From the Dean

As most of you know, our undergraduate curriculum revision has been a major focus of ours over this past year. The question is this: what can we do to ensure that our graduates not only have a solid grasp of the basic sciences but also are prepared to enter the working world—an entirely different working world than most of us entered years ago. The new curriculum is still being amended and hasn’t yet been voted on by the full faculty, but I’d like to share with you some of the changes we entertained this year:

- Eliminate all math courses (voted down by mathematics department);
- Eliminate all biology courses (voted down by biological sciences department);
- Arrange study abroad experiences in locations like Antarctica so students appreciate the Indiana climate when they return;
- Ensure every student has an 8 a.m. class every day. They’re going to have to get up early eventually; they may as well start now.
- Conduct teamwork exercises at IU. If our students can work with IU students, they can work with anyone.

Next year our top priority in the College will be clarifying the standards for tenure. New tier 1 journals being considered include People, GQ, and Reader's Digest.

Best regards,

Jeff Vitter

SCIENCE NEWS AND RESEARCH

Eureka! Everything old is new again

“Retro” is the latest fashion craze, and the trend has inspired...
Beginning this summer, the college will create the Department of Alchemy, which represents additional research opportunities as well as new funding sources. The department is currently seeking corporate sponsorship from the lead production industry. Early estimates indicate that the department will pay for itself after the production of 72 gold bars, at which point it will become a revenue generator for the college. [Full Story]

A new roll for Lilly Hall

Science@Purdue readers may remember the Society of Physics Students’ couch, MoJo, a duct-taped-together couch to which Duck Brand Tape donated more than 100 rolls of tape. Building on the success of that project, the Department of Biological Sciences has secured a gift from the Duck Brand of several million rolls. The rolls will be used to hold together Lilly Hall until needed repairs and renovation can begin. [Full Story]

I Spy with my little eye

Researchers in the Nanoscience COALESCE area have teamed with Homeland Security officials to create the NanoCam, a camera visible only at the nanoscale. “It can see you—and photograph you—but you can’t see it,” physics department head Andy Hirsch says of the new camera. Unfortunately, the formal unveiling of the camera has been delayed indefinitely because lab personnel can’t find it. [Full Story]

Virtually brand new

The Department of Computer Science is excited about plans for Phase 2 of the Richard and Patricia Lawson Computer Science Building, set to open soon. The second phase of the building will be a virtual reality building. In addition to showcasing the department’s research expertise, the virtual building also frees up the real-life space for other Purdue projects. [Full Story]
From the capitol building in Indianapolis to the state’s universities, officials have been focusing on Indiana’s brain drain—many students who graduate from Indiana universities leave the state to pursue careers. The College of Science, with its broad expertise and strong multidisciplinary capabilities, has become a significant force in the “Improve Indiana” initiative and will soon begin work on bringing mountains from Colorado to eastern Indiana and building a dome in northern Indiana to simulate the Florida climate. “I’ve always grown corn,” says a local farmer, “but I like oranges. I could get used to growing them in a dome.” Efforts to annex Michigan beaches are also underway. [Full Story]

Advancing Acronyms

One of the ongoing goals in the College of Science is to have science discoveries help spur discoveries and creations in other areas. Building on the existing science centers and initiatives like PURE, PULSe, PCCRC, CCAM, GMIG, CERIAS, CSST, CRI, CASPiE, PHASE, PICES, and the COALESCE areas, Purdue will soon launch its newest national initiative—the American Association for the Advancement of Acronyms, or A4. [Full Story]

Construction boom

With the push to complete all campaign-related facilities, Purdue announced Friday that by the end of the year, all buildings on campus would be under construction in some way. The effect on the financial markets was immediate, causing an upsurge in the brick stocks, especially for the manufacturers of red brick. [Full Story]

Mann’s sister institute announced

On Friday, March 16, Purdue announced the establishment of the $100 million Al Mann Institute for Biomedical Development. This week, Purdue will announce the establishment of its sister institute, the Alyssa WoMann Institute. [Full Story]

Dining to dollars

Last year, Purdue’s revamped dining courts won Food
significant redesign and a new concept of dining that focused more on student choices. Building on both that award and the success other Purdue entities have experienced in bringing products to market, Purdue enthusiastically announces “Purduebucks,” a dining and coffee experience. [Full Story]

**Rising above the challenge**

The College of Science academic advising group recently formulated its strategic plan, dubbed the "Lake Wobegon Project." Its key goal is to get all students to have a grade point average that is above average. Department Head Mary Ellen Bock of Statistics declined comment. [Full Story]