This is the last NewsCAST of the year. As I look back over this year, it has been a difficult one with regard to budgets. However, we still accomplished much because of the dedication and hard work of our faculty and staff. Many of these accomplishments were showcased at CAST Expo and the spring faculty meeting last week. Included among our accomplishments were increasing our external funding, which passed the $3 million mark for the first time ever this year; successfully obtaining two new program accreditations in Environmental and Interior Design and Information Systems; and continuing to attract highly motivated, excellent students to our programs. Our graduates continued to report excellent placement rates, satisfaction with their preparation programs, and very good entry-level salaries. At the core, we remain strong. I can assure you that the department chairs and dean’s staff will continue to make certain our resources are directed toward accomplishing our core mission.

In this week’s Chronicle of Higher Education, there is a report of their survey of public opinion on Higher Education. There are many interesting results; too many to report here. But, when asked about the important roles that universities perform, 93% of the respondents, the highest for any item, indicated that preparing students for a career was the most important role performed by universities. This is a core mission of CAST and one that we must let the rest of the university community and general public know that we do very well.

Other results indicate that you work in a highly respected field and profession. Ninety-one percent of the respondents agreed or strongly agreed that America’s universities are one of its most valuable resources. Eighty-eight percent indicated that they were satisfied or very satisfied with their college education. Ninety percent of the respondents indicated that they had a great deal or some confidence in four-year state supported institutions of higher education placing us among institutions in society with the most public confidence. The public is concerned about being able to afford higher education but believe it is important for their children’s future.

It has been a joy attending the spring award ceremonies where our outstanding students have been recognized. I have had the opportunity to see many of you and our students at these occasions. Although each unit takes a different approach, the result is that our excellent students receive important individualized attention as a way of congratulating them for their hard work and accomplishments.

I want to commend our faculty who advised and mentored our students to participate in the Graduate Student Research Symposium last week. CAST had a large number of students participating in the Symposium and the quality of their work was very good thanks, in part, to the excellent work of our faculty. Thank you.

Next week is commencement. I hope you will be participating. Our graduates and their families will be as proud and excited as ever. There is an important sense of closure to commencement for students, their families, and faculty. On this day, one can share with students their pride in a well-accomplished life task. It is an important transition for our students and their families. Although it is too late to sign-up to participate in the commencement ceremony, you are most welcome to join us for the CAST reception in the Linkins Dining Center at approximately 2:30 p.m. or immediately following our ceremony in the Red Bird Arena.

I wish each of you a restful and productive summer. Our fall faculty meeting will be held on Thursday August 14, 2003 at 3:00 p.m. in the Circus Room of the Bone Student Center. See you there.

More next year………

JRR

CAST OFFICE
Greetings, CAST Colleagues! Congratulations to everyone on completing another semester. The summary feedback from last semester IDEA evaluations indicated that you were doing a laudable job of instruction in CAST even when faced with declining resources. I have every reason to believe that you have done an equally commendable job this spring semester. IDEA evaluations have been administered and are currently being processed. Soon we will receive feedback upon which we may collectively gauge our effectiveness as determined by student ratings.

As you make preparations for this summer, be sure to include some time for reflection, rest, and recreation. For those of you who might try to squeeze in some time for professional reading, I have included some sources below for your consideration.

It has truly been my privilege and a pleasure in working with each of you this past academic year. I am anxiously looking forward to another productive year in CAST beginning this fall!

JAW
Readings To Improve Teaching

General Resources


Encouraging Student Involvement

Fostering Student Collaboration


CAST RESEARCH OFFICE

The Graduate Student Research Symposium held Friday, April 25th featured many participants from CAST. A total of 37 students from four CAST units (KNR, ACS, and FCS) provided 12 oral presentations, 4 multi-media presentations, and 21 poster presentations. These numbers reflect a 60% increase in participation over last year!!! Eleven CAST faculty members served as mentors for these students as they engaged in and reported their research efforts. All of these participants represented the College well. Additionally, eleven members of CAST served as faculty evaluators for various poster or oral presentations. These students and faculty represented the College well. Their contributions are appreciated very much appreciated. Comments about and suggestions for this annual event, as well as the Undergraduate Student Research Symposium, can be forwarded to Deb Gentry, Steve McCaw (KNR), Bev Smith (CJS), and/or Paul Walker (AGR) as they are members of the symposia steering committee.

Attended by approximately 8-10 scholars from CAST departments, the recent noontime discussion about qualitative research was a lively one. Topics related to ethics, funding, and recognition were among those addressed. The benefits and limitations of designing a qualitative research course to be cross-listed within CAST for graduate student enrollment were also discussed. Helpful readings were shared. Other qualitative researchers in CAST are invited to participate in future discussions as they are scheduled next fall. Contact Deb Gentry at dgentry@ilstu.edu or 438-8748 if you wish to be contacted or reminded about such gatherings.

It appears the University-wide Grant Writing Workshop is indeed going to be held this year on May 13-16. It is to be conveniently held in Turner Hall from approximately 8:30 a.m. to noon each day. Should any faculty from CAST still want to attend, contact Deb Gentry as soon as possible (see e-mail and phone number provided above). She can also answer questions about workshop content and activities.

DBG
AGRICULTURE

Latest addition to the Department of Agriculture family -- Joseph Lee Rhykerd, born at 9:55 pm on Tuesday, April 22. Mom doing great, father (Rob) doing so so. Specs: 7 lbs 9 oz, 21 inches tall, Cub fan. Should be in the Fall 2021 freshman class at ISU.

The Student Agriculture Association and the Department of Agriculture hosted Agriculture Awareness Days at the University Farm in Lexington on April 24 and 25. Approximately 140 second graders from Stevenson and Sheridan Schools in Bloomington participated in the program. Students learned about grain and livestock production and agricultural safety.


APPLIED COMPUTER SCIENCE


CRIMINAL JUSTICE SCIENCES

Dr. Donna Vandiver and Dr. Jeffrey T. Walker of the University of Arkansas--Little Rock are the co-authors of a peer-reviewed article in Autumn 2002 Criminal Justice Review. Their article entitled, "Female Sex Offenders: An Overview and Analysis of 40 Cases," is based on a grant from the Bureau of Justice Statistics. Dr. Vandiver was also recently interviewed by The Pantagraph concerning the registration of sex offenders.

Dr. Deborah Linnell recently received board certification as an Expert in Disability Trauma from the American Academy of Experts in Traumatic Stress. She also attended the UIC School of Public Health Dean's Forum on "Terror as an Occupational Hazard" and the Illinois Council on Family Relations Conference at EIU.

FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCES

Dr. Mardell Wilson and Cari Bailey-Smith had an article published in the March/April 2003 issue of The Diabetes Educator entitled Nutrient Intake, Glycemic Control and Body Mass Index in Adolescents Using Continuous Subcutaneous Insulin Infusion and Those Using Traditional Insulin Therapy

On April 15th, Karen Stephens, Child Care Center, was in Oklahoma City to conduct state-wide training for child care providers regulated by the Oklahoma Division of Child Care Services. The training, which was a live satellite telecast with video tapes made for future training, was entitled, "Communicating with Parents to Build Strong Partnerships."

Connie Dyar presented "A Systematic Approach to Proficiency in Construction Documentation" at the annual Meeting the Challenge workshop in San Diego, CA. Meeting the Challenge are sessions sponsored by the Foundation for Interior Design Education and Research (FIDER) in which FIDER supports the sharing of best practices of accredited programs in Interior and Environmental Design.

HEALTH SCIENCES

Frank Waterstratt was elected President of the Illinois Health Information Management Association.

Gary Erisman gave a presentation to the Illinois Rural Health Association titled, "Emergency Medical Response in Rural America" on April 16 at the Radisson Hotel in Bloomington.

KINESIOLOGY & RECREATION

Barbara Elwood Schlatter had a refereed article published in the March issue of JOPERD entitled, "After school recreation programs in rural settings: A successful partnership." She also presented a research poster at the AAHPERD convention in Philadelphia entitled, "Recreation Programming Practices."

At the AAHPERD National Convention in Philadelphia held on April 4, Jennifer Gorecki was one of three presenters in a Pedagogy Symposium sponsored by the Research Consortium entitled Methodological Approaches to Mining Sport Participants' Domain Specific Knowledge. The symposium explored ways to provide researchers with a wider range of tools for collecting and analyzing verbal and written report data indicative of the internal knowledge representations held by sport participants. Jennifer also presented a poster entitled Expert-Novice Differences in Imagery Content and Knowledge Representation During the Game Play of Volleyball.
Jennifer Gorecki and twelve KNR students, (Beth Ann Young, Kristin Morgan, Amanda Schwoerer, Tim Mosolino, Jason Chance, Kirk Kooken, Sheri Glorioso, Deanna Kalamatas, Dave Ludwig, Jessica Cortesi, Scott Rasso, and Chris Heward) presented three dances in the Opening Ceremony for the Undergraduate Research Symposium on March 28 held here on campus in the Bones Student Center. The group will be presenting and teaching at the 21st Southwest Dance, Movement, and Acro Sport Workshop sponsored by the California Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation, and Dance in Palm Springs, California on April 26-27.

The Midwest Symposium on Therapeutic Recreation was held in Lake Geneva, Wisconsin on April 28-30. Several therapeutic recreation students attended the conference. Dr. Sandra Klitzing presented on "Can TR Models Help with Inclusion?" Dr. Klitzing and two students, Jessica McBride and Sandra Blondin, presented on "Valuing Diversity in Therapeutic Recreation."

Julie Sprouse presented at the Graduate Research Symposium on April 25. Her topic was "Key Competencies for Entry-Level Therapeutic Recreation Professionals Working with At-Risk Youth Populations." Dr Sandra Klitzing is the faculty advisor for the project.

TECHNOLOGY

Rodney Custer recently participated in a meeting of the Committee on Assessing Technological Literacy at the National Research Council in Washington, DC. The committee will issue a report and formal set of recommendations in approximately two years.

Dr. Chris Merrill and Matthew Feuerborn, an undergraduate student in technology education delivered a presentation at the 2003 Connections Conference entitled: "Teachers Doing Research in the Classroom". While at the Connections Conference, Dr. Merrill received one of the Awards of Distinction, which was given to 29 other educational institutions from a pool of 250 who applied. The award was based on his Midwest undergraduate research project.

Dr. Ken Stier served as the team chair for the National Association of Industrial Technology (NAIT) Accreditation site visit to Texas A & M University - Kingsville. Dr. Stier and two other members of the team visited the campus at Kingsville from April 13-16 and reviewed the Department of Industrial Technology there with regard to 62 NAIT standards. The visiting team's responsibilities consist of reviewing the institution's Self-Study Report, conducting at least a two-day, on-site visit to the institution, preparing a written report for the NAIT Board of Accreditation, and being present at the annual Board of Accreditation meeting.

IMPORTANT DATES

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<tr>
<td>May 8</td>
<td>Thursday Commencement Rehearsal, Redbird Arena</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 10</td>
<td>Saturday CAST Commencement, Redbird Arena</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 10</td>
<td>Saturday CAST Reception, immediately following</td>
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Have A Great Summer!