College of Arts and Sciences

State of the College
October 19, 2006

Inessa Levi, Dean
Working to be our best

- Focus on students
- Align institutional, unit, and individual faculty goals for continuous improvement of all matters affecting the College
- Link resource allocation to strategic goals:
  - Strategic Plan – Higher Values for 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, review, promote, and design attractive, in-demand programs
  - Reflective of student needs and university goals
  - Serving campuses at Macomb and Quad Cities
  - Prioritized by academic support of majors, minors, general education, and service offerings.

- Identify, support, and promote:
  - Quality student experiences
  - Appreciation of diversity
  - Global perspective of the world
CAS: 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
  - Political Science
  - Psychology
  - Sociology
CAS: Quality student experience

Real world research, creative activities and experiential learning:

- Undergraduate research support, mentoring
- Experiential and service 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: Quality student experience

• First Year Experience
  – “Call it a clan, call it a network, call it a tribe, call it a family. Whatever you call it, whoever you are, you need one.”
    – Jane Howard

• Citizenship
  – American Democracy Project
  – Constitution Day panel
  – Congressional debate between Democrat Phil Hare and Republican Andrea Zinga

• Lincoln Laureate
  – Farah M. Zolghadr, double major: political science and music
CAS Total number of majors 2003-2006
CAS Degree Programs with Greatest Increase in Number of Majors 2003-2006

- Biology: +51
- Meteorology: +51
- Sociology: +32
- Forensic Chemistry: +32
- Journalism: +31
Program Development – New Programs in 2005-2006

- Forensic Chemistry BS
- African and African Diaspora World Studies Post-Baccalaureate Certificate
- Applied Mathematics Post-Baccalaureate Certificate
- Forensic Psychology Minor
Undergraduate research: Life-long learning

• Helps students experience the intellectual excitement of discovery
• Establishes an environment that facilitates long term mentoring relationships
• 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 graduate schools and employers seek
CAS: Focus on students
Undergraduate research grants

Total amount awarded

- FY 04-05: $16,200
- FY 05-06: $16,855

Total number awarded

- FY 04-05: 48
- FY 06-06: 71
Heartfelt thanks to the FIFTY faculty who mentored students through their Undergraduate Research Day projects!!!
Liberal Arts and Sciences

- Annual John Hallwas Liberal Arts Lecture given by Tracy Knight (Psychology)
- Writer Selah Saterstrom is Case Writer-in-Residence for the Fall 2005 semester
- Annual Mary Olive Woods Lecture in Philosophy and Religious Studies
- Morrow Lecture
- Undergraduate and graduate Liberal Arts and Sciences degrees
Academic Excellence
Scholarship and professional activity

If we are to teach students to become life-long learners, we must be life long learners ourselves; we must stay professionally current and active.

“Learning is a treasure, which accompanies its owner everywhere.”
—Chinese proverb
Learning

“Learning is guided discovery. The guide is the teacher. His scholarship provides the factual basis for the student’s journey of discovery; and leadership, personal example, and mentoring skills provide the moral basis ... You cannot assume to do one without the other.”

Tom Clancy with General Tony Zinni (ret.) and Tony Koltz
CAS Goal: Enhance faculty excellence

- Increase travel support
- Faculty mentoring
- Visiting scholars
- Dual career recruitment and retention program
CAS Goal: Enhance faculty excellence — Faculty Excellence Awards

• *Teaching: Daniel L. Colvin, English & Journalism
• Research/Scholarly Activity: Shengming Tang, Sociology & Anthropology
• Service: Virginia R. Boynton, History
• Undergraduate Research – Recent: Kenneth W. McCravy, Biological Sciences
• Undergraduate Research – Career: Raymond L. Majeres, Psychology
• Teaching with Technology: Steve Bennett, Geology
• *Internationalizing the Campus: Siyoung Park, Geography
• Multicultural Teaching: Abdul-Rasheed Na’Allah, African American Studies
CAS Goal: Enhance faculty excellence — Achievements 2005-2006

- CAS Faculty and students produced 120 publications and made 250 presentations
- Polly Radosh, Professor and Chairperson of Women’s Studies, was named the 2006 Distinguished faculty lecturer
Extramural funding
2005-2006 Awards

FY 00-01: $1,158,030
FY 01-02: $1,288,816
FY 02-03: $976,349
FY 03-04: $809,723
FY 04-05: $1,177,895
FY 05-06: $1,358,859
Extramural funding

Congratulations to award 2005-06 recipients

- William R. Faulkner and Richard A. Mather, Sociology and Anthropology, grant from the Department of Child and Family Services, $256,108
- Ashish K. Pathak, Chemistry, grants from NIH, $250,282 and $189,721 respectively
- Nektal M. Made Gowda, Chemistry, grant from NIH, $185,600
- James A. Rabchuk (Co-PI), Physics, grants from IBHE, $70,000 and $73,000 respectively
- T.K. Vinod, Chemistry, grant from NSF, $64,000
- Thomas H. Alton, Biological Sciences, grant from LiCor, $50,000
Internationalism

- WISE Mexico
- WISE Spain
- New exchange program with Bilkent University; Ankara, Turkey
- International grants, collaborations
- Exploring development of global partnerships in Philippines, Thailand, Taiwan, Korea, and Malaysia
CAS in 2005-2006:
Budget support for existing programs

- Undergraduate research, all departments
- Equipment
- Renovations
- Travel: increase in matching travel funds $350
- Grant matches
- Start-ups
- Speakers
CAS 2005-2006 Budget - $18,124,064 Total

Personnel
$17,230,486
95%

College operating budget
$221,657
1%

Department operating budgets
$671,921
4%
CAS 2005-2006 Budget – $221,657 in support of college operations and initiatives

- Reserve, $24,157
- College operating funds, $30,000
- Additional department support, $60,000
- Faculty development, $47,500
- Undergraduate research awards, $20,000
- "Focus" Magazine, $25,000
- CAS Sponsored events, $12,000
- Visiting scholar program, $3,000
- Visiting scholar program, $3,000
Budget support for existing programs: Faculty recruitment and support

- 20 successful tenure/tenure track searches
- New computers to all new tenure/tenure track faculty
- Start-up funds to support research activities:
  - Biological Sciences - Landscape Ecology, Ichthyology, Ornithology, and Pathogenic Bacteriology
  - Chemistry – Medicinal Chemistry
  - Physics – Atomic Molecular and Optical Physics
  - Psychology – Auditory Processes
Budget support for existing programs: Equipment purchases

- Biological Sciences – match for a grant received to enhance teaching and research in molecular biology
- Geography – large-format plotter for the Geographic Information Systems laboratory
- Geology – petrographic microscopes
- Chemistry – new laboratory equipment in support of the Forensic Chemistry major
- Computers for new faculty (21)
- Computers for current faculty (24)
Renovations

- African American Studies - Electronic classroom
- Women’s Studies – Office complex and faculty offices in Currens Hall
- English and Journalism – replaced 25 computers in the Composition Laboratory
- Foreign Languages and Literature – renovated computer laboratory and purchased software
- Psychology – renovation of former laboratory into electronic classroom; soundproofed three clinic interview rooms
- Installed single-phone lines for all faculty currently sharing office space
CAS Advancement

- Developed advancement plan
- Ericka Hendrickson, Director of Advancement for the college
- Formed an Advancement Board
- Visited alumni, friends, and donor prospects in the region, as well as in DC, and Colorado.
- Kibbe Life Science Research Station public field trips (June, October, January)
- Homecoming
Homecoming 2006
EndNotes and fans
CAS Marketing

- Jeff Dodd, Assistant to the Director of Marketing for CAS
- Redeveloping the CAS website
- Increased promotions of college’s events
- Strengthened ties with university relations
- Marketing function will oversee campaign communications for CAS in concert with the Dean and Director of Advancement
College of Arts and Sciences

Colleague recognition, 2006-2007

- Tenured
- Promoted to Associate Professor
- Promoted to Full Professor
- New administrators
- New faculty
- New staff of the Dean’s Office
Faculty granted tenure
2006-2007

Tawnya Adkins Covert, Sociology/Anthropology
Peter Cole, History
David Connelly, Political Science
Jeffrey E. Engel, Biological Sciences
Raymond Greene, Geography
Rick Hardy, Political Science
Kimberly Hartweg, Mathematics
Sean Jenkins, Biological Sciences
Bill Knox, English & Journalism
Jeff Laurent, Psychology
Faculty granted tenure
2006-2007  (continued)

Robert Mann, Mathematics
Kyle Mayborn, Geology
Rose McConnell, Chemistry
Scott McConnell, Chemistry
Jaqueline McLeod, History
Gordon Pettit, Philosophy & Religious Studies
Alphonso Simpson, Jr., African American Studies
Samuel K. Thompson, Geography
Audrey P. Watkins, African American Studies
Faculty promoted to Associate Professor
2006-2007

Lori Baker-Sperry, Women’s Studies
Amy Carr, Philosophy & Religious Studies
Jongnam Choi, Geography
Peter Cole, History
David Connelly, Political Science
Jeffrey Engel, Biological Sciences
Raymond Greene, Geography
Sean Jenkins, Biological Sciences
Kenneth McCravy, Biological Sciences
Jacqueline McLeod, History
Alphonso Simpson, African American Studies
Samuel Thompson, Geography
Audrey Watkins, African American Studies
Faculty promoted to Full Professor 2006-2007

Dr. Leslie A. Melim  Geology
Dr. T.K. Vinod  Chemistry
College of Arts and Sciences

New Administrators
Dr. Rose McConnell
Chairperson, Chemistry

- Ph.D. in Chemistry in 1983 from Texas A & M University
- B.S. from Arkansas State University
- Served in the School of Mathematical and Natural Sciences at the University of Arkansas-Monticello, 1992-2006
- Served on several state and national committees and federal review panels.
- Her research interests are in medicinal and polymer chemistry
Richard Hardy, Chairperson
Political Science

- PhD from the University of Iowa (1981)
- Undergraduate degree from WIU.
- Served at Northern State University, Duke University, and University of Missouri-Columbia
- Research/teaching interests include American Politics, Constitutional Law, Civil Rights, The Supreme Court, Federalism, State Government, Policy Evaluation Methods, and Civic Leadership
- Past member of the Electoral College
Dr. John Simmons
Chairperson, Philosophy & Religious Studies

- PhD, MA, and BA from the University of California, Santa Barbara
- Previously a teaching associate at UCSB before joining the faculty at WIU
- Research interests include the relationship between studies in neuroscience and sources of human consciousness and spiritual experience
Tom Dunstan, Acting Director
Institute for Environmental Studies

- PhD from University of South Dakota
- Retired from Biological Sciences at WIU in 2004
- Research interests include wildlife ecosystems with special attention to bald eagles breeding and wintering in the Midwest
Charles Helm, Acting Director
Western Survey Research Center

- PhD from University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill
- Retired from Political Science at WIU in 2006
- Research interests include philosophy of the science; American politics with focus on realignment and voter turnout; the Milgram “Obedience Experiments;” and politics, literature, and the Internet
College of Arts and Sciences

New faculty
J. Scott McConnell, Associate Director
Institute for Environmental Studies and
Professor of Chemistry

- Ph.D. in Soil and Environmental Chemistry in 1984 from Texas A & M University
- M.S. in Chemistry from Arkansas State University
- B.S. from Arkansas State University
- Served on the faculty for the Department of Crop, Soil, and Environmental Sciences at The University of Arkansas, 1984-2006
- His research interests are in environmental soil and water chemistry
Susan Peitzmeier Romano
Biological Sciences

- PhD and BA from Southern Illinois University
- MS from Western Illinois University
- Research interests include ecology, conservation, and management of vegetation within large river systems
Roberta DiCarmine
English and Journalism

- Previous posts at Dickinson College and University of Oklahoma
- Academic interests include Italian Cinema and Comparative Literature to Introduction to Film and Video Studies, Film Criticism, Film History, World Cinema and Italian American Cinema
Amy Patrick
English and Journalism

- PhD from University of Minnesota – Twin Cities.
- MA from University of Nevada – Reno
- BS from University of Massachusetts – Amherst
- Research interests include rhetoric of sustainability and environmental discourse.
José-Antonio Gonzalez

Foreign Languages and Literatures

- Ph.D. from Florida State Univ.
- MA from Universidad de Camaguey
- BA from Universidad de Oriente,
- Teaching experience at the College of Education in Cuba, New Jersey City University, Florida State University
- Research interests include 19th and early 20th Century Latin America Language Literature and Culture, multi-disciplinary research in communications, culture and text analysis
Sandros Barros
Foreign Languages and Literatures

- BA, MA and Ph.D. from the University of Cincinnati
- Teaching experience Brazil, where he taught English as a Second Language, University of Cincinnati, University of Michigan
- His research interests focus on the study of marginal life stories, autobiographies and race/class issues
- Music composer, opera lyricist active playwright, and triathlete
Richard Filipink
History

- PhD from SUNY Buffalo
- Specialty in post-1945 United States history with emphasis American diplomatic and political history during the Cold War
Elizabeth Hansen
Mathematics

- MA and PhD from University of Iowa
- BA from University of Northern Iowa
- Served seven years as a teaching assistant at the University of Iowa
- Research interests include time series, smoothing, and penalized likelihood
Zhuhui Yang
Mathematics

- PhD from University of Maryland College Park
- MS from China Textile University
- BA from East China Normal University
- Served five years at University of Maryland
- Research interests include stochastic differential equations and applications, probability and stochastic processes, and mathematics statistics
Brian Powell
Philosophy

- PhD from University of Virginia
- Research interests include moral, social/political, and legal philosophy
Penggian Wang
Physics

- PhD From Peking University.
- Held positions at RIKEN (Japan), Max Plank Institute, Technical University of Munich
- Previously a researcher at Kansas State University
- Research interests include atomic, molecular, and optical physics
Igor Shovkovy
Physics

- Candidate of Sciences in Physics and Mathematics from Bogolyubov Institute for Theoretical Physics (Ukraine)
- Post-doctoral research associate at University of Cincinnati and University of Minnesota
- Research Associate at J.W. Goethe University (Frankfurt)
- Junior Fellow at Frankfurt Institute for Advanced Studies
Scott Hemenonver
Psychology

- PhD and MA in Psychology from University of Nebraska – Lincoln
- Teaching experience at Mississippi State University.
- Research work at University of Chicago
- Faculty position at Kansas State University
- Research interests include personality and emotion; stress and health
Jeff Laurent
Psychology

- PhD from University of Texas – Austin
- MS from University of Oregon
- BA from Marquette University
- Past experience includes Illinois State University and University of Alabama
- Three years as a school psychologist in rural school districts in central Illinois
- Research interest in anxiety and depression among youth
Dana Lindeman
Psychology

- PhD and MS from Washington State University
- BA from University of Alaska
- Research interest in behavioral self-management and strategies to reduce risky health behavior and increase healthy eating and exercise
Richard Gee
Sociology

- PhD Candidate at the University of Missouri – Columbia
- MA from Oklahoma State University
- Taught at Northern Oklahoma College and University of Missouri – Columbia
- Research interests include criminology, deviance, organizations, and environmental sociology
Tammy Werner
Sociology

- PhD Candidate at University of Kentucky
- MA from North Dakota State University
- Previously taught at the University of Kentucky
- Research interests include race, age, and gender; quantitative research methods; and community development
College of Arts and Sciences

New Staff of the Office of the Dean
Ericka Hendrickson
Director of Advancement

- MS from Georgia State University
- BA from Marycrest College
- Previously worked in pharmaceutical sales
Jeff Dodd
Assistant to the Director of Marketing for CAS

- BA from the University of Louisville
- Has worked for 20 years in higher education, marketing communications, and research administration
Susie Fowler
Secretary IV

- Associate of Arts, Spoon River College
- Bachelor of Arts, Western Illinois University
- Previously employed with Spoon River College and WIU’s Housing and Dining Services
College of Arts and Sciences

Future directions
Future directions – Academic Excellence: Focus on Students

- Undergraduate and graduate research, creative activity, and mentorship
- Citizenship – American Democracy project, election night coverage, mock elections
- First Year Experience
- Liberal education
- Diversity of students and faculty
- Enhance learning environment
- Internationalization of academic programs
- Student recruitment — grants
- Advancement
Future directions – New Academic Programs

- CAS role at Quad Cities
- Bachelor of Liberal Arts and Sciences
- Master of Liberal Arts and Sciences
- Environmental GIS post-baccalaureate certificate
- Nursing program
- Survey Research Minor
- Accelerated Masters Programs
Future directions – Academic Excellence: Focus on Faculty

- Faculty research, scholarship, professional development (continual support)
  - “You never stop learning unless you decide to”
    Tom Clancy with General Tony Zinni (ret.) and Tony Koltz
- Service, outreach, and community involvement
- Interdisciplinary developments
  - Institute for Environmental Studies
  - Geographic Information Systems Center
  - Western Survey Research Center
  - Psychology Clinic
- Enhance work environment
- Linking resource allocation of the Strategic goals
- New Science Building
- Advancement
Direction: Excellence

“Keep away from people who try to belittle your ambitions. Small people always do that, but the really great make you feel that you, too, can become great.”

Mark Twain