Dean's Corner

Communicating with appropriate groups in the College remains a challenge. Although we have many conduits through which to communicate, getting the right information to the right cohort remains a challenge. After consulting with the School Directors, Department Chairs, and College Council, we have decided to be more inclusive in who is included on our College list-serve in order to deliver information to all who may need it.

This means you may sometimes receive an e-mail that does not directly pertain to you. To help determine if the message is intended for you, we have all pledged to use very descriptive subject lines on the e-mails we post to the College list-serve. We hope this helps.

I hope you enjoy the break afforded by the Thanksgiving vacation and Happy Thanksgiving to you and your loved ones.

More later..... JRR

Cast Office

Stress is an unavoidable consequence of life. As we approach the end of the term it seems stress among us and our students increases exponentially. Students stress about the amount of work that accrues toward the end of the semester. Faculty stress about the increasing momentum of the semester and the desire to get everything “covered” prior to semester's conclusion.

Stress is not always necessarily harmful though. Increased stress results in increased productivity -- up to a point. However, this level differs for each of us. It’s very much like the stress on a violin string. Not enough produces a dull, raspy sound. Too much tension makes a shrill, annoying noise or snaps the string. However, just the right degree can create a magnificent tone. Similarly, we all need to find the proper level of stress that allows us to perform optimally and make melodious music as we go through life.

A recent study suggests that thinking about something personally meaningful can help ease some of the negative physiological effects of stress. In an experiment where college students were asked to perform a stressful task, researchers found that those who first reflected on some important personal values -- whatever they were -- showed lower levels of a stress-hormone while they were under pressure. J. David Creswell of the University of California Los Angeles and his colleagues reported the results in the November issue of the Journal of Psychological Science. The study, according to Creswell, grew out of the body of research on "self-affirmation," whereby people essentially remind themselves that they are basically good and talented. People who draw on this idea may, for example, be less likely to blame themselves after something goes wrong.

So, as the semester gains momentum, you may want to take time for some "self-affirmation" to help avoid the negative effects of stress and encourage your students to do likewise. Techniques to help buffer against stress are needed by each of us from time to time and when used appropriately, will help us all perform optimally.

JAW
CAST Outstanding Researcher Award Recipient

CAST Research Committee members are pleased to announce Dr. Anu Gokhale, Department of Technology, has been selected as the recipient of the 2005-2006 CAST Outstanding Researcher Award. In recognition of her exemplary work, she will be awarded $500 and a plaque for her office wall. Additionally, her name will be added to a plaque dedicated to this award that hangs in the reception area of the CAST Dean’s Office. Finally, she will present highlights of her research efforts at the CAST Spring Faculty Meeting in April, 2006. The underlying focus of Dr. Gokhale’s scholarly activity has been the development and testing of teaching and learning methods to promote deeper understanding of technical material, enhance critical thinking skills, and in effect, increase student proficiency in computer systems and technology. She has been successful in acquiring external funds to support her research as well as in disseminating her findings in respected journals in her field. Her textbook, Introductions to Telecommunications, is in its second edition. In 2002, she was selected as a Fulbright Scholar to teach and study in India. When you next have an opportunity to greet Anu in Turner Hall or elsewhere on campus, please join members of the CAST Research Committee and the College Dean’s Office in congratulating her on this accomplishment.

DEPARTMENT OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE SCIENCES

Dr. Dawn Beichner and Cassia Spohn's article, "Prosecutorial Charging Decisions in Sexual Assault Cases: Examining the Impact of a Specialized Prosecution Unit," was printed in the December 2005 issue of Criminal Justice Policy Review.

Dr. Beichner discussed her work as co-faculty advisor to the ISU Innocence Project and her recent guest lecture/documentary showing at Missouri State University on KSMU, Springfield, Missouri, a National Public Radio affiliate.

DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCES

Dr. Maria E. Canabal attended the Asian Consumer and Family Economics Association (ACFEA) 6th Biennial conference in Sacramento, California November 3-5, 2005. Dr. Canabal moderated a general session panel on International Consumer Protection with participants from Malaysia, China, and Taiwan.

Sandra Gosch co-presented “Successful Competency Based Internships as defined by Child Life Competencies of acceptable practice by the Child Life Council”. The presentation was part of the Midwest Child Life Conference at Advocate Hope Children’s Hospital in Chicago on November 12 and 13.

Her co-presenter was Linda Bensing, CCLS at Lutheran General Children’s Hospital, and Adjunct Faculty at ISU. Two FCS students, Trista Ellerman and Megan Gray participated in the presentation also.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SCIENCES

Drs. Gary Erisman and George Byrns, along with 6 student members of the ISU Chapter of the American Society of Safety Engineers, and 4 student members of the Student Environmental Health Association attended a joint meeting of the Central Illinois Chapter ASSE and the Prairie Chapter of the American Industrial Hygiene Association in Bloomington on November 8. The program included presentations from OSHA, Illinois State Police, hospital and industry officials discussing challenges to enforcement of laws and regulations.

Twelve student members of the ISU chapter of the American Society of Safety Engineers attended the National Future Safety Leaders conference in Cleveland, Ohio, November 3-5. The cost of attendance by the students was borne by Liberty Mutual Insurance Company and the Central Illinois Chapter of ASSE. While there, student members had an opportunity to interact with members from 20 other ASSE chapters throughout the United States, tour jobsites, and listen to Safety Professionals from a wide array of employment areas discuss challenges facing them upon graduation.

The student chapter of the Clinical Laboratory Science Society and their faculty advisor, Dr. Lori Woeste, participated in the Fall 2005 American Diabetes Association: Walk for Diabetes in Bloomington-Normal. This event is an effort to raise both awareness and funds for the fight against diabetes.

Dr. Sara Cole was elected to the Society for Public Health Education’s (SOPHE) Board of Trustees in November 2005.

Dr. Cole also received funding from the College of Applied Science & Technology Dr. Phoebe M. Scott Endowment Fund for Professional Development of Women in The School of Kinesiology and Recreation and The Health Education Program in the Department of Health Sciences for a pre-conference workshop entitled “Community-Based Participatory Research”.

Ms. Ruth Ann Lipic, Director of the McLean County Radon Awareness Program, reports that the Midwest - American Association of Radon Scientists and Technologists (AARST) honored several local people with certificates and plaques of appreciation for their professional work, volunteer efforts and generous donation of time to help with public awareness campaigns at a dinner meeting on Friday, November 4, 2005 in Normal. In addition, several homebuilders were honored for installing passive radon systems in all of their new construction. On Saturday, November 5, 50 radon mitigation licensees from Illinois attended continuing education classes presented as part of the Radon Education Day held in Felmley Hall on the ISU campus.
SCHOOL OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Dr. Matthew Kuofie has been invited by the United Nations to speak at the World Summit on the Information Society to be held in Tunisia, November 16-18. Dr Kuofie will speak on “Knowledge Management for Handling World Information Security and Policy Issues.”


In addition, James received recognition during the meeting’s awards session for his paper, “Is Overbidding in Online Auctions the Result of a Pseudo-Endowment Effect?” which was chosen as a finalist in the 2005 INFORMS Decision Analysis Society (DAS) student paper competition.

Dr. Tom Portegys’ paper, “Learning Environmental Contexts in a Goal-Seeking Neural Network,” has been accepted for publication in the peer reviewed Journal of Intelligent Systems.

SCHOOL OF KINESIOLOGY AND RECREATION

The National Recreation and Park Association / American Association for Leisure and Recreation Council on Accreditation approved continuing accreditation for the Recreation and Park Administration program until 2010.


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