The State of the College
2005

Inessa Levi, Dean
College of Arts & Sciences
Western Illinois University
To become the College of Arts and Sciences in the leading comprehensive university

- Align institutional, unit, and individual faculty goals for continuous improvement of all matters affecting the College
- Focus on students
- Link resource allocation to strategic goals: Strategic Plan – Higher Values in Higher Education
  - CAS Academic Master Plan
  - Departmental Academic Master Plans
CAS: Support *Higher Values in Higher Education*
Focus on students

Goal: Attract, retain, and graduate a well-qualified high achieving diverse student body

- support, design, review, and promote attractive in-demand programs
  - reflective of student needs and university goals
  - serving campuses at Macomb and QC campus
  - prioritized by academic support of majors, minors, general education, and service offerings
CAS: Support *Higher Values in Higher Education*
Focus on students

**Goal:** Attract, retain, and graduate a well-qualified high achieving diverse body of students

- identify, support, and promote opportunities for:
  - student/faculty undergraduate and graduate research and mentoring
  - experiential and service learning
  - appreciation of diversity
  - global perspective of the world
CAS in 2004-05: Budget Support for Existing Programs

Faculty Recruitment
completed 23 successful tenure/tenure track searches

Renovations/Improvements:
Outreach Base in Tillman: WSRC, IES, TLTC, GIS

Four Classrooms in Morgan (History, Political Science, Mathematics, Sociology and Anthropology) & classroom furniture in Simpkins
CAS in 2004-05: Budget Support for Existing Programs

Other Key Expenditures:

Undergraduate Research (10 departments)

Equipment (every department)

New/Improved Computer Labs: GIS, Languages, Mathematics, Journalism

Travel (every department)

Grant Matches

Start-ups

Speakers
CAS in 2004-05: Support for Existing Programs

Student Recruitment

• Discover Western
• CAS participates in the Community College Articulation Conference
• Department visitation days, conferences, discipline-related fairs, competitions for high school students to bring students to campus:
  African American Studies
  Biology
  Chemistry
  English and Journalism
  Geography
  Geology
  History
  Mathematics
  Physics
CAS: Student Learning and Program Development

- **First Year Experience** - Improving Academic Experience
- **Citizenship** – American Democracy Project, service learning
- **Lincoln Laureate** – James Matthew Kerr; will receive his Bachelor’s degree in May, 2005 with a major in Physics (and equivalent to a major in Mathematics). Plans on getting a doctorate degree

**New Programs**
Forensic Science BS
Post-baccalaureate Certificates:
  - Public and Non-Profit Management (WSRC)
  - Women’s Studies
Academic Excellence

Research and Scholarship

Service-department, college, university, community

Student research activities

Teaching
Undergraduate Research - Life-Long Learning

Helps students to experience the intellectual excitement of discovery that is hard to duplicate by other means.

Establishes an environment that facilitates long-term mentoring relationship between students and faculty to increase student success and retention.

Guides students to understand the inherently interdisciplinary nature of research in relation to the breadth of their liberal arts education.

Provides unique experience to undergraduates in taking a problem, analyzing it, collecting necessary information, solving the problem: these are exactly the skills employers want.
real world research, creative activities and experiential learning:
• Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Center
• Western Survey Research Center
• Institute for Environmental Studies
• Psychology Clinic
• Kibbe Life Science Station
• other faculty supported engagements
CAS: Focus on students

Undergraduate Research Grants 2004-05: awarded 48 grants total $16,451
Mentoring and undergraduate research: 222 undergraduate students from 13 of our departments participated in research projects in 2004-05 AY
2004-05 Undergraduate Research Day:

African American Studies, Biology, Chemistry, English and Journalism, Geology, History, Mathematics, Physics, Psychology, Sociology and Anthropology, Women’s Studies
Environmental Studies

Bill Doe - New director of the Institute for Environmental Studies
Assessment of the Environmental Studies Minor
Classes at Kibbe Station
Conference on Environmental Issues in Rural Illinois (June 2005)
EarthWatch Program at Kibbe, conference; planned expansion to involve students from the region
P.R.I.M.E at Kibbe
(Summer 2005)
Campus-wide Sustainability Day
(October 2005)
Liberal Arts and Sciences

• Writer Selah Saterstrom is Case Writer-in-Residence for the Fall 2005 semester
  • CLASS (Celebrating Liberal Arts and Sciences)
    – Dialog Series – the Democratic Purposes of Public Education, Spring 2005
    – Speaker’s Bureau
  • Annual John Hallwas Liberal Arts Lecture
  • Annual Mary Olive Woods Lecture in Philosophy and Religious Studies
• Needs Assessment for a Liberal Arts and Sciences Master’s Program
Internationalization

WISE Mexico

WISE Spain

New Exchange Program with Bilkent University, Ankara, Turkey

International Café

International Grants, collaborations
CAS

Conference of Illinois Deans of Colleges of Arts and Sciences (September 2005):

- undergraduate research and outreach
- Academic advising

New College’s Publication:

FOCUS
Academic Excellence
Scholarship and Professional Activity

To provide an intellectually stimulating environment to help our students become lifelong learners, it is crucial that we stay **professionally current and active**. Those who follow us tend to do what we do, not what we say.

Publications, presentations, grants, undergraduate and graduate research.
CAS Goal: Achieve Faculty Excellence

Faculty Excellence Awards

Mark Boley, Physics: CAS Research/Scholarship Award; CAS (only) Career Achievement Award in Undergraduate Research

Charles Helm, Political Science: CAS Service Award

Kristine Kelly, Psychology: CAS (only) Recent Achievement Award in Undergraduate Research

Walter Kretchik, History: CAS Internationalizing the Campus Award

Susan Martinelli-Fernandez, Philosophy and Religious Studies: CAS Teaching Award
CAS Goal: Achieve Faculty Excellence

Faculty Excellence Awards

Polly Radosh, Women’s Studies, CAS and Provost’s Multicultural Teaching Award

Christopher Sutton, Geography, CAS and Provost’s Teaching with Technology Award
CAS Goal: Achieve Faculty Excellence

Achievements 2004-05

CAS faculty and students produced 116 publications
Made 242 presentations

Jeanette Thomas, Biology – 2005 Distinguished Faculty Lecturer; her lecture was on “Effect of Human-made Noise on Marine Mammals”
So far in FY06 (July 1, 2005 – Sept 30, 2005) we have received $515,708 in external grants. This is a 6.6% increase over last year at this time!
Congratulations to Award Recipients FY2005

William Faulkner and Richard Mathers, Sociology & Anthropology; Department of Children & Family Services; $256,108

Richard Anderson, Biology; Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, $220,545

Sean Jenkins, Biology; Illinois Department of Natural Resources, $165,225
Congratulations to Award Recipients FY2005

- Jenq Kuen Huang and Lisa Wen, Chemistry; U.S. Department of Agriculture, $142,534

- Thottumkara Vinod, Chemistry; National Science Foundation, $128,000

- Richard Musser and Sue Hum-Musser, Biology; U.S. Department of Agriculture, $100,000
CAS Goal: Achieve Faculty Excellence

New Programs to Support Faculty Recruitment and Development

Faculty mentoring

Visiting Scholars

Dual Career Recruitment and Retention Program
Colleague Recognition, 2005-06

Tenured

Promoted to Associate Professor

Promoted to Full Professor

New Department Chairs, Director, Associate Dean

New Faculty
Faculty Granted Tenure as of 2005-06 AY

Dr. Patricia Anderson  Sociology/Anthropology
Dr. Fedor Andreev  Mathematics
Dr. Matthew Blankenship  Psychology
Dr. G.M. Cabeto-Timmons  Foreign Language & Literatures
Dr. Virginia Jelatis  History
Dr. Heather McIlvaine-Newsad  Sociology/Anthropology
Dr. Shawn Meagher  Biological Sciences
Dr. Sean Meegan  Psychology
Dr. Mark Mossman  English & Journalism
Dr. Eric Ribbens  Biological Sciences
Faculty Promoted to Associate Professor as of 2005-2006

Dr. Fedor Andreev  Mathematics
Dr. G.M. Cabedo-Timmons  Foreign Language & Literatures
Dr. Kimberly Hartweg  Mathematics
Dr. Virginia Jelatis  History
Dr. Tracy Knight  Psychology
Dr. Kyle Mayborn  Geology
Dr. Shawn Meagher  Biological Sciences
Dr. Mark Mossman  English & Journalism
Dr. Eric Ribbens  Biological Sciences
Faculty Promoted to Assistant Professor as of 2005-2006

Dr. Jacqueline Wilson-Jordan

English & Journalism
Faculty Promoted to Professor as of 2005-2006

Dr. Virginia Boynton  History

Dr. Ruth Kelly  Psychology
New Department Chair 2005-2006

Chairwoman, Department of Physics
Interim Chairwoman, Department of Chemistry

Professor Vivian Incera

Ph.D. in Physics, Lebedev Physical Institute, Moscow, USSR

Theoretical high-energy physics, interface of particle physics and astrophysics
New Department Chair 2005-2006

Chair, Department of Foreign Languages and Literature

Professor Andrew Lian

Ph.D. in Medieval French Literature, University of Paris IV-Sorbonne

Critical language pedagogy and technology-enhanced language learning
New Department Chair
2005-2006

Chair, Department Women’s Studies

Professor Polly Radosh
Ph.D. in Sociology,
Southern Illinois University

women and crime, gender roles, multicultural issues
New Director
2005-2006

INSTITUTE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES

Professor William W. Doe III, Director
Ph.D. in Water Resources Planning & Management, Colorado State University

Natural, physical social, Economic and cultural aspects of environmental research
New Associate Dean
2005-2006

Research, Graduate Education, Outreach, Advancement

PROFESSOR SUSAN MARTINELLI-FERNANDEZ

Ph.D. in Philosophy, University of Chicago

Ethics, history of ethics, applied ethics, feminist theory
New Tenure-Track Faculty 2005-06

AFRICAN-AMERICAN STUDIES

Dr. Nancy Kwang Johnson
Ph.D. in Government, Cornell University

Ethnicity/national identity sub-Saharan Africa; feminism/human rights in the global community
New Tenure-Track Faculty 2005-2006

BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES

Dr. Wendell L. French
BS in Biology, WIU

Ph.D. in Molecular Microbiology
And Immunology, University of Missouri
Microbiology, immunology, pathogenic bacteriology, virology
New Tenure-Track Faculty
2005-2006

BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES

Dr. Brian D. Peer
Ph.D. U of Manitoba

Ornithology, ecology;
nest parasitism and how it impacts bird population
New Tenure-Track Faculty 2005-06

Department of Chemistry

Dr. Ashish Pathak
Ph.D. in Chemistry,
University of Lucknow, India
Organic/Medicinal Chemistry
New Tenure-Track Faculty 2005-06

ENGLISH AND JOURNALISM

Dr. Penny Kelsey
Ph.D. in English,
University of Minnesota

American, ethnic and
Native American literatures
New Tenure-Track Faculty 2005-06

ENGLISH AND JOURNALISM

Dr. Erika Wurth
Ph.D. in English,
University of Colorado

Poetry, fiction, creative writing
New Tenure-Track Faculty 2005-06
DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY

Dr. Yongxin Deng

Ph.D. in Geography, University of Southern California
Environmental modeling, digital terrain analysis, fuzzy classification methods
New Tenure-Track Faculty 2005-06
DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY

Dr. Redina Herman
Ph.D. in Atmospheric Sciences, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
Impact of aircraft emissions on the environment, interactions between gravity waves & large-scale atmospheric flows
New Tenure-Track Faculty 2005-2006

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

Dr. Jennifer McNabb
Ph.D., History, University of Colorado at Boulder
Renaissance/reformation and early modern England
New Tenure-Track Faculty
2005-2006

DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICS

Dr. Victoria Baramidze
- Ph.D., Mathematics, University of Georgia-Athens
- Spline Theory, numerical solutions of partial differential equations, numerical integration
New Tenure-Track Faculty 2005-06

PHILOSOPHY AND RELIGIOUS STUDIES

Dr. Christopher Pynes
- Ph.D. in Philosophy, Florida State University
- Ethics, logic, philosophy of science
New Tenured Faculty 2005-06

DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICS

Dr. Efrain Ferrer

Doctorate in Theoretical Physics, Lebedev Physical Institute, Moscow, Russia

Particle physics, cosmology, condensed matter
New Tenure-Track Faculty 2005-06

DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

Dr. Julie Albarracin
Ph.D. in Political Science, University of Florida

Latin American politics, immigration policy, ethnicity
New Tenure-Track Faculty 2005-06

DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

Dr. Jongho Lee
Ph.D., Political Science,
University of Texas at Austin

American politics, public opinion, political psychology, ethnic and racial politics
New Tenure-Track Faculty 2005-06

DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY

Dr. Sandra McFadden
Ph.D. in Psychology, Neuroscience and Behavior, Northern Illinois University
Auditory neuroscience (sensory receptor to auditory perception and behavior)
New Tenure-Track Faculty 2005-06

DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY

Dr. Melanie Hetzel-Riggins

Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology, Northern Illinois University

Trauma, coping, stress
New Tenure-Track Faculty 2005-06

SOCIOLOGY AND ANTHROPOLOGY

Dr. David Casagrande
Ph.D. in Anthropology,
University of Georgia

Environmental anthropology, medical anthropology, quantitative and qualitative research methods
New Tenure-Track Faculty 2005-06

SOCIOLOGY AND ANTHROPOLOGY

Dr. Robert Hironimus-Wendt
Ph.D. in Sociology, North Carolina State University

Racial/ethnic/minority relations, sociology of education, industrial sociology.
New Tenure-Track Faculty 2005-06

SOCIOLOGY AND ANTHROPOLOGY

Dr. Craig Tollini
Ph.D. in Sociology, Western Michigan University
Quantitative/qualitative research methods & statistics, applied sociology, collective action
Dr. Oswald Warner

Ph.D. in Sociology and Urban Studies, Michigan State University

Race/ethnic/minority relations, urban sociology, African Diaspora
Future Directions

• Academic Excellence:
  – focus on students
  – undergraduate and graduate research, creative activities and mentorship (continue grant program)
  – faculty research, scholarship, professional development (continual support)
  – Diversity of student and faculty body
• Joint research, service, outreach and community involvement ventures:
  – Institute for Environmental Studies,
  – Geographic Information Systems Center,
  – Survey Research Center,
  – Psychology Clinic…
Future Directions (cts)

- First Year Experience
- CAS role at QC
- Student recruitment
- Internationalization of academic programs
- Improving work and learning environment

- Linking resource allocation to the Strategic Goals

- Progress and Progression: The Future Is Looking Bright