DEAN’S CORNER

Science and Technology Week is almost here. Check the CAST web site for details of the week. We again have a variety of interesting activities that will represent the College well before the University and local community. Thanks to the CAST Council, Department Chairs, and Associate Deans who have helped pull this together.

Earlier this week, I traveled to New Orleans to make an accreditation report on the program in Sport and Tourism Management at Temple University and had the opportunity to speak with a number of faculty members from around the county. I am certain many of you have done the same at your professional and discipline meetings. All are experiencing budget difficulties and many are in worse shape than ISU. In some respects, these meetings are good therapy! At least I don’t feel as badly as I did.

This week I also met with the unit directors and members of the Council Strategic Issues and Planning Committee to identify elements from the new Educating Illinois that CAST will pursue over the next few years. Although CAST is a very diverse operation, it is gratifying during sessions like this to continue to be enlightened about the core commonalities of many of our programs. These include attention to work-force preparation; teaching critical thinking, leadership development, and technical knowledge and skills of our specific areas; the laboratory orientation of many of our instructional programs; and continuing attention to moving theory into practice as a goal of our overall curriculum. There is over-riding concern with our lack financial resources to recapitalize our technology infrastructure over the past 24 months. These needs continue to mount. I am proud that our faculty members have been resourceful and have kept moving forward on agendas that require few resources. Thank you.

More later………………. JRR

CAST RESEARCH OFFICE
Outstanding Undergraduate Research Award Recipient

Mr. Donald F. Snider has been selected by the CAST Research Committee to be the recipient of the 2003-04 CAST Outstanding Undergraduate Research Award. As a result, he will be recognized at the CAST Spring Faculty Meeting in late April and will receive a monetary stipend and plaque. Dr. David Thomas has served as the faculty mentor for this emerging researcher. In his nomination letter, Dr. Thomas has this to say about his research: “This is the first study to look at the impact of a year in the ROTC program on the fitness level of cadets. In fact, it is the first study to look at the fitness of Army ROTC cadets beyond what is done as part of the Army Physical Fitness Test. So, in that respect, it may be considered foundational research….Information from this study has the potential to validate current physical training techniques, suggest modification of training techniques, provide insight into cadet fitness levels, and serve as the start of a data base on fitness levels of cadets. All of these outcomes are of significant importance.” Donald has presented, or soon will present, this research at multiple forums: the ISU Undergraduate Student Research Symposium; the Illinois Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation, and Dance (IAHPERD) annual conference; the American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance (AAHPERD) annual conference. An abstract of this study has been published in Research Quarterly for Exercise and Sport. Donald plans to submit a co-author manuscript related to this study to the Journal of Strength and Conditioning Research this summer.

CAST Research Office Library Expands

The following books have newly been added to the CAST Research Office library. Faculty and staff of the College are welcome to take them out on load to read.

AGRICULTURE

Dr. Douglas Kingman attended and presented a poster during the “Improving Agricultural Health and Safety Programs Through Evaluation: Rigorous and Practical Strategies” conference that was sponsored by the Great Lakes Center for Agricultural Safety and Health and the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health on March 15 & 16, 2004.

On March 27, 2004 Dr. Doug Morrish attended and served on the Illinois FFA Association committee for the selection of the State FFA Officer candidates at Lincoln Land College in Springfield, Illinois. Ten State FFA officer candidates will be presented at the State FFA Convention in June and will be elected by delegates comprised of the student body.

The Department of Agriculture hosted a reunion for past participants of the French Exchange Program on March 20 at the University Farm. Approximately 70 people participated in the event including Professor Emeritus Fred Fuess who established the program and coordinated the first two trips in 1981 and 1982.

Dr. Gary Bachman and 10 horticulture students represented Illinois State University in the 28th Annual Associated Landscape Contractors of America Student Career Days (SCD). Columbus State Community College was the host school with events held at the Franklin Park conservatory in Columbus, Ohio. March 25-28, 2004. The students competed along with 750+ other horticulture students from 54 colleges and universities in 24 landscape related events from arboriculture to woody plant ID. Chad Garrett and Mike Dale placed 4th in Paver Installation as well as placing individually in the top 50 individual scoring. We had several other top 20 finishes in other events. These students worked hard and represented ISU very well.

The Horticulture Club is having a summer flowering plant and bulb fundraising sale. Calla lilies, hosta, daylilies, phlox, dahlia, and others are available. All plants and bulbs are guaranteed by the supplier. The fundraising sale ends April 10, 2004 and delivery set for first week of May. If interested contact Gary Bachman 8-3275, grbachm@ilstu.edu or any Hort Club member.

The ISU Farm was recipient of a Certificate of Appreciation at the annual Lexington FFA banquet for supporting their programs throughout the school year.

FAMILY & CONSUMER SCIENCES

Dr. Mardell Wilson was selected as one of Illinois' Outstanding Dietetics Educators for 2003-2004. One award is given in each of the four areas of dietetics education. Dr. Wilson received the award for her work in Dietetic Internship Education. Dr. Wilson will be honored at the Illinois Dietetic Association Spring Assembly held at the Marriott Hotel in Oak Brook on April 2nd.

Congratulations to Dr. Sharon Pate on the acceptance of her proposal entitled “The Impact of WebCT on Students' Computer Self-Efficacy” for presentation at IMPACT 2004, WebCT’s 6th Annual Users Conference in Orlando, Florida. Dr. Jean Memken will co-present.

Barb Gallick, Head Teacher in the Child Care Center, presented "Helping Children Develop a Positive Self-Esteem" at the Child Care Resource and Referral Network in Bloomington on April 1, 2004. The session was part of a series sponsored by the Bloomington Housing Authority and the CCRRN training new child care home providers.

On March 25, Karen Stephens, Child Care Center, presented "Problem Solving with Parents: Principles and Processes to Apply" at the Early Childhood Program Director's Day in Champaign. The event was sponsored by the Child Care Resource Service.

Dr. Connor Walters presented "Families in Crisis: Positive Approaches to Life Transitions in the Later Years" at the Life Services Network annual meeting in Chicago, Illinois.

HEALTH SCIENCES

Departmental award recipients have been selected for this year:

Outstanding Teaching: Dr. Jim Broadbear
Outstanding Research: Dr. Guang Jin
Outstanding Service: Dr. Frank Waterstraat

Natalie Berger, senior Safety major in the Department of Health Sciences has been notified she is one of six students chosen from a nationwide search to receive the prestigious American Society of Safety Engineers United Postal Scholarship award for 2004. This scholarship opportunity is only open to members of student ASSE chapters in the United States. The UPS scholarship is the highest rank of scholarship offered by the ASSE Foundation. The award carries with it a $5,250 stipend and an all expense paid trip to attend the ASSE Professional Development Conference to be held in Las Vegas in June, 2004.

Dr. Rod Simmons presented a paper, "A Portable, Propane-fueled Thermal Destruction Unit for Spent Hen Disposal" (co-authored with Dr. Tim Kelley (HSC), Dr. Paul Walker (AGR), and Dr. Bryon Wiegand (AGR) at the Midwest Poultry Federation Meeting in St. Paul, Minnesota on March 17. Paul Walker also attended the conference and they met with potential funding sources from the poultry industry.

Dr. Rod Simmons presented an invited lecture at the Department of Industrial and Management Systems Engineering at Kuwait University on the techniques for calibrating a risk assessment matrix in a comprehensive risk management program.
KINESIOLOGY & RECREATION

Dr. Chad McEvoy presented "Clarett v. NFL: Age Eligibility and Antitrust Law in Professional Sports" on March 5 at the annual conference of the Sport and Recreation Law Association in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Tim Ryan, a major in the Physical Education-Teacher Education program, presented his research study at the Undergraduate Research Symposium on March 26th. His study was titled "Has Title IX for Women Resulted in Chapter 11 for Men?" Dr. Deb Garrahy was his faculty advisor.

TECHNOLOGY

Dr. Rodney Custer completed his term as President of the Council on Technology Teacher Education (CTTE) at the recent International Technology Education Association (ITEA) Conference in Albuquerque, New Mexico. He will now serve a three-year term on the ITEA Board of Directors as the CTTE representative. At the conference, he also co-presented two sessions focusing on Project ProBase (NSF-funded project) and a session on gender and technology with Katherine Weber, a TEC graduate student.

Dr. Michael Daugherty conducted a presentation on the national Standards for Technological Literacy at the International Technology Education Association Annual Conference in Albuquerque, New Mexico. This presentation was designed to encourage commercial curriculum developers to utilize the new national standards in their products.

Dr. Michael Daugherty was the recipient of the International Technology Education Association's Award of Distinction at the recent annual meeting of the association in Albuquerque, New Mexico. This award is given annually to one professional deemed to have excelled in teaching, research, and service.

Drs. Rodney Custer, Michael Daugherty, and Rick Satchwell (Project Probase) made two presentations at the International Technology Education Association Annual Conference in Albuquerque, New Mexico. The first presentation, entitled "What does post secondary education expect of secondary technology programs," outlined a research project conducted by the presenters and graduate student Eric Rich. The Project Probase team identified the "Bridge Competencies" needed by high school students to enhance their post-secondary technical education programs. Focus groups were conducted at six community colleges in central Illinois with a cross-section of faculty. For more information about Project Probase or the Bridge Competency research, visit the project's website at www.probase.lsstu.edu.

The second presentation, entitled "The Project Probase Curriculum," provided participants with a glimpse at the Probase curriculum currently under development. Project Probase is funded by the National Science Foundation's Advanced Technological Education (ATE) program to develop eight (nine-week) Learning Units for upper high school technology education. Sample activities were presented as well as background information about the project. Graduate student Dustin Wyse-Fisher was also part of the presentation team.

Dr. Chris Merrill and seventeen of his TECA members (students) drove to Albuquerque, New Mexico for 66th ITEA conference. TECA students competed against sixteen universities and sixty-two teams. TECA members earned two trophies in the TECA Challenge and Teaching Presentation. Dr. Chris Merrill delivered three presentations at the ITEA conference on Biotechnology, Undergraduate Research, and Models of Standards Implementation. In addition, Dr. Merrill was elected to the Board of Directors and officially started his position at the conclusion of the conference.

Dr. Chris Merrill and Erik Rich delivered a presentation on "teaching pre-engineering at the high school level" at the 14th Annual Connections Conference in St. Charles, Illinois.

Drs. Richard Satchwell and Franzie Loepp conducted a four-hour pre-conference workshop at the recent International Technology Education Association's annual conference in Albuquerque titled, Integrating Technology Education with Other Subjects.

Dr. Richard Satchwell has been invited to speak to more than 80 State Supervisors for Mathematics and Science on April 28 at the Academy of Engineers in Washington DC. The presentation will be about the Integrated Mathematics, Science, and Technology (IMaST) program. The goal of the one-day event, sponsored by the Department of Education is to make mathematics and science educators more aware of technological literacy.

Thank you to all non-tenure track faculty who nominated candidates and/or submitted their votes to the Senate office for the election of the Non-Tenure Track Faculty Senate Representative. The Senate extends its appreciation to all who participated in this very important election as well as to the candidates. By majority vote, Mary Jo Adams of the School of Kinesiology and Recreation has been elected as the Non-Tenure Track Faculty Senate Representative for 2004-2005.

IMPORTANT DATES

Wed and Thurs  CFSC Elections
April 7 and 8

April 19-23  CAST sponsored “Science and Technology” Week

Thursday  CAST Expo Displays
April 22  2:30-3:00 p.m., Circus Room, BSC

Thursday  Spring College Faculty Meeting
April 22  3:00-5:00 p.m., Circus Room, BSC

Friday  Graduate Research Symposium
April 23  BSC, 9:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

Friday  Deadline for election of DFSC
April 30

Saturday  CAST Commencement, 1:00 p.m.
May 8  Redbird Arena