This is the time of year that we all seem to get busy with spring departmental/school end of year honoring events as well as grading term projects and preparing for final exams. I have begun my spring round of visiting faculty in all units and have been pleased to learn about your accomplishments as well as having an opportunity to provide updates about the College. Following is a short update about some units and issues in the College.

Our colleagues in Criminal Justice Sciences are settled well in their new office suite in the renovated portion of Schroeder Hall. They remain a bit frustrated with the lack of technology support in their classrooms. The University is waiting for the State to release the funds for this part of the project, but in the mean time, it is creating hardship for the faculty who teach there.

All units in Turner Hall, including the Dean’s Office, Technology, Family and Consumer Science, and the Child Care Center, are making contingency plans for relocating while Turner Hall undergoes life-safety work. Occupants of Turner will likely need to be relocated for approximately one year while this work is completed. Those of us who reside in Turner know how urgently these repairs are needed. One day this week, we had two leaks at the same time!

Finally, on a different matter, we have had a very good year recruiting new faculty. We have filled all of our authorized positions and have one search remaining to be completed. We expect to bring this search to completion in the next three weeks. We have hired excellent new faculty including individuals who currently hold positions at Indiana University and Florida State University.

More later…………. JRR

CAST OFFICE

We’re often given the advice to “get our ducks in a row.” That mantra is usually uttered as we take up new initiatives or when we are trying to wrap up previous ones. So, as we near the end of the semester, we collectively need to get our “ducks in a row.” Being attentive to this mantra is often frustrating and stressful. At this time of year we feel a need to cram as much as possible in the remaining weeks of the semester. This need often results in frustrations and stress among students, faculty, and staff. What can be done to avoid these frustrations, especially at a time when there is much to do and so little time in which to do it?

I’m reminded of the 5 P’s. “Prior planning prevents poor performance.” This axiom may be helpful and applicable to us all. Carefully planning and adhering to a course syllabus may help reduce stress among faculty and students alike. Often it is difficult to practice such rigid adherence with best laid plans because our students are inquisitive and each class moves at its own pace. Trying to keep an instructional pace is important as the end of the semester looms nearer.

Maintaining regular office hours is a technique for mitigating end of semester stress for many. Regular office hours gives our students the opportunity to ask questions that they feel may be awkward, outside of normal class times. This also permits you to maintain an in-class instructional pace that is commensurate with your syllabus and prior planning.

Lastly, make time to decompress. Remember the end of the semester signals stress not only for you but others too. Participate in some of your favorite recreational activities or engage in non-work related leisure reading. Do something to mentally rejuvenate and prepare for the end of term tasks that need our attention.

Hopefully some of these tips will help you “get your ducks in a row.”

JAW
Department of Agriculture

Dr. Gary Bachman and the Horticulture Club participated in the Associated Landscape Contractor Association Student Career Days hosted by the University of Maryland in College Park, Maryland, March 18-22, 2005. The students participated in the career fair and two days of Landscape Olympics.

Dr. Gary Bachman is pleased to report that the Horticulture Club has received recognition as one of the most active organizations attending the Mid-America Horticultural Trade Show and Career Event held in Chicago on January 22, 2005. The Horticulture Club is again selling summer flowering bulbs with many species to select from. See any Hort Club member or contact Dr. Bachman. Final order date is April 8.

School of Kinesiology and Recreation


Dr. Jennie Gilbert attended and presented at the IAHPERD Midstate conference at Southern Illinois University on March 18th. The title of the presentation was “Statewide Health Fitness Project” and was co-authored by Beth Verner, Weimo Zhu (UIUC), Heidi Krahlng (UIUC) and Bill Casey (EducTrac, Inc.). Dr. Gilbert also presented two FITNESSGRAM workshops to the Sun Prairie Wisconsin school district (April 5 & 6) and had an article published in JOPERD titled “Using Target Heart Rate Zones in Your Class”, March 2005.

Department of Family and Consumer Sciences

Dr. Jean Memken attended the Midwest Sociological Society meeting in Minneapolis, Minnesota on April 1-2. She presented a paper entitled, “Housing in Rural Communities” along with Sue Crull, Christine Cook and Mack Shelley from Iowa State University. The research comes from a 7-state regional project funded by the National Research Institute of the USDA. Dr. Memken is the representative from Illinois on the project.

Dr. Mardell Wilson, Ms. Stephanie Rau, MS, RD ’04, Dr. Julianne Trautmann, and Dr. Connor Walters presented the poster “The Prevalence of Restricted and Disordered Eating Behaviors Among Vegetarian And Non-Vegetarian College Freshmen” at the Illinois Dietetic Association meeting in Oakbrook, Illinois on April 1.

Dr. JongEun Kim was promoted to Associate Director of the Unit for East Asian Studies, 2005-2006. The authority of appointment lies with the Director of International Studies and Programs. In the associate director role, Dr. Kim is building a student exchange program between Illinois State University and Kon-Kuk University in Korea. It is a 6-8 credit hour program for the summer session with tuition and boarding being waived for ISU exchange students.


Dr. Dan Wilson authored the 3rd edition of Lithography Primer, published by GATF Press of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania in April, 2005. The internationally marketed book is an introductory text on the lithographic process and is used in college courses and for industry reference. Dr. Wilson wrote the 2nd edition in 1997, at that time the book was released in English and Spanish and spent several years on the GATF Press best seller list.

Department of Health Sciences

Drs. Harvey Thomas, Rod Simmons, Guang J. Ma, Anjie Almeda (HSC Aide, Adviser), and Dr. Aaron Mannos (August 2005 Safety alum) published a peer-reviewed article entitled “Comparison of Student Outcomes for a Classroom-based vs. an Internet-based Construction Safety Course”, in the Spring 2005 issue the Journal of Safety, Health and Environmental Research.

Environmental Health major, Ms. Caroline Wade, has been named as a Udlall Scholar by the Morris K. Udall Foundation. The Foundation, established in 1992 by the U.S. Congress to honor Morris Udall’s thirty years of service in the House of Representatives, selects undergraduates “who have demonstrated outstanding potential and a commitment to pursuing careers related to the environment.” This year, only 80 scholars were named of 436 applicants from 211 institutions. The scholarship provides up to $5,000 in funding for college-related expenses.

Mr. Vern Hanks, Director of the ISU Motorcycle Safety Program, was quoted in an article on motorcycle safety that appeared in the April 5 edition of the Peoria Journal Star.


Dr. Rod Simmons met with researchers at the Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research on March 19 regarding collaboration on a Portable Thermal Destruction Unit for disposal of contaminated agricultural biomass.

Dr. Frank Waterstraat attended a seminar entitled “Bioterrorism Response Preparation Training”, that was conducted by the Illinois Medical Emergency Response Team. The seminar was conducted March 24 at Heartland Community College.

Dr. Rod Simmons presented an invited seminar entitled “The Risk Assessment Matrix: Origins and Paths Forward”, to the College of Engineering at University of Jordan, located in Amman, Jordan on the evening of March 20, 2005. In addition to engineering faculty and graduate students, many professionals from the Jordanian business, industrial, and military sectors attended the seminar.