

## **Update on Assessment Activities in 2005-2006 Academic Year**

### **Biology Major**

- In the fall semester we administered a web-based survey to our students that focused on quality of advising the students received from Peer Advisors (who work with CALS freshman students) and faculty members (who work with all students). This is the third time we have administered this survey. The results have been used to improve our website, develop advisor resources, and improve our Peer Advisor program.
- At the end of fall and spring semesters we administer an e-mail survey to graduating students. This survey focuses on how well the student feels the major has provided them a flexible and broad education, how beneficial they found advising to be, and changes they feel should be made in the curriculum. This survey has been administered every spring semester since 2001 and in fall semesters of 2001, 2003, and 2005. Over the years, survey feedback has catalyzed changes in our curriculum, particularly the expansion of foundational course options.
- We are currently developing a survey to be administered to recent graduates. The focus of this survey will be the degree to which the Biology major has prepared students to achieve their career or educational objectives.
- Overall, our assessment activities have highlighted the importance of curricular breadth and the challenge of providing good advising – which can come from a variety of sources.