I hope everyone had a good spring break and has returned with the energy to complete the semester. Campus is really empty during break and by the end of the week we look forward to everyone’s return and a little more hustle and bustle on campus.

Twelve searches for new faculty are being conducted in the College this year. We are attracting excellent candidates from very good graduate programs. In most cases, when we have made offers, we have been able to hire our first choice candidates. Even though we are rebounding from three years of recession, we still have sufficient funding to remain competitive in the market for new faculty. This is critical to our future success as an institution. A quality faculty is needed to deliver excellent classroom instruction and implement research programs that can attract external funding.

Earlier this week I presented the College’s Annual Report and Planning Presentation to the University. You can access the report on the Provost’s website. Your continuing accomplishments make this a positive report each year. Regarding our needs, it is becoming apparent that the lack of funding for facility renovations is developing into a critical problem in CAST. The need for a new facility for our School of Kinesiology is long standing and well documented.

We have a long list of emerging needs that are less costly but in excess of the funds the College has for accomplishing them. Included among them are new laboratories to meet current enrollment demands in Family and Consumer Sciences. Renovation in the Ropp Agriculture Building is needed to complete the move of the department to Ropp. Graphic Communications needs to move to Turner from Nelson Smith and to do so requires funds to renovate their new location. And the list continues to grow. We will keep pushing to accomplish these and other new facilities needed to accommodate our growing programs, or to renovate so the equipment and facilities used to prepare students remains current with industry standards.

More later………..

JRR

CAST Research Office

Congratulations

Vern Hanks, Director of Motorcycle Safety, was honored at a celebratory dinner this week hosted by the Research and Sponsoring Programs Office. Provost Presley, Dean Rossman, and Associate Vice-President Gary McGinnis formally acknowledged Vern’s recent milestones of directing the program for 30 years and, during that time period, bringing in over $10 million in external funding. More than 20 colleagues and family members joined in the festivities at CJ’s Restaurant. When you see Vern, be sure to congratulate him.

Extending Thanks

The annual Graduate Student Research Symposium brings this week to a close. Based on information provided by the Graduate School, it appears that fourteen graduate students enrolled in CAST programs will be presenting at the symposium. Professors Amorose, D. Brown, Gyires, Lagally, Laudner, Memken, O’Rourke, Spaulding, P. Smith, Thomas, Tudor, Wiegand, and Whitacre have served as mentors for the research efforts conducted by participating graduate students. Additionally, more than 19 faculty members from the College are volunteering during the Symposium as evaluators, room monitors, and so on. Among those to be thanked for such service are Professors Beggs, D. Brown, Cole, Elkins, Gentry, Gyires, Henninger, Hund, Kuofie, Laudner, McCaw, Park, Rabe-Hemp, Reitzel, B. Smith, Walsh, Winchip, and Woeste.

Status of Various Research Support Programs

Monies set aside this year for the new Faculty Professional Development Fund are now depleted. Until the beginning of FY07, no further applications or requests for these funds will be considered.

The deadline for submitting an application for the new External Grant Development Fund (which provides 25% reassigned time for pursuing substantial external funds to support research/scholarship) for the Fall, 2007, semester is Monday, May 22nd. See the CAST research related web pages for guidelines.

The CAST Dean’s Office was very pleased with the response to the call for proposals for the new Research and Scholarship Development Program being sponsored by the University’s Research and Sponsored Programs Office this spring semester. Seven proposals were submitted to the CAST Dean’s Office for consideration. The goal of the program is to support one effort in each college unit across the campus towards developing an interdisciplinary, long-term, sustainable research/scholarship project that will result in substantial external funding and major contributions to the field. Upon review of all of the submitted materials, a proposal submitted by Drs. Paul Walker, Tim Kelley, and Rob Rykerd was selected for funding. Their proposed work related to land application systems to reduce non-point source pollution will be awarded the allotted $12K.

Presentation Given by Rossman and Gentry

Dean Rossman and Associate Dean Gentry attended the Best Assessment Processes VIII Conference hosted by ABET Technology Accreditation Commission at Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology in Terre Haute, Indiana, in late February. While there, they jointly gave a presentation entitled “Conducting a Longitudinal Panel Study Using an Online Survey to Assess Early Career Objectives.”

CAST Graduate Faculty,... Potential Hooers of Masters Candidates at May Commencement

The CAST Commencement ceremony is scheduled for Saturday, May 13 at 1:00 p.m. Graduate faculty members in CAST departments and schools who are closely involved in mentoring, guiding, and advising masters level students who will be marching in the ceremony should prompt discussion with these students immediately regarding their preferences for a faculty member who will hood them. Associate Dean Gentry will begin creating the list of marching students and their respective hooders soon. The deadline for faculty to order regalia has not yet passed, but is fast approaching. So, decisions about hooding roles and the ordering of regalia should get underway.
Department of Health Sciences


Dr. Rod Simmons presented a short course entitled, "Risk Assessment" to engineers employed by Kuwait Oil Company, Kuwait National Petroleum Company and Kuwait Oil Tanker Company, March 11-15, 2006 in Mangraf, Kuwait. Dr. Simmons also met with engineering faculty from Kuwait University, members of the Kuwait Health, Safety and Environmental Credentialing Board, and visited the Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research to discuss research collaboration.

Dr. Gary Ertisman and two members of the ISU student chapter of the American Society of Safety Engineers (ASSE) attended the monthly meeting of the Central Illinois ASSE Chapter March 14, 2006. The meeting was held at the Mitsubishi Plant in Normal, Illinois and included a tour of the facility.

Dr. George Byrns was recognized as Outstanding Professor for 2005 by the ISU chapter of the Student Education Association on March 3, 2006.

Dr. Marilyn Morrow and Ms. Ruth Ann Lipic attended the Cornbelt Health Educators' Association (CHEA) meeting on March 2, 2006 at Bromenn Conference Center for a program by Deanna Welchel, titled "Intercultural Communication." The meeting was also attended by alumni and students from the Health Education program. Ruth Ann Lipic, director of the Radon Awareness Program, is president of CHEA for 2006.

The Radon Awareness Program sponsored a booth at the annual HOME SHOW, March 10-12, 2006 at the Interstate Center in Bloomington. The booth was staffed by Dr. Marilyn Morrow, Dr. Bette Keyser, Assoc. Professor Emerita, Ruth Ann Lipic, Program Director, and several volunteers from the McLean County Radon Task Force. The booth featured radon information, a display of a mitigation fan and a "Trivial Pursuit" questionnaire. Over 60 radon home test kits were sold to homeowners through the program with the Town of Normal.

During Spring Break, six Health Education students went to Washington D.C. to the Society of Public Health Education 9th Annual Advocacy Summit. The conference program included two fully-saturated days with lessons about issues regarding the CDC Dash program, No Child Left Behind, Eliminating Health Disparities, the REACH 2010 program, as well as learning how to be effective advocates on Capital Hill. The final day of the conference, the students were off to the Hill with Dr. Mark Temple to meet with legislative aides for Judy Biggert and Dick Durbin. They came home to find that one of the appropriations that they were requesting funding for had been passed! They also came back to ISU with experience on how to make their voices heard and how to make a difference.

School of Kinesiology and Recreation

Dr. Chad McEvoy published a peer-reviewed article entitled "The Impact of Elite Individual Athletic Performance on University Applicants for Admission NCAA Division I-A Football" in the Winter 2006 issue of The Sport Journal.

Dr. Brent Beggs and Dan Elkins received the 2006 Recreational Sports Journal Award for the most outstanding research article from the National Intramural Recreational Sports Association Foundation.

Department of Technology

Dr. Lou Reifsneider presented a paper titled "Thermformed Packaging with Soy Protein Isolate Resin" at the Global Plastics Environment Conference (GPEC) in Atlanta, Georgia on March 1. The GPEC is an annual technical conference sponsored by the Society of Plastics Engineers that focuses on the technical and economic issues of plastics recycling as well as the developing bio-based and biodegradable plastic materials. In this latter technical track, in which Dr. Reifsneider presented, researchers from the leading universities in bio-based materials presented papers: Michigan State University, Cornell, Iowa State, and University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Dr. Dan Wilson and Mr. Marty Westrick authored the refereed article "Information Technology Content in Graphic Communications Curricula: A Needs Assessment" published in the 2006 Visual Communications Journal.

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.