May 18, 2006

TO: Campus Community

FROM: Carmen Sigler, Provost and VP for Academic Affairs
       Office of the Provost

RE: Appointment: Dean of the College of Science

It is with pleasure that I announce the appointment of Dr. J. Michael Parrish as the future Dean of the College of Science. He will assume his duties during the summer of 2006 from Dr. Vida Kenk, who has served with distinction as Interim Dean since January 2005.

Dr. Parrish will come to us from Northern Illinois University where he has served as an Assistant Professor, Associate Professor and Professor of Biological Sciences since 1998. He has been the chair of that department since 1999 and since 2002 he has held the title of "Presidential Research Professor".

Dr. Parrish earned BA degrees in Biology and Chemistry from the University of California, Santa Cruz and a PhD in Anatomy from the University of Chicago. He is a specialist in vertebrate paleobiology, but his extensive research contributions have been interdisciplinary throughout his academic career involving partnerships with paleobotanists, invertebrate paleontologists, sedimentologists, computer scientists and mammalogists.

Prior to accepting his appointment at Northern Illinois University, Dr. Parrish was a visiting Lecturer and Visiting Assistant Professor in the Department of Geology at the University of Colorado. He continues to serve as a Research Associate with the University of Colorado Museum. Before embarking upon an academic career, he was a quality control chemist for ALZA Pharmaceuticals in Mountain View.

Dr. Parrish is an impressive scholar. Throughout his academic tenure he has secured funding in excess of $582,000 for numerous grant projects where he has functioned as principal investigator, co-principal investigator or co-investigator. He has published twenty-eight scholarly articles in scientific journals and has contributed twelve chapters in books. His research has been international in scope, involving extensive work in Europe, Africa, Asia and South America, as well as, the United States. Currently he is engaged in a research project with a colleague from the University of Oregon which involves three-dimensional computer modeling to study the movements of dinosaurs.

We are delighted to have Dr. Parrish join us. Please join me in extending a warm welcome when he arrives this summer.

CS/mlg