Colleagues

As the Fall term rapidly draws to a close, we will soon be meeting in Worthen Arena (December 13th) to send another large group of CAST graduates into the marketplace. These students represent a part of your legacy as educators, so I hope you take as much pride in their accomplishments as I do. Our students always recognize your efforts with applause during the ceremony, but I know that their appreciation of you goes much deeper. When I speak with CAST alums around the state and country, I hear about how you transformed their lives through your teaching and mentoring. My only regret is that you are not standing next to me when I hear former students share their experiences. Trust me, they are proud of their achievements, but they are also thankful they had the opportunity to work with you. I take my hat off to each of you for your commitment to our students.

In this issue of CAST Connections, we are highlighting a number of faculty and student accomplishments. We had a great Fall semester! Successes in the form of student academic competitions and refereed presentations, faculty awards, external proposals, and publications are just a few of that come to mind. I hope you take the time to following the links to the deeper stories about your colleagues and our students. If you do, you will learn about colleague’s who’ve been campus innovators within the recent trend for more interactive learning spaces, and a colleague who’s engaged students in a series of immersive learning projects aimed at rehabbing existing homes in Delaware County for use with the Habitat for Humanity program. As I indicated above, we had a very productive fall.

Finally, I hope you will have a restful and restorative semester break, and that you will return in January with renewed enthusiasm for your roles as teacher/scholars. I will be back in the classroom in the spring on Tuesday-Thursday mornings at 8AM! I hope to have the same impact with my students that you consistently have with yours.

All the best,

Mitch
Campus News CM Career Fair

The 9th Annual Construction Management Career Fair was Tuesday, October 14, 2014. The Construction Management program coordinated a career fair for students and this year, records were set for both employer and student attendance. Eighty-one construction management students attended the CM Career Fair to interact with twenty-one different companies.

Congratulate Jen Warner on another successful Career Fair!

Interactive Learning Courses

• Marsha Burden teaches the interactive Psychiatric Mental Health Nursing course. Activities for students include crisis and therapeutic communication simulations, case studies, podcasts, and flipped pedagogy. Find out more information here.

• Jennifer Young teaches the interactive Infant and Toddler Development and Education course. Students get the opportunity to learn about problem solving and innovative teaching strategies through group work, peer review, group discussion, and reflected observations. Learn more here.
Faculty News & Events

On September 19, 2014, Sam Cotton had the distinguished pleasure of being a recipient of the Indiana Association for Career and Technical Education Award of Merit. The award recognized Sam Cotton’s promotion of healthy development of Indiana youth by serving the institutions, people, and communities and having a lasting impact on the well being of all.

Congratulations, Sam!

Associate Dean Jay Kandiah received the Abbott Nutrition Award in Women’s Health on November 12, 2014. The award recognizes dietitians who make significant contributions to the importance of nutrition in women’s health. Abbot gave her the award along with $1,000 at the Gala Reception for Kids Eat Right.

Congratulations, Jay!

Habitat for Humanity

Janet Fick leads the immersive learning project with the Greater Muncie Habitat for Humanity and has for the last five semesters. Fifty-seven students have participated and completed eleven houses through this unique experience. Students use the opportunity to work with a real client and gain important skills for resumes and portfolios while benefiting local families with a well designed home. Find the full story here.

Thank you for all of your hard work, Janet!
MWACSM Conference

On November 7 and 8, faculty members in exercise science along with numerous graduate and undergraduate students attended the annual meeting of the Midwest Regional Chapter of the American College of Sports Medicine in Merrillville, IN. Faculty members in attendance included Lenny Kaminsky, Alex Montoye, Tony Mahon, Henry Wang, Paul Nagelkirk and Tonya Skalon.

There were a number of graduate students making oral and poster presentations at the conference. In addition, a team of undergraduate exercise science majors placed fourth in the Jeopardy competition.

Another student, Leah Brunswick, said, “I cannot believe how many amazing people I met from MWACSM conference this weekend! I would do it again in a heart beat!”

Indiana Minority Health Coalition Funds Research

Juanita Brand is currently working in a public health research area that is examining health disparities in Indiana Native American populations residing in Indiana. The focus of the research is on vaccine preventable illnesses and access to health care. Juanita Brand collaborated with the American Indian Center of Indiana and the Indiana Minority Health Coalition on this research. At present, she and colleagues have just completed a one-year qualitative study that examined the attitudes, beliefs and behaviors related to vaccinations and testing practices for seasonal influenza and Hepatitis B & C in Native Americans who reside in Indiana.