DEAN’S CORNER

For several years, the ISU campus has been involved in a variety of civic engagement activities as part of the American Democracy Project. Providing service learning opportunities for students has been an important part of this effort. In this process, students are engaged in providing service opportunities that concurrently fulfill course learning objectives. Students self-discover and self-reflect on their experiences resulting in the acquisition and comprehension of values, skills, and knowledge content. Learn by doing has been a routine part of CAST’s pedagogy for many years. Doing for others by providing focused service is a new dimension added by the ADP. I want to bring to your attention CAST colleagues whose work in Civic Engagement has been recognized as outstanding at the recent Civic Engagement Celebration.

Dr. Dawn Beichner, CJS, co-advised students in the ISU Innocence Project which lead to the release of Dale Heming, who was serving prison time, although he was wrongly convicted of a crime. The project developed a short video of their work which was named the best PSA in a national MSNBC poll. They were also named the winner of the ADP Film Your Issue national competition. Dr. Beichner, along with her campus colleagues and students, will present their work on Tuesday night of Science and Technology Week (7:30 p.m., Circus Room, BSC).

Dr. Sara Cole, HSC, has incorporated service learning for all Health Education majors and minors in HSC 292, Community/Public Health. Students work with one of our 15 community-based partners including the American Red Cross, Heritage Enterprises, McLean County Public Health, and Western Avenue Community Center. In the past three years, students have provided over 5400 hours of service to these agencies. The philosophy of the service learning component is to “leave something in return.” Students learn about the functioning of the agency and provide a project or activity that benefits the agency and its clients as well.

Dr. Hank Campbell, TEC emeritus, and his wife Dr. Mary Campbell, SWK, were recognized for leading a group of students to Ocean Springs, Mississippi where they helped with Hurricane Katrina relief. Hank and Mary are long-time campus sponsors of student service projects.

Dr. Marilyn Morrow, Chairperson, HSC, was recognized for her leadership in facilitating the development of service learning opportunities in many of the programs in the Department of Health Sciences. Since the professional responsibility of many of the program’s graduates is to provide service to a range of constituents, service learning is an excellent pedagogy to help prepare students for their careers.

Two University administrators with CAST academic appointments serve on committees that oversee and encourage Civic Engagement through the American Democracy Project. Jan Shane, Associate Provost, and Mardell Wilson, Director of University Assessment, are both making significant contributions to developing the American Democracy Project on the ISU campus.

Thank you to all of these individuals for their hard work on this important University project.

More later………. JRR

CAST RESEARCH OFFICE

In the past, there have been informal gatherings of faculty scholars who engage, to various degrees, in using qualitative research methods for their research. It has been a while since such a gathering has taken place.

Interested faculty and staff in the College are invited to a brown bag lunch on Tuesday, April 11th at noon in Turner 139. The CAST Dean’s Office will supply the beverages, chips, and dessert. Each attendee is then asked to bring whatever kind of sandwich or main luncheon item s/he wishes to eat.

Dr. Sandy Klitzing, KNR, is going to speak about her successful experiences using photo elicitation methods. After informally presenting her work for about 10-15 minutes, there will be plenty of time for questions, answers, brainstorming, networking, planning, etc.

For Sandy and Associate Dean Gentry to better plan, please contact Dr. Gentry by e-mail, phone, or note, telling her if you plan to attend.

DBG

IMPORTANT DATES & DEADLINES:

• Tuesday, 4/11: CAST Qualitative Researchers Brown Bag lunch, 12:00PM, Turner 139

• Monday, 4/17- Friday, 4/21: Science and Technology Week

Portion Size Me, 4/17 at 7:30pm, Circus Room, BSC

Wrongful Conviction and the ISU Innocence Project, 4/18 at 7:30pm, Circus Room, BSC

A Conversation with Sylvia Nasar on Grand Pursuit, 4/19 at 3:00pm, Milner Library

Keynote Speech with Sylvia Nasar- “A Beautiful Mind: Genius, Madness, and Reawakening”, 4/19 at 7:30pm, Braden Auditorium, BSC

CAST Expo and Spring Faculty Meeting, 4/20 starting at 2:30pm in Brown Ballroom, BSC

Wind Power-Winter Crop, 4/20 at 7:30, Old Main, BSC

• Friday, 4/21: Undergraduate Student Research Symposium at BSC (registration deadline 3/17)

• Saturday, May 13: Commencement, Redbird Arena, 1:00PM

• Thursday, May 18: Links for Milt Golf Outing, 11:30AM, University Golf Course
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Dr. Gary Bachman recently had his article, "Controlling Oxalis in Container Production", published in Growing Trends, March 2006.

Dr. Gary Bachman and five Horticulture students participated in the 30th Annual Student Career Days, sponsored by the Professional Landcare Network (PLANET) and hosted by Brigham Young University in Provo, Utah, March 21-26, 2006. There were over 850 students from 56 universities and colleges competing in the Green Industry's "Landscape Olympics".

DEPARTMENT OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE SCIENCES

Dr. Donna Vandiver recently published "A Retrospective Analysis of Juvenile Male Sex Offenders: Characteristics and Recidivism Rates as Adults" in the Journal of Interpersonal Violence.

Dr. Vandiver and Raymond Teske, Jr., Sam Houston State University, published "Juvenile Female and Male Sex Offenders: A Comparison of Offender, Victim, and Judicial Processing" Characteristics" in the International Journal of Offender Therapy and Comparative Criminology.

DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY & CONSUMER SCIENCES

Thank You! Thank You! Thank You!

On behalf of Jumpstart I would like to extend our thanks to our very special guest readers at the Dr. Seuss Birthday Celebration on March 4th. Jumpstart assisted The Children's Discovery Museum in celebrating Read Across America Day, by hosting a Birthday Party for one of America's favorite children's authors whose birthday falls on March 2.

It was a "Seusstacular Event", where guest readers came to share the joy of the wonderful rhyming world of Dr. Seuss with the young guests at the museum throughout the day. Dean Rossman started us off with a reading of "Oh, The Places You'll Go", followed by Dr. Connor Walters who read "The Foot Book". Mrs. Sandra Gosch read "Gertrude McFuzz", while one of her students, Heather Looney, worked a marionette version of Gertrude. President Bowman finished the afternoon for us with a reading of "It's Not Easy Being A Bunny".

In the evening, children and families had the chance to participate in a special meal and activities celebrating some of the best known Dr. Seuss books. The Green Eggs and Ham casserole was a real conversation starter!

The children and families in attendance really enjoyed the experience. As one mother told me "I always enjoy coming here, but it makes it really special to have people taking time from their day to interact with my child. I know he'll remember this for a long time."

"Again, Thank You" on behalf of Jumpstart and The Children's Discovery Museum. It was really a terrific experience for the children and families involved!

Dr. Connor Walters has been appointed to serve as the Chair of the American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences Ethics Committee for 2006-2009.

Dr. Connor Walters and Keith Dutton, M.S., presented "Behaviorally based interviewing in business and academia" at the annual meeting of Life Services Network in Chicago, Illinois.

Director of Child Care, Karen Stephens' article, "Positive Thinking Bolsters Parenting Skills" was recently published in the New Zealand's Childspace Early Childhood Institute's "The Space" magazine Autumn 2006 issue.

On March 31, Karen Stephens, presented "Reaching out to Families Using Technology" at the 2006 conference of the National Coalition of Campus Children's Centers, held in Denver, Colorado.

On March 22, Barbara Gallick, Head Teacher in the Child Care Center, conducted a session on "Building Children's Self-Esteem" as part of a family child care provider training program that is jointly sponsored by the Child Care Resource and Referral and the Bloomington Housing Authority program.

Barbara Gallick also led a training session entitled "Building Strong Teacher-Child Relationships" on March 28. This session was given for directors of 3 local child care programs enrolled in the Program Improvement Project, sponsored by the Child Care Resource and Referral Network. On April 11, Barb will conduct a training session on the same topic for staff of these same child care programs.

SCHOOL OF KINESIOLOGY AND RECREATION

Dr. Chad McEvoy's published research on the impact of athletic success on admissions applicants and fund raising was featured in a February 3 Chronicle of Higher Education article. During the recent NCAA men's basketball championship, Dr. McEvoy was interviewed by national news sources, including the Wall Street Journal, about this research related to the recent success of George Mason University.

Dr. Jennie Gilbert presented at the Southern Illinois Physical Education Conference on March 17, 2006. Her presentation was entitled "Using FITNESSGRAM to assess health-related fitness."
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SCIENCES

Two public information programs for homeowners were sponsored by the Radon Awareness Program, featuring Ruth Ann Lipic, as the presenter. The events were held at the Normal Public Library Community Room, on April 4, 2006, at 1pm and 7pm. In response to a press release sent out to all media, Ruth Ann Lipic was invited to WJBC for an interview to promote the program, the Vidette did a front page feature, and WHOI-TV did a news interview. The Radon Awareness Program also sponsored Valpak coupons for $10.00 test kits that have been distributed to 52,000 McLean County households. Radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer following smoking.

The Health Sciences Department participated in the Civic Engagement Celebration held in the Bone Student Center on Friday, March 31. The American Democracy Project Task Force recognized the Department of Health Sciences for its commitment to civic engagement with all of its hands-on approaches to learning and the work conducted by its student groups. Dr. Sara Cole’s HSC 292: Community & Public Health class was highlighted. Each semester every student (approx. 30 per semester) completes 30-40 hours of service learning. Each student is paired with a community-based organization (~20 partner organizations) where he/she learns about community health through the experience. Each student is also required to complete a “Leave Something Behind” project that the agency has requested as part of the service. Over the last 3 years, the students have completed more than 5400 hours for the agencies.

Five members of the ISU student section of the American Society of Safety Engineers attended the Region V Leadership Conference at NIU on March 31 – April 1, 2006. On Friday, they heard presentations from 3 graduate student groups. Two were about the IH implications of nanotechnology and the other was about the IH issues surrounding a residence hall demolition project at the students’ university. On Saturday, they heard presentations from area Safety/IH professionals on topics including Disaster Preparedness, Risk Management in Healthcare, and Developing Your Safety Career. Another speaker was a Safety professional who was at the WTC at the time of the 9-11 attacks. He shared his story, along with some career advice.

Dr. Gary Erisman attended the Illinois Emergency Medical Technicians Association annual meeting in Springfield. Sessions included updates on legislation involving EMS issues in Illinois by Representative Dan Brady, and lessons learned from the 4 Illinois emergency assistance agencies asked to provide assistance to Gulf Coast residents who were victims of Katrina.

Dr. Harvey Thomas was the invited speaker at East Carolina University’s Department of Technology Systems Occupational Safety Program on March 27, where he spoke on “Comprehensive Emergency Management, Pre and Post 9-11. Where do we go from here?”

DEPARTMENT OF TECHNOLOGY

At the recent International Technology Education Association Conference, Dr. Rodney Custer presented the results of a National Research Council study on the assessment of technological literacy, which will be released in July 2006. This report represents the culmination of three years of work and includes experts from leading national and international assessment agencies. Also, he and Dr. Tom Erekson (Brigham Young University) received approval to develop a Council on Technology Teacher Education book on Engineering and Technology Education, which will be published in 2008. Dr. Custer also presented as part of a panel of recent NSF grant awardees, providing an overview of their projects.

Drs. Chris Merrill and Rodney Custer participated in the spring workshop of the National Center for Engineering and Technology Education in conjunction with the International Technology Education Association’s conference. In addition to addressing key issues facing the Center, the Center’s graduate fellows presented results of preliminary research conducted as part of a course in cognitive science and engineering. Two fellows are affiliated with the Department of Technology at ISU including Marty Wестrick (Instructional Assistant Professor in Graphic Communications) and Jenny Daugherty (curriculum specialist for Project ProBase).

At the recent ITEA conference, Drs. Chris Merrill and Rodney Custer were involved in a variety of activities associated with their role as members of the Board of Directors for the association. The Technology Education Collegiate Association members competed against 76 different teams of collegiate students at the ITEA conference is six different events including problem solving, transportation, video communication, and teaching competitions.

Dr. Mohamed El-Gafy received the Teaching-Learning Development grant from the Center for Teaching, Learning, & Technology to Use Visualization and Animation Technologies in Teaching Design of Building Structures for construction management students.

Chris DePooter, a December graduate of the Construction Management sequence in the Department of Technology, was recognized as a Future Alumni Leader at the Alumni Luncheon on April 1, 2006.