



This week was midterm. I gave three tests. On Monday, my PHS 201 students performed as expected. On Tuesday, my PHS 202 students far exceeded my expectations. So, I added a couple of harder problems to my PHS 212 students test for Thursday. My PHS 212 still outperformed the PHS 202 students. I would like to claim that my PHS 212 is doing so well because we use the collaborative classroom. However, I know that my comparison between PHS 202 and PHS 212 is not true random trial. Yet, I think that we are amassing more and more evidence that traditional teaching methods are not the most effective teaching methods. Each time we re-think the traditional classroom and try something new, we are helping our students.

Please note the request to update Digital Measures for the April Board of Trustees meeting. Our Departmental report in January was rather sparse. It would be nice to have a bit stronger report for this Board of Trustees meeting.

The "lion" of March (last weekend) has retreated. The "lamb" is definitely out this weekend. Enjoy the weekend.  
--Lou

#### Department News

##### **Board of Trustees Report Due 1 April**

The Board of Trustees Report on Scholarly activity of the faculty members will be generated from Digital Measures. I am asking each and every faculty member in our Department to carefully think about any items that you might have sent to me to put into one of the traditional BOT reports and then log on to Digital Measures and make certain that those activities are logged-in to Digital Measures. Please do this by 1 April. The report will be generated very soon after 1 April. Your help is appreciated.

For new Faculty members: The Board of Trustees report contains scholarly activities over the past three months. In other words, it lists all your publications, presentations, grants, reviews or awards received for the past three months (Jan, Feb, and March, 2013). You might not have anything to report or your might have several items. The objective of this report is to let the Board of Trustees know that we do more than teach classes and those other activities are important.

### Summer and Fall Registration Starts Next Week

Plan on seeing more students in your office and please take your student advising sessions very seriously. There are a number of students across campus who have had to pay out thousands of dollars for extra courses because of poor academic advice. Please remember that your advice is important and mistakes can be costly.

### Faculty Research Grants

I hope you will apply for the JSU Faculty Research Grants. The deadline for receipt of these in the **Associate Dean's** office (246 Martin Hall) is **Monday, March 18**, to provide time for review prior to the University deadline. Faculty should follow these instructions in preparing an application:

1. Please go to the Academic Affairs website for information on the Guidelines for Research Proposal Format.

[http://www.jsu.edu/academicaffairs/research\\_grant.html](http://www.jsu.edu/academicaffairs/research_grant.html)

2. Submit the original signed copy of the submission form, using the current form available online at the above address. Please do not use old forms! Also, please do not send multiple copies of the application; our office will get the Dean's signature, make the Faculty Research Committee's requested ten copies, and deliver them to the committee chair, Dr. Jimmy Griffin.

3. Please print the detailed line item budget, in the requested format, on its own page on white paper. Our office will copy this onto the requested colored paper.

4. If you received a faculty research grant in 2012-2013, please attach the progress report for that grant to the back of the 2013-2014 proposal submission. These progress reports are also due to Dr. Griffin by March 1.

5. Please include a current CV for each researcher.

6. Note that a faculty member is limited to the submission of one proposal as a principal investigator per year.

### Thought for the Day



The most exciting phrase to hear in science, the one that heralds new discoveries, is not 'Eureka!' (I found it!) but 'That's funny ...'

Isaac Asimov (1920 - 1992)

### Sexual Harassment Prevention Training

Everyone is required to have annual training to prevent sexual harassment. The training program is new this year. To access it, to go: <http://elearning.ue.org>

You will need to register as a new user on the right-hand side of the page. The Institution Registration Code is: 1106-SC37-XY12

The session takes about 45 minutes and is, in my opinion, much better than the program we had in previous years. You are supposed have this completed by 15 March.



### **Faculty Awards Nominations Sought**

The Faculty Senate is pleased to announce that nominations are sought for the following faculty awards:

- Faculty Scholar Lecturer Award
- Outstanding Teacher Award
- Ringer Faculty Development Award
- Thomas Award for Outstanding Community Education/Service

All full-time faculty members are eligible. Nominations by self, students, colleagues or department heads are encouraged. Please refer to [Faculty Awards](#) for guidelines. The recipients will be recognized at the Faculty Awards Reception on May 14, 2013. Nominations are due by 22 March 2013.

### **Pulitzer Prize Winner Diane McWhorter to Speak at JSU**

Pulitzer Prize winning journalist Diane McWhorter will be visiting Jacksonville State University on March 14, 2013, to deliver the annual Ayers Lecture hosted by the JSU Department of Communication.

Ms. McWhorter will be speaking at 1:00 on the Fifth Floor of Stadium Towers. Admission is free and this event will be open to the general public. Doors will open at 12:40.

### **Library Lunchtime Lecture Celebrates Women in History Month**

As a career Army Officer serving on active duty, Sharon Cash served in a myriad of command and staff positions from company commander to battalion commander; and as operations officer for a one-star General Officer-level command, requiring direct management of the resources of people, budget, facilities, time, organization, and equipment. Sharon was the first female commander of a United States Army Chemical Training Battalion with over 800 personnel including staff sections (human resources, security and intelligence, logistics and maintenance, and operations and training). Sharon attended North Carolina Agricultural & Technical State University, where she received a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology; and she attended North Carolina State University, where she received a Masters Degree in Mechanical Engineering. Her lecture is March 14 at 11:00 AM in Houston Cole Library. All are welcome JSU students, faculty staff and general public, free admission.

### **Contact Details**

If you have items of news or interest that you would like included in the Department of Physical and Earth Sciences newsletter, then contact **Tracy Casey** before noon on Thursdays at: [tscasey@jsu.edu](mailto:tscasey@jsu.edu) or phone (256) 782-5232.