We begin this calendar year with several pieces of good news. We recently learned that the Department of Agriculture has been included in a gift to the University from Archer Daniels Midland. Agriculture will receive funding of $200,000 to relocate the Feed Processing Center from the old farm to the new ISU Farm at Lexington and for student scholarships. The original relocation budget could not cover relocating the Feed Processing Center. This is the last item that needs to be moved to Lexington to complete our move there.

Several CAST faculty have been approved for sabbatical leave in FY 2005. Dr. Susan Winchip (FCS) will complete a textbook on lighting design that will be a unique text in her field. Dr. Randy Winter (AGR), who is resigning as Chairperson of the Department of Agriculture, will use his sabbatical to retool, prepare for returning to the classroom, and reinvigorating his line of scholarship. Dr. Tibor Gyires, (ITK) will complete work investigating Internet 2 and developing curricula elements and infrastructure changes that are needed to incorporate Internet 2 into the instructional program in the School of Information Technology. Dr. Sesa Kethineni (CJS) will extend some of her previous work in criminology and spend part of her sabbatical time in India examining legal cases that can only be accessed there. Dr. Steven McCaw (KNR) will complete an in-depth analysis of research on the biomechanics of landing. His work will guide future research on landing as well as improve procedures for prevention and treatment. Additionally, I have had a sabbatical approved to complete an updated review of the literature supporting the assumptions in the text book I co-author as well as completing research on recreation programming practices in Australia in order to incorporate international perspectives into the text. I also hope to present a paper on recreation programming at the World Leisure and Recreation Conference in Brisbane, Australia this fall. As usual, CAST faculty members have eclectic interests. Each sabbatical will grow the individual faculty member’s scholarship and ultimate value as a member of the ISU faculty. Congratulations to all.

Dr. Guan Jin, Health Sciences, was selected to receive a University Teaching Initiative Award for 2003-2004. Congratulations to Dr. Jin.

Finally, even our alums have gotten into the act. Mr. Bradley Brown (BS, ’83 in ACS) has been selected as a recipient of the 2004 Alumni Achievement Award. Brad is the Chairman of the Board for The Ultimate Software Consultants (TUSC) and was with us last year as one of our speakers for Science and Technology Week. Mr. Lee Dueringer (BS, ’65 in AGR) has been selected as a recipient of the 2004 E. Burton Mercier Service Award. Lee works in development throughout the western states. He has helped give us advice on our comprehensive campaign and has been a strong supporter of our program in Agriculture for many years. Congratulations to both of these outstanding individuals.

So, we begin the year upbeat. Let’s hope this good fortune continues, the State’s economy improves, and we get the budget relief we badly need.

CAST OFFICE

The IDEA Center has published a research report which explains the extraneous variables that influence the instructional outcomes in many of our classes. We know there exists certain variables, which are usually beyond our control, that influence student classroom behavior. Examples of these include such variables like student motivation, work habits, effort, disciplinary difficulty, and even class size. As teachers we recognize these factors influence our instruction but we usually don’t make attempts to statistically parse them out when processing course evaluations. The IDEA system employed throughout CAST does take into account these extraneous variables and their effects on instructional outcomes. The IDEA system utilizes “adjusted scores” to explain the dynamics of the teaching/learning process in the context of certain extraneous variables mentioned above. The resulting “adjusted scores” are presented with un-adjusted scores in the individual faculty IDEA Report generated at the end of the instructional term.

There is value in using “adjusted scores” for the purpose of assessing relevant extraneous variables that are imbedded in the instructional milieu. It is important to separate the contributions of the teacher from the contributions of extraneous factors to student learning. The IDEA instructional evaluation system assists us in doing so.

For additional information on this subject, I encourage you to read the IDEA Research Report #6 by Hoyt and Lee, July 2003 which may be found at the following website:

http://www.idea.ksu.edu/StudentRatings/index.html

JAW
CAST RESEARCH OFFICE

Take advantage of upcoming writing workshops. The four-morning grant writing workshop that has routinely been offered in May will not take place as usual. Instead, Dr. Joe Moxley, University of South Florida, will conduct a one-day workshop on grant writing on Friday, February 27th. Information about this workshop (location, means of registration, etc.) is provided elsewhere in this newsletter. While Dr. Moxley is on the ISU campus, he is additionally conducting a half-day workshop on scholarly writing for publication. This event is planned for the afternoon of Thursday, February 26th. Likewise, information about where this workshop will take place and how to register for it can be found in the publicity flyer included with this newsletter. Both opportunities for professional development are free of charge to CAST faculty. Each participant in the workshops will receive a copy of Writing and Publishing for Academic Authors, a book edited by Joe Moxley and Todd Taylor.

Student Research Symposia. Consult the following website for information about the Undergraduate and Graduate Student Research Symposia that are scheduled to take place this spring semester: http://www.grad.ilstu.edu/symposium/. Registration deadlines are fast approaching. Students wishing to participate should begin completing registration paperwork now. Faculty guidance is helpful. When these events take place, there is always a need for faculty members to serve in a variety of ways. Those willing to serve as poster and oral presentation evaluators are urged to contact the Graduate School. According to the Graduate School website, some funds are available for participating students who want to travel to state or national venues to additionally present their research after the ISU symposia.

Research and Sponsored Programs Office is source of possible travel funds. To enhance competitive grant proposals, RSP will provide travel support funds to faculty or staff wishing to participate in grant-writing workshops, collaborate with experts, serve on review panels, or meet with agency program officers. These travel funds are limited. Awards are contingent upon availability each fiscal year, and are subject to approval through the Research Travel Award Selection Committee (RTASC). The RTASC is comprised of four experienced Illinois State University grant-writing faculty from various disciplines. CAST faculty will be receiving basic information about these funds via a hard copy handout placed in their mailbox. Additionally, interested persons can visit the following website:
http://www.rsp.ilstu.edu/internal_grant/travel_guidelines.shtml

AGRICULTURE

Need a Backyard Shed???
The members of the AGR 231 Ag Construction and Maintenance Class are offering to provide labor for custom-built sheds and child playhouses. In short, you provide the cash for materials, and we will provide design, labor, and delivery in most cases. Customer may provide or choose from existing plans and will be presented with a list of materials and prices prior to construction. This is a not-for-profit endeavor and provides students with a hands-on class project and chance to serve the community. Please contact Doug Kingman in the Department of Agriculture at 438-2925 or dougkingman@ilstu.edu if you are interested.


Dr. Robert L. Rhykerd, Dr. Kerry W. Tudor, Dr. Bryon R. Wiegand, Dr. Douglas M. Kingman, and Dusten Russell presented a talk entitled "Impact of a Crop Production and Marketing Contest on Student Learning" at the Illinois State University Partnership for Teaching and Learning Symposium January 7, 2004.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE SCIENCES


FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCES

Scott Brouette (Child Care Center) had his article "Aesthetics in the Classroom" published in the January/February 2004 issue of Child Care Information Exchange magazine.

HEALTH SCIENCES

Dr. Tim Kelley, Health Sciences faculty in the Environmental Health Program, will be traveling to New Zealand during March and April, 2004 supported by a William Evans Visiting Fellowship awarded by Otago University. Dr. Kelley's research is related to reducing the risks of transfer of microbiological and chemical agents of disease through the environment. Dr. Kelley will be working with academic colleagues and governmental officials to compare environmental policy and practices related to water quality in New Zealand with those in the U.S.

Dr. Gary Erisman and 7 members of the ISU student chapter attended the Board and monthly Central Illinois Chapter of the American Society of Safety Engineers meeting at the State Farm Regional Headquarters in Bloomington Jan. 13. The program dealt with the importance of placement of cardiac defibrillators in the workplace.


Dr. George Byrns and Dr. Guang Jin recently published Risk Factors for Work-Related Low Back Pain in Registered Nurses and Potential Obstacles in Using Protective Equipment in the Journal of Occupational and Environmental Hygiene. Other authors were Dr. Glenn Reeder and Karen Pachis.

Dr. Paulette Miller and Dr. Frank Waterstraat published Apples to Apples: Using Automalization to Measure Productivity in the January 2004 Journal of American Health Information Management.
Dr. Mark A. Temple has been identified by the Division of Adolescent and School Health (DASH), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) as an expert on comprehensive health education programs. He has been invited to serve as a consultant to evaluate peer-review publications that report data from clinical trials in the areas of school health policies and programs. By serving in this capacity, he will help identify intervention programs that hold promise to inform the field about efficacious approaches to prevention and treatment.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Dr. Matthew Kuofie was at San Diego, California, to present a peer-reviewed paper “Intention Directed Modeling Technique” at the Information Systems Education Conference from November 6-9, 2003.


Dr. H. Joseph Wen has accepted the invitation to serve on the editorial board of the International Journal of E-Business Research. The journal is published and distributed by Idea Group Publishers. The primary objective of the journal is to provide an international forum for researchers and practitioners to advance the knowledge and practice of all facets of electronic business. Emerging e-business theories, architectures, and technologies are emphasized in order to stimulate and disseminate cutting-edge information into research and business communities in a timely fashion. The secondary objective of this journal is to develop a comprehensive framework of e-business by taking a multidisciplinary approach to understanding e-business and its implications on businesses and economies. This journal will serve as an integrated e-business knowledge base for those who are interested in contributing to the advancement of e-business theory and practice through a variety of research methods including theoretical, experimental, case, and survey research methods.

Dr. W. Pruthikrai Mahatanankoon was at San Diego, California, to present a peer-reviewed paper “Intention Directed Modeling Technique” at the Information Systems Education Conference from November 6-9, 2003.

KINESIOLOGY AND RECREATION
Dr. Brent Beggs presented a session titled Activity Satisfaction in Golf and Simulated Golf as a part of the Leisure Research Symposium at the National Recreation and Park Association annual congress in St. Louis, Missouri.

TECHNOLOGY
Drs. Rodney Custer, Michael Daugherty, and Chris Merrill are working with a consortium of nine universities nationwide to develop NSF proposal for a Center for Learning and Teaching for Technology and Engineering education. If successful, the grant would support infrastructure development for the profession at ten million dollars over five years. Four research universities and five teacher education institutions are participating in this effort.

Drs. Richard Boser, Hank Campbell, and five students from the Construction Management sequence attended the National Association of Home Builders annual International Builders Show in Las Vegas from January 17-20, 2004. The students participated in the Residential Construction Competition sponsored by Centex Homes. The students developed a business proposal for a single family community in Blaine, Minnesota that included a market analysis, marketing plan, cost estimate, schedule, and financial analysis. The proposal is sent to the judges in advance and then students travel to Las Vegas to present and defend their proposals. The ISU team finished seventh. The competition attracted 27 teams from 4-year construction programs across the nation.

Dr. Anu A. Gokhale was invited to the Women in Information Technology 2003 International Conference held at Annamalai University in Tamil Nadu, India, December 10-13, 2003. Gokhale presented her work on the NSF project "An integrated approach to change attitudes of college freshmen toward female participation in STEM disciplines" and related research at a plenary session. She also chaired a session on Women's Careers in ICT-based Industries and delivered a guest address at the Valedictory function. The conference was sponsored in part by Software Technology Parks of India. There were nearly 800 attendees, and over 40 speakers from North America, Europe and Australia.

Dr. Ken Stier has received a planning grant for release time to serve on a grant writing team consisting of representatives from the engineering and technology departments at universities and community colleges in central Illinois. Dr. Stier and a Bradley University engineering professor will lead the grant writing team. Representatives from other 4-year universities and 4 community colleges in central Illinois will serve as co-partners in the grant development process to form a coalition that will address workforce development needs for the manufacturing industry and career awareness at the secondary education level.
IMPORTANT DATES

Thursday  Founders Day Convocation, 3:00 p.m.
February 19  BSC, Ballroom

Thursday  Scholarly Writing for Publication Workshop
February 26  12:30-4:30 p.m., Stevenson 401

Friday  Registration deadline for Undergraduate
February 27  Research Symposium to be held March 26

Friday  Deadline for CAST Outstanding
February 27  Student Research Award applications

Friday  Grant Writing Workshop
February 27  8:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m., Stevenson 401

March 8-12  Spring Break

Friday  Registration deadline for Graduate Research
March 19  Symposium to be held April 23

Friday  Deadline for CAST Presentation Travel
March 26  Program applications

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

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

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