NCA Accreditation

Next week is an important component of a project that the University has been working on for over two years; the site visitation for our 10 year reaccreditation with the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools (NCA). Ten visitors will be on campus. The team arrives and is welcomed with a reception on Sunday afternoon. Monday through Wednesday they are heavily scheduled to meet with many different groups and individuals on campus. Their main task is to verify the response the University made in our Self-Study to the NCA accreditation criteria. Thus, they are free to seek information they believe they need to confirm the authenticity of our claims. Most of the University’s administrative staff will be “on call” to respond to the needs of the team while they are on campus.

Several CAST faculty were involved in this project. Dr. Jan Shane, Associate Provost, served as co-chair of the Steering Committee. Dr. Deborah Gentry, Associate Dean in CAST, served as the team leader of a sub-committee who wrote Chapter 5 of the Self-Study that covers Acquisition, Discovery, and Application of Knowledge. You can access the complete study or an executive summary of it at the University’s NCA web site at http://www.provost.ilstu.edu/ncac.

You can help the University make a good response during this visit by attending one of several meetings that are scheduled. If you are on campus and not scheduled to teach during meeting times, please try to attend at least one meeting. There are also some meetings for students and it would be useful if you would bring these to the attention of your students and encourage them to attend. The meetings schedule is as follows:

MONDAY FEBRUARY 14, 2005

CAST MEETINGS with team liaison Dr. William E. Knight, Director of Planning and Institutional Research, Bowling Green State University, Bowling Green, Ohio.
1:00—2:00 p.m. Tuner 104a
CAST faculty open forum (Dr. Amy Hurd, Chair of the College Council, will convene the meeting)
2:00—2:30 p.m. Tuner 104a
CAST students open forum (Rita Davita (FCS) will convene the meeting)
2:30—3:00 p.m. Tuner 104a
CAST Council open forum (Dr. Amy Hurd, Chair of the College Council, will convene the meeting)
3:00—3:30 p.m. Turner 104a
CAST Department Chairs and School Directors (Dr. Tom Ellsworth, Chair of the Department of Criminal Justice Sciences, will convene the meeting)

UNIVERSITY MEETINGS with assigned members of the visitation team.
3:00—4:00 p.m. Bone Student Center, Old Main Room
Staff Open Forum
4:00—5:00 p.m. Bone Student Center, Old Main Room
Faculty Open Forum

TUESDAY FEBRUARY 15, 2005

4:00—5:00 p.m. Bone Student Center, Circus Room
Student Open Forum

Thank you for attending these meetings and for your help in bringing them to the attention of our students.

More later....................... JRR

CAST RESEARCH OFFICE

• Establish one or a few regular locations were you do nothing but serious writing. If possible, find a place where you can leave your work spread out between writing sessions.
• Make regular writing sites sacred in the sense that no other temptations such as magazines, newspapers, or novels are on site.
• Arrange your writing site to minimize distractions and interruptions.
• Keep a daily writing log noting date, time in, time out, pages drafted, pages edited, etc.

College-wide Forum with Provost Presley and Dr. McGinnis

As has occurred in past years, a forum for CAST faculty and staff to attend, featuring Provost John Presley and Associate Vice-President for Research Gary McGinnis, has been scheduled for Thursday, March 3rd from 2:00 – 3:00 p.m. in Turner 104A. Come with ideas, suggestions, questions, and concerns.
**Department of Agriculture**

Dr. Amy Hurd published a paper titled "Competency Development for Board Members in Public Parks and Recreation Agencies" in the Journal of Park & Recreation Administration.

Dr. Steve McCaw was in Boulder, Colorado January 26-29, 2005 for the Spring Meeting of the Executive Board of the American Society of Biomechanics (ASB). Dr. McCaw is chair of the Education Committee of the ASB.

Dr. J. Robert Rossman and Dr. Barbara Elwood Schlatter recently presented "Fine Tune Your Programs with Focus Groups" at the annual Illinois Park and Recreation Association / Illinois Association of Park Districts conference held in Chicago on January 29, 2005.

Dr. Chad McEvoy published a peer-reviewed article entitled "Predicting Fund Raising Revenues in NCAA Division I-A Intercollegiate Athletics" in the Winter 2005 issue of The Sport Journal.

Nancy J. Niebur, internship coordinator for the Recreation and Park Administration program in KNR, spoke at the 2005 annual Illinois Park and Recreation Conference in Chicago, held January 27-29. She was a co-presenter with Gary Ito, Dr. Byrns, and Dr. Brinkman.

**School of Kinesiology and Recreation**

Dr. Elwood Schlatter recently presented "Fine Tune Your Programs with Focus Groups" at the annual Illinois Park and Recreation Association / Illinois Association of Park Districts conference held in Chicago on January 29, 2005.

**Department of Health Sciences**

Dr. Sara Cole (with Brian Dodge, Michael Reece, and Theo Sandfort) published "Sexual Compulsivity among Heterosexual College Students" in the November 2004 issue of the Journal of Sex Research.

Dr. George Byrns presented "The Use of Case Studies to Enhance Student Engagement" at the University-Wide Symposium of Teaching and Learning on January 12, 2005 at the Chateau in Normal.

Dr. George Byrns coordinated a special lecture by Mike Shaw of Interscan, Inc. The topic was the Use of Direct Reading Instruments to Monitor Airborne Toxic Chemicals. The lecture was given in Felmley Hall on January 27, 2005 to approximately 20 EH and Safety students and faculty. In addition, two EH students and Dr. Byrns attended a presentation by Mr. Shaw on Formaldehyde Monitoring on January 27, 2005 at the Holiday Inn in Normal. The programs were sponsored by the Prairie Section of the American Industrial Hygiene Association.

Dr. Tom Bierma presented "Expanded chemical management programs for Small to Medium Enterprises" at a conference entitled "Process Efficiency Improvement for Small Manufacturers: A Search for Innovative Business Models." The presentation summarized results of research conducted with colleagues Dr. Frank Waterstraat, Beverly Barham, Lori Woeste, Paulette Miller, and Marilyn Morrow. The conference was held at the Illinois Waste Management and Research Center in Champaign, Illinois.

Drs. Frank Waterstraat, Beverly Barham, Lori Woeste, Paulette Miller, and Marilyn Morrow will be working as a team after receiving a grant from the Illinois Department of Public Health. The pilot project will involve testing a curriculum model to infuse content and skills for emergency response for student nurses. Mennonite College of Nursing will be collaborating in the project.

Dr. Dr. Rod Simmons met with faculty from the College of Medicine at Kuwait University to discuss the curriculum for a proposed graduate diploma program in Occupational Safety and Health in the Healthcare Setting on November 23, 2004. He also met with researchers and managers in the Aridland Agriculture and Greenery Department of the Food Resources and Marine Sciences Division of the Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research on November 22 and 24 to discuss collaboration on a research project entitled "Thermal Destruction System for Livestock Mortalities" and presented a draft Memorandum of Understanding that would formalize ISU-KISR research and teaching collaboration.

**Department of Criminal Justice Sciences**

Dr. Dawn Beichner’s co-authored article, "Prosecutorial Justifications for Sexual Assault Case Rejection: Guarding the ‘Gateway to Justice,’ which first appeared in 2001 in Social Problems, has been reprinted in Claire M. Renzetti and Raquel Kennedy Bergen (Eds.), Violence against Women: Readings from Social Problems (December 2004).

Dr. Deborah Gentry and Dr. Connor Walters published "Mentoring Programs: Paving the Way to Success for New Faculty" in the Winter 2005 issue of The Department Chair: A Resource for Academic Administrators.

Dr. Rod Simmons attended the International Poultry Exposition in Atlanta, Georgia January 26-27, 2005. At the conference, he met with industry collaborators and funding agencies on a thermal destruction research initiative.

Dr. Rod Simmons participated in the formation of a Health, Safety and Environmental Credentialing Board (HSECB) during November 20-24, 2004 at Kuwait University, with participation from Kuwait Oil Company, Kuwait National Petroleum Company, and Kuwait Petroleum Company, Kuwait EPA, and European experts. The HSECB will focus on HSE professionals working in the process and related industries in Kuwait and other GCC countries. Dr. Simmons is serving an initial three-year term on the Board and was elected as Vice Chair for 2004-2005.

**Department of Technology**

Dr. Anu Gokhale has been appointed to the Executive Committee for Region 4 of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) as the Student Activities Chair. Region 4 includes Michigan, Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, Nebraska, and North and South Dakota. This is a two-year term.

Dr. Klaus Schmidt and Dan Brown published an article entitled "Considerations for embedding On-Line components into traditional classroom environments" in the Journal of Industrial Teacher Education 41(4). The paper assesses how a student's a priori experience with computer technologies correlate to student perceptions of and success with embedded on-line learning experiences.