So much for saying that things were "easier" than I expected last week. This week has been a tough one. In addition to getting my final finished, and having students who started studying for the semester during the past week, I had some administrative problems, I was assigned to two task-forces (one at JSU and one at Sigma Xi), Chemistry had scholarships that needed to be decided at the last minute, and the list goes on.

On the positive side, I am looking forward to the trip to Little River Canyon on Thursday. It is good to spend some time together in a more relaxed setting. I am also looking forward to the Science Olympiad on Saturday. I think I got assigned the best event. We will spend the morning launching rockets. With compressed air and sprays of water and the egg that needs to return to earth in one piece -- all on a warm spring morning, it will be a great way to end the week.

Lou

Department News

Faculty Annual Reports (FAR) due on Friday, 8 May
The report forms can be downloaded from the College of Arts and Sciences web page: http://www.jsu.edu/depart/cas/collegepolicy.html
These should be completed and turned in to the Head of Department by 8 May. Meetings with the Head will be scheduled for 18 – 29 May.

Road Trip!
We depart at 9:00 AM on Thursday 30 April for Little River Canyon Field School. We will bar-b-que lunch and return at about 4:00 PM. Be certain to email Lou (lreinisch@jsu.edu) if you plan to join this adventure. Word has it that we might see some of the rare and endangered pitcher plants.
When the cats away...
Lou Reinisch will not be here on Friday 1 May. He will be attending the Board of Directors meeting for Sigma Xi in Raleigh-Durham, NC or 1-3 May. Kelly Gregg will be acting Head of Department for me. Please see Tracy Casey if you need anything.

University News

Spring Semester 2009 Grades Due
by 1:15 PM on Wednesday, 29 April. Good luck to everyone grading exams.

Spring Graduation Ceremony
on Friday, May 1, 2009 at 4:30 p.m at the Paul Snow Stadium. A reception honoring the speaker will be held in the Gamecock Center preceding commencement.

2009 Faculty Awards Reception
Tuesday, 12 May at 5:00 in 1103 Houston Cole Library with hors d’oeuvres following the presentations on the 12th floor.

Save the Date
College of Arts and Science Reception is scheduled for Thursday, 14 May. You will be receiving more details shortly.

Required Annual Sexual Harassment Prevention Training
http://www.jsu.edu/hr/sexualharassment.html
This annual training must be completed by April 30, 2009.

Publications and Presentations

Allison Newton is presenting Vaporization of Mercury from Soil: When and Where at the 2009 National Conference on Education at San Juan, Puerto Rico, 23-27 September. The paper is also co-authored by Alfred C. Nichols and David A. Steffy.

I was given a copy of the Journal of the Alabama Academy of Sciences from Safaa Al-Hamdani, the editor through Vasi. In it, I found Preliminary Investigators at the Skeleton Mountain Site, ICA157, Calhoun County, Alabama by Harry O. Holstein, Journ. AL Acad. Sci. 80, 45-62.

I also found an acknowledgement that Jonathan Herbert was a recent reviewer for the Journal.
ACS Student Affiliate End-of-Year Party
At Alumni House on Wednesday, 29 April at 6:00 PM.

Trivia Quiz
1. What is the name of the first satellite to orbit the earth?
2. Albert Einstein was a scientist famous for his work on physics. Where was he born?
   A. Germany
   B. United States
   C. Switzerland
3. When was the ENIAC computer turned on for the first time?
   A. 1936
   B. 1946
   C. 1956
4. By the time you are 75 years old, how many years will you have spent sleeping: 17, 23, 37, or 42 years?
5. In the month of November, which 10-year-old will grow faster: Tim in the U.S. or Tom in New Zealand?

Degenerate States
Kids!
- You spend the first two years of their lives teaching them to walk and talk. Then you spend the next sixteen telling them to sit down and shut up.
- Children seldom misquote you. In fact, they usually repeat word for word what you shouldn’t have said.
- The main purpose of holding children’s parties is to remind yourself that there are children more awful than your own.
- We childproofed our homes, but they are still getting in.
- Be nice to your kids. They will choose your nursing home one day.

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.
Trivia Quiz Answers

1. Tom, children grow faster in spring than in autumn.
2. A. Germany
3. B. 1946
4. About 1/3 of your life, 23 years
5.