A recent survey commissioned by the National Cyber Security Alliance (NCSA) found that among PC users 30% believed they had more chance of being audited by the tax man, struck by lightning or winning the lottery than they did of falling victim to a computer security problem. The majority of respondents did pick out cyber security as the most likely risk posed among the choices.

According to the US National Weather Service, Americans have a 0.0000102% chance of being hit by lightning. By contrast the chances of falling victim to a computer virus, “phishing” attack, malicious hack attempt or other cyber security dangers are currently running at 70%, according to statistics gathered for the E-Crime Watch Survey.

October has been declared National Cyber Security Awareness month in the US. Cyber security threats pose a serious risk to all PC users including CAST faculty, staff and students. The threats generally come from attacks mounted off campus and are passed from user to user through worms that may turn your PC into a “zombie” that may spread as many as 70,000 pieces of e-mail spam a day.

Your PC may be taken over in myriad ways. You may be fooled into opening a virus-infected e-mail. You might have innocently surfed to a Web page bristling with contagious code. Or you may have done nothing at all to make your PC susceptible to cyber attack. One of dozens of network worms, voracious, self-replicating programs that pinball around the Web searching for security holes in Windows PCs, may have found a way into your PC.

In response to an increased level of threat to ISUNet, new measures have been implemented to ensure the continued safety of the network. There are some twenty-five initiatives that make up our ISUNet Enhanced Security Plan. One such initiative requires all outgoing external email leave the campus through one server thus guaranteeing that each message is virus free as it leaves campus.

A new university group has been charged with the task of reviewing campus cyber threats and to recommend policy and procedures for dealing with such risks. The first order of business for the Campus Technology Policy & Planning Council has been to review the proposed ISUNet Security Enhancement Plan. The Council will advise the Vice Presidents and President on ways and measures of protecting ourselves in the face of increasing cyberintrusions. I will soon ask the CAST Council to consider amending our bylaws to create a College Technology Committee that will act as a conduit for channeling information of concern to CAST users directly to the Campus Technology Policy & Planning Council. One thing all CAST users can do is to make sure you are diligent in cyber security measures and protect yourself by not opening suspicious email and by making sure your virus protection software is updated. Not protecting yourself from cyber attack could very likely affect us all.

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**Department of Agriculture**

Randy Winter made two presentations to approximately 135 Brazilian farmers on September 22 at the Illinois Farm Bureau (Bloomington) and at the Illinois State University Farm (Lexington). The presentations described the recent history and current mechanisms of U.S. domestic farm policy.

Pat O’Rourke, Doug Morrish, and student representative, Meredith Caldwell attended the District 2 Agricultural Education Advisory Council meeting in Chicago on September 28, 2004. Several topics were discussed including updates on each district, university and community college. Pressing issues in agricultural education that were noted include selection of student teaching sites and professional development activities for current agriculture teachers.

**Department of Health Sciences**

Melissa Crosse (School Health Education major) joined the CAST Council as a student representative.

Dr. George Byrns presented a session entitled, “The mismatch in perceptions about safety and low back pain in nurses” at the Annual Trust Meeting of Life Services Network in Kankakee, Illinois on September 30, 2004. This is a group of not-for-profit nursing home administrators, and approximately 60 members were in attendance.

Dr. Gary Erisman, American Society of Safety Engineers Student Chapter sponsor, Dr. Harvey Thomas, Dr. George Byrns and 5 ISU student ASSE Chapter members attended the meeting of the Central Illinois Chapter of the American Society of Safety Engineers held at State Farm Park, September 21, 2004.

Dr. Rod Simmons presented “Thermal Destruction Unit: Concept and Applications for Kuwait Agriculture” at the Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research, June 28, 2004.

**Department of Criminal Justice Sciences**

Professor Jeff Walsh presented the following peer-reviewed paper at the annual meeting of the Midwestern Criminal Justice Association: "Motor Vehicle Theft, Methods, and Future Inquiry: An Ecological Study of Motor Vehicle Theft in a Midwestern City".

At the 2004 Meeting of the American Society of Biomechanics, held in Portland, Dr. Steve McCaw presented the refereed poster “A comparison of vertical ground reaction forces between one and two-leg drop landings”. The poster was co-authored by graduate students Saori Hanaki (currently an instructor in KNR), Meredith Olson and undergraduate student, Josh Kauten.

In his role as chair of the Education Committee, Dr. Steve McCaw hosted a student luncheon that included a panel discussion of career options for biomechanists in industry.

Dr. Sandra Klitzing has been reappointed to the editorial board of the Therapeutic Recreation Journal.

Dr. David Thomas, Professor of Exercise Science, was a panelist in a debate about public school physical education waiver reform at the Advocacy Summit sponsored by the Consortium to Lower Obesity in Chicago Children on Wednesday, September 29, 2004.

**Department of Family & Consumer Sciences**

Dr. Maria E. Canabal was appointed to the Board of Directors of the American Council on Consumer Interests (ACCI) as director of External Relations. As such, she will maintain relationships with outside organizations including Consumers International and the Trans Atlantic Consumer Dialog, among others.

Dr. Nweze Nnakwe received a grant award of $25,000, from the Illinois Department of Public Health Office of Women’s Health, to address women’s health issues such as heart disease, osteoporosis, menopause and weight management.

**School of Kinesiology and Recreation**

Dr. Peter Smith and Tony Amorose presented two papers to the annual conference of the Association for the Advancement of Applied Sport Psychology in Minneapolis-St. Paul, Minnesota. Both projects also enlisted the help of Sheri Glorioso, a recent graduate of the Undergraduate program, and were assisted by a grant from the Illinois Association of Health, Physical Education, Recreation, and Dance. The titles of the presentations were: "Feedback as a source of competence information: A comparison across academic and physical domains”, and "The interpretation of coaching feedback as a source of physical competence information: Does the coach’s previous knowledge of the athletes’ ability matter?"

Congratulations to Abby Schoolman, a Park and Recreation Administration student, on receiving a $1,000.00 Southern Illinois Park and Recreation Association (SIPRA) Student Scholarship in recognition of her demonstrated professional involvement in the leisure services field as a student and for her academic achievements.

**Department of Technology**

Dr. Anu A. Gokhale was awarded a HECA grant for $40,000 by the Illinois Board of Higher Education to pursue a one-year project, “An Integrated Approach to Enhance Critical Thinking and Change Attitudes Toward STEM”. The partner institutions include the City Colleges of Chicago, Illinois Central College, and Heartland Community College.