CAST RESEARCH OFFICE

CAST Outstanding Researcher Award Recipient

CAST Research Committee members are pleased to announce Dr. Guang Jin, Department of Health Sciences, has been selected as the recipient of the 2004-2005 CAST Outstanding Researcher Award. In recognition of her exemplary work, she will be awarded $500 and a plaque for his 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, 2005. Dr. Jin’s scholarly areas of interest are water quality management/modeling; biological treatment and/or management of waste; and pollution prevention. Her work has been published in such journals as Water Environment Research, Journal of Environmental Health and Science; and Management of Environmental Quality.

Dr. Jin is a CAST representative to the University Research Council. When you next have an opportunity to greet Guang, please join members of the CAST Research Committee and the College Dean’s Office in congratulating her on this accomplishment.

CAST OFFICE

The ability to think abstractly, conceptualize and solve problems is becoming increasingly important in the workplace and in all aspects of living. These skills are taught by CAST faculty who rely on a strong and vibrant curriculum. In our college, the curriculum is the stalwart of the faculty, who are responsible for developing and updating courses. This semester the CAST Curriculum Committee has received 94 proposals from six departments/schools. This unusual volume has created a workload that is challenging but vitally important so our students may receive instruction which is useful and innovative to them and their future employers.

Many of the curricular proposals we have received are for updating courses through modifying prerequisites, adding new ones, or changing course content. Other proposals are for the purpose of developing entirely new courses that demand a great deal of effort by the initiator and the reviewers. Let me briefly outline the process by which a curriculum proposal is scrutinized before it ever appears in the ISU catalog.

Once a proposal is written or a course revised, the proposal undergoes an initial review at the departmental or school level. Each academic unit within the College has its own committee whose job it is to review each proposal for content, scope, and fit within the overall curriculum. After the initial review, a proposal goes on to the college curriculum committee whose job it is to again scrutinize for rigor, appropriateness and fit. Usually a departmental/school representative is invited to sit with the college curriculum committee to answer questions or to provide clarification wherever needed. After approval at the college level the proposal moves on to a variety of university level committees depending on the nature of the submission. Undergraduate courses go to the University Curriculum Committee; graduate proposals go to the Graduate Curriculum Committee. Courses with a decidedly teacher education orientation go to the Teacher Education Council. Courses with general education content are forwarded to the Council on General Education. Every course proposal is put out for scrutiny via the university web site for public comment prior to action by the university committees. This guarantees a non-proliferation of redundant courses and insures a cohesive curriculum throughout the university. Only after approval at the appropriate university level do course proposals appear in the university catalog.

The process we employ to reinvigorate or create curriculum is a very rigorous one which requires a great deal of energy by many people at several university levels. The most important gatekeeper of the curriculum is the faculty who utilize their talent and energy to make and keep instruction relevant, vibrant and useful for our students. It is demanding but necessary work and can be very rewarding.

JAW
Department of Agriculture

Drs. Doug Kingman and Doug Morrish attended the National FFA Convention in Louisville, Kentucky on October 27-30. Additionally, three agricultural education students (April Davis, Shannon Murphy, and Maggie Meyer) attended to help with recruitment activities at the career show.

Dr. Doug Morrish acted as a judge for the National Agriscience Fair and Dr. Doug Kingman was a judge for the National Agricultural Mechanics Career Development Event. FFA students from around the nation attend the convention.

Department of Family and Consumer Sciences

Dr. Mardell Wilson was the invited keynote speaker for the Kentucky School Food Service Industry and Administrators conference in Lake Cumberland, Kentucky, October 28-29. Dr. Wilson’s address was entitled “Childhood Obesity: Does Pointing Fingers Solve the Problem?”

Dr. Mardell Wilson presented the poster entitled “The prevalence of restricted and disordered eating behaviors among vegetarian and non-vegetarian college freshmen” at the American Dietetic Association Food and Nutrition Conference and Exhibition at Anaheim, California, October 2-5. Additional authors from the department of Family and Consumer Sciences included Dr. Juliane Trautmann, Dr. Connor Walters and Stephanie Rau. Dr. Wilson also served as past-chair for the Dietetic Educators of Practitioners at the national conference.

Barbara Gallick, head teacher in the child care center, presented a preconference session entitled, “Project Work in a Full Day Child Care Setting” at the Illinois Association for the Education of Young Children Conference in Peoria, Illinois on October 14. She also presented “Helping Young Children Develop a Positive Self-Esteem” for the Child Care Resource and Referral Agency. On October 27, Barbara presented to a group, training to be child care home providers, in a program sponsored by the CCRRN and the Bloomington Housing Authority. On November 4, she provided training for early childhood providers from Bloomington-Normal and surrounding communities.

Department of Health Sciences

Dr. Paulette Miller and Dr. Frank Waterstraat gave an invited presentation to the Wisconsin Health Information Management Association, September 16, on “Productivity Analysis and Autobenchmarking.”

Ms. Anjie Almeda (HSC Departmental Academic Advisor) presented “QMF: The Right Tool for the Advisor's Job”, and was also part of a group presentation entitled, “Bridging Gaps: Connecting Campus Groups through an Integrated Training Program” (with colleagues from Sociology and University College) at the Illinois Academic Advising Association (IAAA) conference on Friday, October 22, on the DePaul University campus in Chicago, Illinois.

Dr. George Byrns and 4 environmental health and safety students, attended an October 28 presentation, “Environmental Due Diligence” sponsored by the American Industrial Hygiene Association Prairie Section in Bloomington. The speaker was Michael Hoffman, PE of MACTEC Engineering and Consulting, Inc.

Department of Criminal Justice Sciences

Ms. Susan Woollen (CJS Departmental Academic Advisor) has published an online article in The Illinois School Law Quarterly entitled, “The SAT in the College Admissions Process.”

A celebration of the 30th Anniversary of the Environmental Health Program in the Department of Health Sciences at ISU was held in conjunction with ISU Homecoming activities this year. The celebration was held on Saturday, October 25 from 11:30 am until 2:00 pm in Felmley Hall of Science Room 313 and included a history of the Program since its inception in 1974, focusing on former students, faculty, Program Directors and their many accomplishments during the past 30 years. Since 1974, the Environmental Health Major has graduated more than 2,000 students who have gone on to become outstanding professionals in the areas of public health, occupational health and environmental protection throughout Illinois, the nation and the world. During this celebration graduates of the Program, current students and faculty also celebrated the 80th birthday of one of the former Program Directors, Heinz Russelmann. The motto of this Anniversary Celebration was “The Environmental Health Major, 1974-2004: 30 years making a world of difference”. A display case on the third floor of the Felmley Science Annex has also been devoted to a history of the Environmental Health Program and its accomplishments over the past 30 years.

Congratulations to the Environmental Health Program on "30 years making a world of difference"

Applause being received by Heinz Russelmann
Dr. Guang Jin greeting an alum
Line-up of faculty and alums
Dr. Ken Stier received the Outstanding Industrial Technology Professor Award at the 2004 National Association of Industrial Technology (NAIT) Convention in Louisville, Kentucky on October 22, 2004. Dr. Ken Stier was given the award from Region 2 which is comprised of seven states including Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota and Wisconsin.

On Tuesday, October 26, Drs. Rodney Custer, Michael Daughtery, and Chris Merrill held a news conference formally announcing ISU’s participation in the NSF-funded National Center for Engineering and Technology Education (NCETE). The Center’s funding is for $10 million over the next five year and will bring $302,000 to ISU.

On October 22, Drs. Dan Brown, Rodney Custer and Klaus Schmidt presented a research paper titled "Benchmarking Industrial Technology-Related Computer Technology Programs" at the National Association of Industrial Technology 2004 Convention in Louisville, Kentucky.

Dr. Ryan Brown was elected as President-Elect of the Graphic Communications Division of NAIT, and was installed at the annual business meeting on Saturday, October 23.

Dr. Ken Stier, Department of Technology, gave a refereed presentation on student recruitment at the National Association of Industrial Technology Conference on October 21, in Louisville, Kentucky.
Homecoming 2004
Thank you to everyone who participated in Homecoming 2004. It was an enjoyable and memorable event.

UNIVERSITY RESEARCH GRANT (URG) PROPOSAL WRITING WORKSHOP

Who: All CAST faculty, though investigators new to writing URG proposals are especially encouraged to attend

Why: To learn how to prepare a successful proposal
See guidelines at: http://www.cast.ilstu.edu/Research/urg.htm
(Submission deadline for FY06 URGs is February 1, 2005)

When: Monday, November 15, 2004 10:00-11:15 a.m.
Where: Turner 104A

Coffee and bagels provided
Contact Deborah Gentry, CAST Dean’s Office, if you plan to come.
Email: dgentry@ilstu.edu  Tele: 438-8748