This is the last NewsCAST of the year. I would like to make a few summary comments about the year we have had.

The dollar amount of external grants we will receive in FY 05 (in excess of $6 million) will most certainly double the amount received in FY 04. Congratulations to individuals who have succeeded in receiving grant awards.

We received initial accreditation for our program in Construction Management and favorable reports for re-accrediting our programs in Technology and Recreation and Park Administration.

We had a successful year completing searches and our faculty have again attracted excellent new colleagues from very good institutions and programs. I am looking forward to working with them.

Our cumulative productivity on several items of scholarship that we track remained the same or increased from 2003 to 2004. This includes refereed journal articles, proceedings, book chapters, books, and external grants.

Overall undergraduate enrollments in the College have decreased by a small percentage. We are implementing programs to help increase these numbers, one of which is working with admissions to try and fill our excess seat capacity in programs that are not over subscribed.

Our graduates report that they continue to have excellent placement rates and that our curricula prepare them well for their positions. Those we have been tracking for three years indicate that they are receiving good promotions and raises as their careers continue to develop.

In FY 06, we plan to continue to advocate for the Turner Life/Safety renovation, complete the CAT Integrated Manufacturing Laboratory, and complete several building enhancement renovations to Turner Hall. We are also pushing for the campus to build a Student Wellness/Education Center that will also serve as a venue for our School of Kinesiology and Recreation.

In CAST, we are initiating two new programs to help our faculty obtain reassigned time from teaching to spend on grant writing and a faculty development grant program. Both of these are modestly funded for this first year but they are programs our faculty have been requesting and we will grow them as we have continuing success.

I am looking forward to a joyful commencement and hope to see you there. Thanks for your contribution to our successful year. Have a good summer and return next fall anticipating continuing success in CAST.

More later………..          JRR

CAST Office

On Saturday, May 14, 2005, at 1:00pm I will don academic regalia like many of you and celebrate the Spring 2005 commencement. All the good things that happen around here, happen because people come together to do great things. Every week I gain more of an appreciation for our faculty, staff, and friends. The upcoming spring commencement will be an exciting time that represents a culmination of effort by students, families, friends, faculty and staff. We should all share the enjoyment of the celebration and the new journeys our students will travel.

This spring 518 undergraduate degrees and 120 graduate degrees will be conferred on students from CAST. If you have registered on-line to participate in commencement, please consider attending the rehearsal which is scheduled for 1:00pm on Thursday, May 12 in Redbird Arena. This will help all us be sure of our place and role in this joyful event. And, don’t forget to attend the reception in Linkins Dining Center immediately following the ceremony.

I’m looking forward to a fun and joyful event.       JAW

CAST Research Office

The new CAST website is up and running. Navigating the new site will be a little different when you are looking for programs that provide support for faculty/staff and students. For information and forms associated with programs such as the Publication Incentive Program (PIP), the Research Mentoring Program, the CAST Presentation Travel Award, and Undergraduate and Graduate Student Travel Awards, click on “Faculty Resources/Support” on the left side menu on the main CAST page followed by "Research Support and Recognition” (see http://www2.cast.ilstu.edu/facultyresources/research/).

At the Spring Faculty Meeting last week, two new support programs were announced: External Grant Development Program and Faculty Professional Development Fund. Copies of the guidelines were available at the meeting. Then, this week, the guidelines were attached to an e-mail message sent to faculty/staff via the CAST listserv. The guidelines are now posted online as well. When visiting the new CAST website, choose the "Faculty Resources/Support" link on the left side menu on the main page. On this page, you will find direct links to each of these two new programs (see http://www2.cast.ilstu.edu/facultyresources/Faculty%20Professional%20Development.pdf and http://www2.cast.ilstu.edu/facultyresources/External%20Grant%20Development%20Fund.pdf).
The Student Agriculture Association hosted Agriculture Awareness Day April 25-27, 2005. Students visited and taught agriculture lessons to third graders at Lexington, Carllock, Sugar Creek, and Fox Creek Elementary schools. Additionally, two classes from Sugar Creek Elementary toured the farm on April 27. The elementary students participated in activities such as "Agriculture in a Bag", farm safety demonstrations, and planting marigolds.

Dr. Aslihan Spaulding was a guest lecturer at a Lexington Grade School 6th grade class. Dr. Spaulding spoke on agriculture in Turkey. The program is part of the McLean County Community Compact.

Department of Agriculture

The Department of Agriculture hosted its annual awards banquet May 1, 2005. Congratulations to all of the agriculture students who received awards and scholarships.

Dr. Bryan Wiegand received the "Teaching Award of Merit." The award was presented by Doug Reeves, agriculture alumni board president.

Dr. Doug Morrish and returning Spring 2005 student teachers visited the Chicago High School for the Agricultural Sciences May 3, 2005. Three agricultural education student teachers have completed their program. Two of the students have already accepted jobs teaching at the secondary level.

Approximately 200 high school students, parents, and agriculture teachers will be on campus May 7, 2005 to participate in the State FFA Preliminary Public Speaking contest. FFA students have advanced in both their section and district and are competing to move on to the Sate Finals to be held in conjunction with the State FFA Convention in Springfield June 14-16. Drs. Rob Rhyskerd, Pat O'Rourke, Aslihan Spaulding, and Doug Morrish will help in judging and introductions throughout the day.

Department of Criminal Justice Sciences

A 1-day conference entitled “The Impact of Methamphetamine on Agriculture, Health Care and Child Welfare” will be held November 10, 2005 at the Interstate Center. The conference is currently being organized by a committee that includes representatives from the Department of Criminal Justice Sciences, the Department of Agriculture, the Menomonee School of Nursing, and Project X at ISU. The committee also includes members of a variety of government and state organizations, including GROWMARK, the Illinois Farm Bureau, Prevent Child Abuse Illinois, Chestnut Health Systems, and the Illinois Fertilizer & Chemical Association. The focus of the conference is on health and safety issues regarding methamphetamine, legal initiatives to respond to the problem, and the current state of treatment for methamphetamine abuse.

Department of Family and Consumer Sciences

Karen Stephens, Child Care Center, presented “Marketing Early Childhood Programs” as well as “Meaningful Family Engagement in Early Childhood Programs” at the McCormick -Tribune’s Center for Early Childhood Leadership’s “Leadership Connections” conference for Program Directors in Chicago, Illinois, on May 6, 2005.

Dr. Jean Memken is the new chair of the Housing and Environment Division of the American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences. She will assume her duties at the annual AAFCS meeting in June in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Department of Health Sciences

Dr. Rod Simmons met with Lewis & Clark Community College faculty members Drs. Darvin Bloemker (ISU Safety alum) and Michael Morgan on April 29, 2005 to discuss a bridge program between L&CCC and ISU’s Safety program.

Dr. Rod Simmons co-authored a peer reviewed article, “The RAC Matrix: A Universal Tool or a Toolkit?”, in the March/April 2005 issue of Journal of System Safety with P.L. Clemens, T.F. Pfizer, and S. Dywer (APT Research); J. Frost (U.S. Army Aviation and Missile Command); and E. Olson (U.S. Air Force Safety Center).

Eta Sigma Gamma (Health Education honorary) held an adult CPR, First Aid and AED training on April 23, 2005. Trainers were provided by the American Red Cross.

The ISU section of the American Society of Safety Engineers sponsored a CPR class on April 30, 2005 in Felmley Science Annex as a community service project.

The Pets are Working Saints (PAWS) program received the Community Volunteer of the Year award from The Baby Fold.

Dr. Sara Cole and her two year-old boxer, Tyson, have been a part of PAWS for almost two years. PAWS volunteers are chosen based on the disposition and training of the dog. Tyson was chosen to work with children in The Baby Fold’s Residential Treatment Facility, while other dogs visit nursing homes in the area. The PAWS program is just one of many across the country devoted to providing pet therapy for their respective communities.
School of Information Technology

Drs. Winn (Pruthikrai) Mahatanankoon, Joseph Wen, and Billy Lim published a peer-reviewed research article entitled “Consumer-Based M-Commerce: Exploring Consumer Perception of Mobile Applications” in Computer Standards and Interfaces.

Drs. Jihad Qaddour and Matthew Kuofie presented the paper “A Multi-Purpose Universal Wireless Center Model for Businesses” at the 4th Annual ISOOneWorld Conference and Convention, held March 30-April 1, 2005, in Las Vegas, Nevada. Dr. Kuofie was also a session chair for the conference.

Dr. Matthew Kuofie will be acting in the capacity of International Conference Chair at the Conference on Information Science Technology & Management (CISTM) July 24-26, 2005, in Delhi, India, and at the Conference on Digital Environments (CoDE) July 29-31, 2005, in Shanghai, China.

School of Kinesiology and Recreation

Dr. Amy Hurd presented “CEO Competencies: What They are & Why We Care” at the Parks & Recreation Ontario Conference in London, Ontario. She also presented a paper entitled “A Comparison of Faculty and Staff Leisure Constraints Differences in Campus Recreation Services” at the AAHPERD Conference in Chicago.

Drs. Deb Garrahy, Margo Coleman and Diana Jones presented “Preservice teachers’ gender beliefs and practices during an elementary physical education practicum,” at the National meeting of the American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance.

Dr. Sandra Klitzing was involved in 3 presentations at the Midwest Symposium on Therapeutic Recreation and Adapted Physical Activity held in Springfield, Illinois on April 22-24, 2005.

The first presentation, “Take Back Your Time: Implications for TR”, was co-presented with Dr. Cynthia Wachter from the University of Illinois.

The two remaining presentations were co-presented with ISU therapeutic recreation (TR) students. Dr. Klitzing, Tiara Damper, Ryan Link, Lisa Mariani, Jacquelin Soos, and Ronald Stewart presented “Don’t Laugh at Me: Prevention and TR”. The focus was on incorporating prevention programs like an anti-bullying program into TR. Dr. Klitzing, Tiara Damper, and Lisa Mariani presented “Bunnies and Beyond”, which discussed the use of animal assisted activities in TR interventions.

Dr. Gary E. Sanders received a Presidential Citation from the National Dance Association (NDA) at the National AAHPERD in Chicago, Illinois. The award was for his outstanding contributions in the area of dance. He is also the Editor of the “Spotlight” for NDA. During the year, Dr. Sanders has presented 3 dance sessions at the Missouri AAHPERD. Locally, he has offered two evenings of dance for various groups ranging from Square to Social Dance.

Twelve Physical Education-Teacher Education students were selected to volunteer at the American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance conference in Chicago. Students were selected based on their grade point average, professionalism and leadership roles within the Physical Education-Teacher Education program. Student volunteers assisted conference presenters with equipment set up and session evaluations.

Department of Technology

Dr. Hank Campbell, Professor Emeritus, presented “LEED Standards & Energy Star Ratings: Implementing Construction Technologies to Conserve Energy Resources” at the Sustainable Living Fair and Workshop held at the IWU Shirk Center, April 22, 2005. Also, on April 23, Dr. Campbell, along with Dr. Gary Klass of Politics and Government, was recognized by the ISU/IWU Student Chapters of Habitat for Humanity for their 12 years of service and serving as project directors for 10 consecutive collegiate houses.

Dr. Anu Gokhale and Dr. Kenton Machina were invited to present their project “An Integrated Approach to Change Attitudes of College Freshmen Toward Female Participation in STEM” to the general assembly at the Division of Human Resource Development Joint Annual Meeting held in Washington DC, April 24-26, 2005. Also, the program officer appointed Dr. Gokhale as a Facilitator at a breakout discussion session on “Public Awareness of Research on Gender in Science and Engineering”.

Dr. Dan Wilson and 11 Graphic Communications students attended the Converting Machinery/Materials Conference at McCormick Place in Chicago on April 21, 2005. This is the largest conference on package printing technology in the nation.

Many thanks to everyone who has contributed to the NewsCAST this semester.