CAST has been a busy place these last two weeks. During this time I have met with the newly formed Strategic Issues and Planning Committee made up of members of the CAST Council who will advise me on planning and issues of strategic concern to the College. At my request, the Council formed this committee on an ad hoc basis for a two-year period to develop their role and function.

I also met with CAST Senators from the Academic Senate to discuss items before the Senate that are of interest to or a concern to CAST. Frank Waterstraat (HSC), Susan Winchip (FCS), Jim Coliz (ACS), Kerry Tudor (AGR), and Rick Boser (TEC) are the CAST Senators. You can take comfort that you have elected excellent Senators who are wise about the University, CAST, and the operation of the Senate. We have decided to meet monthly to keep track of issues before the Senate.

I think you will be interested in the following two happenings in CAST as well.

Accreditation

The College scored another first this week with a visit from an ABET accreditation team to concurrently examine our programs in Information Systems and Computer Science. This is the first time a team was sent anywhere to jointly examine both programs. This is the three-year visit for our program in Computer Science. We are one of two accredited Computer Science programs in Illinois. This is the initial accreditation for our program in Information Systems. If successful, we will be in the Freshman class of accredited programs in Information Systems as this is the first year they are making accreditation visits in this discipline.

If both programs are successful in their accreditation goals, we will be one of the few universities in the country with accredited programs in both Information Systems and Computer Science. Thanks to Dave Doss, Robert Zant, Carol Chrisman, Mary Elaine Califf and the rest of the ACS faculty and staff for their hard work on completing the accreditation reports and organizing the site-visit.

Homecoming

Next weekend is Homecoming. CAST departments take the lead in hosting our alums so the Dean’s Office will be making visits to departmental events to meet and greet alumni.

For the first time in recent memory the College will have a float in the parade. Mardell Wilson (FCS), Doug Kingman (AGR), Jeff Wood (Dean’s Office) and the CAST Council have made this possible. Dave Kennell (TEC) will also be a part of the CAST entry. He will drive his innovative solar powered ATV along with the CAST float. Alumni who have been invited to campus for special recognition by departments this weekend and their families have been invited to ride on the float. I understand we still have some seats available on the float so if you would like to be in the parade, contact Mardell (8-7031). Watch for the CAST float and give our folks a cheer as they pass.

CAST OFFICE

J. Robert Rossman, Dean, College of Applied Science and Technology, was elected to a three-year term to the Board of Directors for the American Academy for Park and Recreation Administration. He will be installed at the annual meeting of the Academy in Tampa, Florida this October. The Academy was formed to advance knowledge related to the administration of recreation and parks; to encourage scholarly efforts by both practitioners and educators that would enhance the practice of park and recreation administration; to promote broader public understanding of the importance of parks and recreation to the public good; and to conduct research, publish scholarly papers, and sponsor seminars related to the advancement of park and recreation administration. Membership in the Academy is limited to 125 practicing professionals, of whom no more than 25 percent may be educators.
More from the CAST Office

Retirement Planning

A person’s retirement annuity under the General Formula is based on the highest four consecutive years (September 1 to August 31), or the immediate 48 months of salary including summer session earnings, ISU contract or grant pay, and extension work. Retirement under the Money Purchase Formula only takes into consideration a person’s contributions into the system, interest earned on those contributions, and life expectancy. The maximum that a person may receive under either formula is 80%. SURS will calculate it both ways and you will receive the greater of the two calculations. Since it is hard to predict which formula will be applied to any given individual, it is valuable to have the extra summer employment before retirement.

As was the case for the last several years, the College will try to set aside some summer funds to insure that anyone retiring in FY2004 under the general formula can receive some summer employment during the summer of 2003 with duties (teaching) assigned by the department chairperson. Our ability to do this will depend on the funds available and the number of individuals requesting support.

In order to be considered, applicants must inform their chairperson and the Dean in writing of their intent prior to November 5, 2002. The letter should include: (1) proposed retirement date, (2) years of service at ISU and (3) birth date.

Persons who filed last year may reactivate their file by resubmitting a copy of that notification with a current date and signature. Applications are the responsibility of the faculty members and are not automatically reactivated.

Applicants will be selected using the following criteria: (A) Amount that the funding will affect an individual’s retirement, (B) Proposed Retirement Date - current year retirees will be served first; (C) Years of Service at ISU - service provides seniority; and (D) Birth Date - age provides seniority. All eligible persons will be assigned one month before any are assigned a second month. (Prior receipt of retirement enhancement funds will be considered).

NOTE: (1) Eligible persons with less than one month’s summer assignment may apply to complete that month’s summer salary. 2) Departments are encouraged to assist in this project by developing a summer school assignment policy that gives some special consideration to persons in their final four years. Comments concerning this policy should be addressed to Dean Rossman, 5000 CAST.

CAST RESEARCH OFFICE

ISU Research/Creativity Profile Database: Another Reminder

The new Research/Creativity Profile Database (R/CPD) is up and running. A minor kink was recently fixed. CAST faculty and staff can access the database on the University Research and Sponsored Programs webpages, more specifically at: www.research.uro.ilstu.edu/research/register/register.html

The effectiveness of the database will be based on the number of faculty and staff who enter and update their data on a regular basis, as well as on the number of people who use the database to learn of the research interests of colleagues for purposes of 1) arranging for collaboration on research projects and 2) sharing information about possible funding for research efforts. To encourage participation on part of CAST faculty, an incentive has been created. Those CAST faculty and staff who have fully entered their information into the database on the morning of November 1, will be eligible for a drawing later that day. The winner of the drawing will receive a $50 gift certificate to his/her favorite Bloomington-Normal restaurant or bookstore.

Faculty members new to CAST have been entering data about their research interests into the Research/Creativity Profile Database. As a means introducing several of them to the rest of the College, the following information has been taken from the database. Consult the database for more details.

Dr. Brent A. Beggs has recently joined the Kinesiology and Recreation faculty as an assistant professor. He is open to collaborative research endeavors. His research interests are leisure service management, sports management, simulated leisure environments, recreation programming, and marketing of leisure services.

Dr. Chad D. McEvoy is also a new assistant professor in the School of Kinesiology and Recreation. Not only is he willing to engage in collaborative research, but he is also willing to serve as a stats consultant. His profile in the R/CPD features these research keywords: athletic administration, college athletics, fund raising, philanthropy, revenue generation, sport and sport marketing.

Dr. Tom Portegys is one of six new faculty to join the Department of Applied Computer Science Department this fall. His is also open to collaborative research work. His expertise lies in the areas of artificial intelligence and life, neural networks, pattern recognition, parallel processing, and computer graphics.

Dr. Susan J. Torntore is a recent addition to the faculty of the Department of Family and Consumer Science. Her primary area of investigation is social and cultural aspects of the dressed body, and dress related to cross-cultural exchange. She is particularly interested in Hmong-American dress and Italian-American ethnic identity. Susan is open to collaborative research opportunities.
Dr. Connor Walters is the new chairperson of the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences. Having engaged in collaborative work in the past, she is most willing to do so again. Her research expertise is in the areas of child development, family dynamics, family systems, marriage and family therapy, and play therapy.

APPLIED COMPUTER SCIENCE


Dr. Mark Myerscough presented a paper entitled, "Information Systems Quality Assessment: Replicating Kettinger and Lee’s USIF/ServQual Combination", at the America's Conference for Information Systems (AMCIS) held in Dallas, Texas, August 9-11, 2002. This paper was accepted for inclusion in the Human-Computer Interaction mini-track of the AMCIS conference, which is the North and South American conference of the Association of Information Systems (AIS).


Dr. Robert F. Zant, attended the third annual Conference on Information Technology Curriculum on September 19 to 21. Dr. Zant chaired a session and participated in a workgroup developing a proposal for a national model curriculum in Information Technology.

FAMILY & CONSUMER SCIENCES

Dr. Susan Torntore presented a paper based on her dissertation research entitled, "Italian Coral Beads: Significance and Value as Dress", at the International Textile and Apparel Association Annual Conference held in New York City, Aug. 9-10, 2002, and participated on a Special Topics Panel entitled, "Common Goals, Diverse Perspectives: Learning through Material Culture Analysis," which included her paper entitled, "Coral beads as an artifact in cultural exchange."

Julianne Trautmann attended the International Textile and Apparel Association Annual Conference held in New York City, August 9-10, 2002, where she presented "Synchronous Learning: Using WebCT's Chat Function to Enhance Discussion in Social Psychology of Dress Course".

She was also co-presentor for a poster entitled, "Collaborative Efforts to Create a 150th Anniversary Exhibit", as well as for a panel entitled, “Common Goals, Diverse Perspectives' Learning Through Material Culture Analysis”.

Robert Cullen, sequence coordinator for Food, Nutrition & Dietetics, has recently received the national registration exam results for the undergraduate Didactic Program in Dietetics graduates seeking to become Registered Dietitians for the January through June, 2002 time period. A perfect six for six pass rate for first-time test takers was reported. One student scored at the 99th percentile and another at the 91st percentile nationally, placing our FND cvstudents well above the national average for this exam.

KINESIOLOGY AND RECREATION

Dr. Steve McCaw is the chair-elect of the Biomechanics Interest Group of the American College of Sports Medicine. The BIG is responsible for planning all symposia, tutorials, and clinical sessions in biomechanics at the Annual Meeting of ACSM.

IMPORTANT DATES

Friday University Outstanding Researcher and Research Initiative Award materials due to the CAST Research Office

Friday Various college and departmental events related to Homecoming

Wednesday University Research and Sponsored Programs Office Open House

Friday CAST Outstanding Teacher and CAST Outstanding Service Award materials due to the CAST Office

Friday CAST Outstanding Researcher Award materials due to the CAST Research Office by 9:00 am

Monday Deadline for submitting URG proposals to the CAST Research Office

Friday Drawing for $50 gift certificate from pool of fully completed profiles found in the new ISU Research/Creativity Profile Database