Welcome

The challenge of scholarship is one that we all, as RIT faculty, must meet head on. Here in the College of Applied Science and Technology we are blessed with a diverse and experienced core of people capable of a great deal. With the Scholarship Report, I am striving to give all of you a sense of what’s happening around CAST, who is doing what, and what’s coming down the road as it pertains to scholarship. This is planned to be a regular newsletter that I hope will be informative and enlightening. Please feel free to contact me about it. If you have suggestions that will make it better, or corrections to its content I would like to hear from you.

Call me at X54261 or email me directly at cmgiee@rit.edu

Chance Glenn

Featured CAST Scholar
Prof. Jennifer Schneider- CETEMS

For me, scholarship was first about doing something interesting to me that could also benefit our students and the community, but when I first went looking for funding for the stuff I wanted to do, there was not much out there that met the criteria. I initially got into the grant writing game with CIMs as a tech expert on a grant app for the NYS Hazard Abatement Board, where we offered free or almost free general safety and ergonomic assessments and training. We utilized a lot of co-ops from IE and CETEMS, but due to the structure of the grant, could not build the depth I thought was necessary to really make a difference.

I began looking to see if there were other sources of funding as the CIMs based work was doing just fine without me, and noticed the OSHA Harwood grants. In that same year, due to a lot of hard work and handshaking on the part of Kitten VanStrander and myself, RIT was awarded the OSHA Region II OSHA Educational Center status, so I talked Kitten into trying for an OSHA grant as well. I had put the time in, getting to know the players, their likes and dislikes, and marketing our abilities at meetings I attended. The Harwoods were unique because these grants had two options: 1. targeted training—presenting training to the designated audiences covered under the grant 2. training development—creating training for others to use in either directed or self taught applications for audiences covered under the grant. Our initial work was for development of training materials on safety and health management systems for small business. Over time, I was able to convince the folks at OSHA that we could build the best training, and they could get the best ‘bang for their buck’ by funding RIT students to work directly with several real small businesses, thereby really scoping what a small business needs to know, and how the material should be presented. Students would be directly involved in gap analysis, gap closure, and creating and giving training. You can take a look at the benchmark report and materials we developed on the web at www.rit.edu/~outreach/VPP_Sharpe_Benchmarking.doc. We have gotten hundreds of hits on this, and OSHA now uses this material in its own training classes, and it has only been up a few months.

Over the past three years, through CAST alone we have employed eleven students and recent alum with the grants, including funding a grad assistant position, including EHS, Civil and Mechanical engineering majors.

If you are interested in being featured in an upcoming issue, send a paragraph to cmgiee@rit.edu.
Recent CAST Scholarship
Here are some examples of recent scholarly activity by CAST faculty


If you have scholarship you’d like the CAST community to know about, send details to cmgiee@rit.edu

Upcoming Events
Board of Trustees Scholarship Award
The RIT Board of Trustees is unveiling an award for outstanding scholarship to RIT faculty. This award will be similar to the Eisenhart award for outstanding teaching. It will be left up to each College to determine the criteria by which they determine their representatives. CAST has developed a set of criteria that fits the unique make-up of our faculty. Calls for nominations have gone out. Nominations and packets will be accepted from faculty members until December 15th. The official call, along with the criteria, has been sent by email to all CAST faculty. Look for posts of this information on a bulletin board near you, on the CAST website, and on the CAST server. Contact me for more details and GOOD LUCK!

CAST Faculty Scholarship Incentive Grants (SiGs)
CAST is formulating a plan to provide incentive funding to faculty members to engage in scholarship. Vice-Dean Carol Richardson has worked with the scholarship committee to develop a plan that will provide course releases, student assistance, and summer stipends to aid faculty in scholarly pursuits.

A call for proposals is being sent out. Send responses to me for review.

The Journal of Applied Science Engineering and Technology (JASET)
CAST is planning the launch of a peer reviewed journal that focuses on the applied sciences, engineering and technology. This journal will be open to all CAST faculty to submit papers from work they’ve done over the course of the year. More information will be forthcoming.

CAST Website
A new website for CAST is in the works. Assistant Dean Janice Farone is working to make this a reality. Plans are for launch around mid-November. There will be a section on faculty scholarship that will have updates and features that you see in “The Scholarship Report”.

From the Scholarship Committee
The CAST Scholarship Committee has become a duly recognized standing committee charged by the Dean to address the aspects of scholarship that affect the college the most. The committee has a full plate this year. The committee members are:


Feel free discuss your concerns about scholarship with any of these people.

From the Dean’s Office
I am very pleased with the work that the 2005-06 CAST Scholarship committee under the leadership of Professor Chance Glenn has accomplished this fall. I wanted to share a portion of an email message with you that I received from Dr. Simone after he read the Final CAST Scholarship Committee Report, 2004-05 that I sent him after the CAST town meeting:

Dear Carol:
Thank you so very much for so promptly sending me a most comprehensive complement and supplement to our engaging discussion at the CAST Faculty Forum. I must say that I am extremely and most favorably impressed with the thorough and most “scholarly” fashion in which CAST has approached the topic of teaching, SCHOLARSHIP, and practice.

You have defined terms; established structure and criteria; and provided up-to-date evidence of current output. I read the “Final CAST Scholarship Committee Report, 2004-05”, very carefully and with keen interest.

You and your faculty are to be congratulated and applauded. Keep up the great work. Please convey my appreciation for and confidence in the work of the faculty and staff in CAST.

Cordially yours,

Albert J. Simone - President

Carol Richardson
Miller Professor and Vice Dean

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