.

Dr. Jim Broadbear attended the Health Education Professional Preparation Consortium in Dallas, Texas on February 23-25. Health educators from across the country were invited to attend to discuss the future of accreditation of health education programs at both the graduate and undergraduate level.

Dr. Harvey Thomas served as a volunteer evaluator for Prairie Plague 2006, a disaster response drill conducted by McLean County on February 18. Dr. Frank Waterstrat served as an observer and coordinator of student volunteers who participated in this important drill.

Dr. Rod Simmons gave an invited presentation, "Benefits of System Safety Goodness Measures for Academia" at a February 21-22 workshop in Huntsville, Alabama that focused on the application of the “Capability Maturity Model Integration (CMMI®)” approach to assessment of system safety programs that are conducted in NASA and DoD environments. The workshop attracted high-level participants from NASA, DoD, major DoD & NASA contractors, the European Space Agency, Ministry of Defense (UK), and University of York (UK).

Ms. Anjie Almeda, HSC Departmental Academic Advisor, attended the National Academic Advising Association (NACADA) sponsored “Institute on Assessment in Academic Advising” in Clearwater Beach, Florida held February 8-10.

Dr. George Byrns and 11 students from the Environmental Health and Safety programs attended the American Industrial Hygiene Association Prairie Section dinner meeting on February 23. The topic was “Implementation of the Globally Harmonized System at Caterpillar,” presented Mr. Gil Diekhof (an ISU EHS alum).

Drs. Rod Simmons and Tim Kelley were Health Sciences recipients of the 2006 Team Research Award presented by Provost Presley and President Bowman at the Founder’s Day Convocation on February 16. Other members of the Livestock and Urban Waste (LUW) Research team who were recognized were Drs. Paul Walker, Bryon Wiegand, Robert Rhykerd, and Kenneth Smiciklas, all of the Department of Agriculture.

School of Kinesiology and Recreation

Dr. David Thomas gave an invited presentation to employees of Caterpillar’s Tech Center in Mossville, Illinois on Monday February 20. The presentation was on physical activity and health and was attended by over 50 participants.

Dr. Amy Hurd was acknowledged as a recipient of the University Research Initiative Award at the Founders Day Convocation on February 16.

Department of Technology

Dr. Anu Gokhale attended the IEEE Region 4 Section Chairs’ meeting in Chicago, January 27-29, and recruited volunteers to help organize new initiatives like the Student Design Contest and Student Professional Awareness Conference.

Dr. Richard Boser attended the American Council for Construction Education mid-year meeting in San Diego from February 22-25. He participated in the Accreditation Committee hearings and an advisory discussion for a new grant program funded by National Housing Endowment.

Dr. Louis Reifsneider accompanied four students to the Society of Plastics Engineers Chicago Section meeting in Itasca, Illinois on February 16. The meeting provided an opportunity to promote the manufacturing technology program at ISU to Chicago area plastics suppliers, as over 40 companies from the region attended the meeting. The ISU Society of Plastics Engineers Student Chapter sponsored a field trip to Plastipak Packaging, Inc. on February 17. Dr. Reifsneider accompanied eight students during the three hour tour of the 700,000 square foot plant in Champaign, Illinois.

Plastipak is one of the world’s largest manufacturer of plastic bottle containers, making bottles for Proctor and Gamble, Kraft, Pepsi-Co and scores of other well known manufactures. Plastipak makes extrusion blow molded polyethylene bottles (milk and detergent) and injection stretch-blow polyester bottles (soda and salad dressing) using state-of-the-art automation technology.

The College of Applied Science and Technology, through its teaching, research, and service programs, will be a leader in preparing broadly educated, technologically competent professionals who can solve real-world problems in a workforce that builds economic viability and better communities in the State of Illinois and beyond.