The annual State Farm Student Athlete Academic Excellence Banquet was held on Sunday October 26, 2003. During this annual event, Red Bird Arena is transformed into an elegant setting with sparkle and candle light for a wonderful dinner. This year, the State Farm Jazz Band provided pre dinner entertainment. The speaker was Doug Collins, and ISU basketball icon, whose retired basketball jersey hung above us as he delivered an inspiring message.

Student athletes may bring their parents, and many did. They were also allowed to invite a favorite professor. There were so many CAST faculty members there that I could not greet everyone and be introduced to the student who invited them. Many CAST faculty members who were invited were our junior faculty and this speaks well for the respect they have rapidly gained from our students.

The annual CAST Holiday Luncheon is scheduled for December 9, 2003. The Associate Deans, CAST Council, and I hope you will be able to attend so we can celebrate our successes for the year and thank you for all you do. The event has grown to the point that we have had to move to the Ballroom this year. Shortly you will receive an invitation. Please RSVP as we want to make certain we have a spot for all who intend to come. Be sure to mark this date on your calendar.

Thirty faculty members from CAST submitted URG applications last week for consideration this year. Although for a time last week we thought the program may be suspended, Provost Presley has indicated that these reviews should continue. Thus, the College Research Committee is proceeding with evaluating the proposals. The College Office will continue to advocate for these research opportunities for faculty as well as try to identify College funds to help provide additional support for this research program.

.........more later.

JRR

AGRICULTURE

Dr. Doug Kingman presented the paper titled “Using Fault Tree Analysis to Identify Contributing Factors to Engulfment in Flowing Grain in On-Farm Grain Bins” at the 5th International Symposium Future of Rural People in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada.

Dr. Ken Smiciklas, Dr. Rob Rhykerd, and Dusten Russell (graduate student) attended the 2003 American Society of Agronomy meetings held in Denver, Colorado and presented the following papers.


Dr. Doug Kingman and Dr. Doug Morrish attended the National FFA Convention in Louisville, Kentucky on October 28-30th. Dr. Kingman assisted with the National Agricultural Mechanics Career Development event and Dr. Morrish helped with recruitment activities of high school students in the Illinois Agricultural Universities booth. Two agricultural education students from the department helped with these events.

The Department of Agriculture extends congratulations and best wishes to Joe Bane upon his retirement from Illinois State University. Joe was employed at the university farm for 29 years.

The Department of Agriculture will be hosting a C-FAR day at the University Farm on November 13. Faculty members in the department will be discussing their research programs and a tour of the farm will conclude the day. The event begins at 9:30 a.m. and is open to the public. Lunch will be provided; RSVP required to Randy Winter, 8-3563 or rwinter@ilstu.edu by November 10.

**FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCES**

In Champaign on October 30th, Karen Stephens conducted a training seminar for early childhood program Directors entitled "When the Customer Isn't Always Right: Positive Ways to Tackle Tough Issues with Parents." The seminar was sponsored by the Champaign's Child Care Resource Service, Day Care Action Council of Illinois and the Illinois Network of Resource and Referral Agencies.

Dr. Jennie Gilbert recently attended a Physical Best Steering committee meeting in Reston, Virginia held October 23-26, 2003. Dr. Gilbert has been involved with the program for 6 years, and is completing her last year as out-going chair of the committee. Physical Best is a health-related fitness education program for K-12 and the program uses FITNESSGRAM as the assessment instrument to evaluate fitness in children. If you need more information, let me know.

**HEALTH SCIENCES**

Two Health Education students were recognized at the ISU Scholarship Ceremony held on October 22. Jennifer Snyder (currently working in the main office) was recognized as a Dean's Scholar and Freshmen Honor Scholar. And Renee Nilsen was officially recognized as a Bone Scholar.

**INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY**


**KINESIOLOGY AND RECREATION**

Dr. Ralph Weisheit was the keynote speaker at the Southern Criminal Justice Association's annual meeting in Nashville, Tennessee. His address was titled, "Why Rural Matters."

Dr. Weisheit was also a facilitator for an Executive Roundtable on Data Collection and Racial Profiling in Illinois held in Bloomington. The roundtable, organized by the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority, included police executives from throughout the state responding to a new state law requiring police to gather data on each traffic stop to assess the extent to which officers engage in racial profiling.

Dr. Weisheit was recently interviewed by Fox Butterfield of the *New York Times* for a story regarding methamphetamine use in rural areas.
TECHNOLOGY

On October 24, Dr. Ryan Brown conducted a 7-hour workshop entitled "Using Autodesk Viz for Design Visualization" for secondary teachers in the Kaskaskia College Tech Prep Consortium. The workshop was conducted at Kaskaskia College in Centralia.

Drs. Rodney Custer, Michael Daugherty, Richard Satchwell and Dustin Wyse-Fisher (graduate student) recently participated in the National Science Foundation's annual Advanced Technological Education PI conference in Washington, DC. This conference is held annually to promote collaboration and information sharing among NSF grantees. The Department of Technology's NSF project is Project Probase, which is developing 8 major curriculum units for advanced level technology education. The units are designed to prepare students for engineering and/or advanced level technical education at the community college level.

IMPORTANT DATES

Thursday-Friday  Thanksgiving Holiday
November 27-28

Tuesday  CAST Holiday Luncheon
December 9  Ballroom, BSC (Note Room Change)
            11:30-1:30

Saturday  Commencement
December 13  CAST ceremony at 1:00 p.m.
             Redbird Arena