Well, I learned something new last week—no one, and I mean no one, is around during Spring Break! Maybe I shouldn’t be quite so emphatic, I did see Jonathan Herbert during the week and lights left on indicated that others were occasionally around. Nevertheless, it was a good week for me to get a grant proposal written and submitted.

I also started to get ready for courses starting in the May semester. Summer enrolments look strong for the Department. Contracts are being written for anyone with 12 or more students enrolled. You might consider mentioning the summer courses to your students, if you have not yet done so.

Lou

University News

Jacksonville State to Receive $532,500 in Federal Funds
JSU’s “Beyond Boundaries Initiative” will receive $200,000 in federal support to provide a comprehensive set of resources and services available through interactive web-based technology. This initiative is aimed at increasing the success of those students -- including at-risk and non-traditional students -- who are uncertain about their major or career goals, have families, and/or are taking distance education courses.

The safety of the over 5,000 students moving from class to class during peak times will be greatly enhanced with $237,500 awarded for the design and construction of a pedestrian overpass system across State Highway 21.

JSU’s Little River Canyon Center Science Education Initiative (SEI) will receive $95,000 for development of K-12 science curriculum. JSU is very proud of these three projects and is committed to ensuring that the Federal investment of
$532,500 is well spent at Jacksonville State University.

**Trion Steelband and JAXPAN host a Steel Drum Beach Party and Concert**
JSU’s Mason Hall Performance Hall will echo with the music of a tropical vacation at 7:00PM on Tuesday, March 31 as the JAXPAN Steel Drums and the Trion Steelband join forces to present JAXPAN’s annual beach party/concert.

Tracy Tyler of the JSU Music Department is founder and leader of JAXPAN. Other band members are: Rod Conaway, **Kelly Gregg** (Physical and Earth Sciences Department faculty), Ashley Gaither (JSU student), Kim Stevens (JSU librarian), Brian DeGaetano (JSU alumnus) and Jill DeGaetano (JSU alumna).

The beach party/concert is free and open to the public. Flip flops and Hawaiian print shirts are encouraged!

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**Department News**

**New Department Web Pages are LIVE—Again!**
I had a number of comments about the dark and grey web pages for the Department. I trialed some pages that were similar to the JSU homepage. The comments were generally positive. Please let me know if you see anything that you want changed. If I left your name off a page, it does NOT mean that you do not belong. It means that I accidentally dropped the text. If you see material that is out-of-date, please let me know, so that it can be updated or deleted.

**Subject Specific Rooms for Teaching**
There have been some minor shifts in rooms for this fall. I am trying to segregate subjects into specific rooms. The segregated rooms will be:
- **307 and 334 Martin Hall** for Geography, Geology, Anthropology and Environmental Science
- **332 Martin Hall** for Chemistry and Physics
We will see how this works.

**Donation in Memory of Ann Casey**
The Department of Physical and Earth Sciences made a donation of $120 to the Anniston Animal Shelter in memory of Tracy’s mother-in-law, Ann Casey. Thank you to all who donated.

***I would like to thank everyone for the support and prayers given to me during the last few weeks. My mother in law was a special lady who loved animals and I can’t think of a better way to honor her than with a donation to the animal shelter. Thank you so much! Tracy***
Department Meeting
On Friday 27 March at 3:00. Mark your calendars.

Early Bird Registration on Saturday 28 March
This is the final of three sessions held this semester. See Kelly Gregg if you have any questions. Reports from the previous sessions have been positive, but only a couple of students each time for Physical and Earth Sciences.

Congratulations

Congratulations to Kellie and Brent Helms on the birth of their son, Gregory Helms, who was born on March 17, 2009. The little bruiser weighed in at 9lbs and 14oz and was 23 inches long. Whew!

Degenerate States

Irish Ethanolysis (recognizing St. Patrick's Day during Spring Break)
Seamus walked into a bar and ordered martini after martini, each time removing the olives and placing them in a jar. When the jar was filled with olives and all the drinks consumed, Seamus started to leave.
"Scuse me", said a customer, who was puzzled over what Seamus had done, "what was that all about?"
"Nothin', said Seamus, "my wife just sent me out for a jar of olives!"

An Irish priest gets stopped for speeding. The traffic officer smells alcohol on the priest's breath and then sees an empty wine bottle on the floor of the car. He says, "Sir, have you been drinking?"
"Just water," says the priest.
The trooper says, "Then why do I smell wine?"
The priest looks at the bottle and says, "Good Lord! He's done it again!"

Two Irishmen were sitting at a pub having beer and watching the house of ill-repute across the street. They saw a Baptist minister walk in, and one of them said, "Aye, 'tis a shame to see a man of the cloth goin' bad." Then they saw a rabbi enter the house, and the other Irishman said, "Aye, 'tis a shame to see that the Jews are fallin' victim to temptation as well." Then they see a catholic priest
enter the brothel, and one of the Irishmen said, "What a terrible pity...one of the girls must be dyin'.

Three Irishmen were stumbling home from the pub late one night and found themselves on the road that led past the old graveyard. "Come have a look over here," says Paddy, "It’s Michael O’Grady’s grave, God bless his soul. He lived to the ripe old age of 87."
"That’s nothing," says Sean, "here’s one named Patrick O’Toole, it says here that he was 95 when he died!"
Just then, Seamus yells out, "Good God, here’s a fella that was 145!"
"What was his name?" asks Paddy.
Seamus stumbles around a bit, awkwardly lights a match to see what else is written on the stone marker, and exclaims, "Miles, from Dublin."

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 Thursday at; tscasey@jsu.edu or phone (256) 782-5232.