Well, the week was highlighted with the 2009 Faculty Awards Reception, on Tuesday, and the College of Arts and Sciences Reception on Thursday. Both events were pleasant, with very short speeches and awards presented to some (but not all) the deserving Faculty and Staff.

In the meantime, I am plowing my way through the Faculty Annual Reports (FARs). Interesting reading and I am learning a lot about the Faculty on many different levels. We start our interviews next week. I think the material, by and large, represents an excellent foundation to build upon. I am looking for some very positive and constructive meetings.

IDEA evaluations were circulated. It is really a pity that these did not come out a few days earlier to be included in the FARs. Overall, there are not a lot of major changes from the first IDEA evaluations. Averaging the data from both semesters last year, weighted for the number of students in the classes, individual Faculty member averages ranged from 4.7 to 2.3 for Physical and Earth Sciences. The overall average for the Department is 4.0. As always, the student comments – especially the negative comments -- are sometimes the most insightful information available.

Finally, teaching schedules for Spring 2010 are being developed. I still have a few unhappy campers. I will work on those. After this, we will do the Fall, Spring and Summer teaching schedules at the same time for future academic years. This will allow me to shift teaching during the academic year and give individuals more blocks of time for research.

Considering it is summer, it certainly is a busy time.
Lou
Department News

Jacksonville State University 2009 Faculty Awards Reception
I saw only a couple of members from the Department at this reception. It is worth attending if only for the venue and the hors d’oeuvres. I do need to mention that Miriam Hill and Nagarajan (Vasi) Vasumathi were given the Faculty Research Awards. Congratulation to both Miriam and Vasi.

College of Arts and Sciences Reception
Dean Wade and his staff worked hard to make the College Reception as impressive as the Faculty Awards Reception, and they did a great job. It was a more relaxed atmosphere with nearly the same attendance as the Faculty Reception. It was good to see a stronger turn-out by the Department. The Dean stopped short of saying next year would be better. It is notable that he did NOT say that next year would be worse. Again, I need to mention that Laura Weinkauf was awarded the Distinguished Service Award and Tracy Casey was awarded the Distinguished Staff Award. Congratulations to both Laura and Tracy. (Just a thought: Why is it that the minority sex in our Department walked away with all the awards?)

Mark Your Calendars
Department meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 21 at 8:30AM. There will be donuts.

Chemistry Salaries
Al Nichols shared with me the results of the March 2008 annual survey of chemistry salaries undertaken by the ACS. The survey analyzes the data just shy of torture. Salary is broken down by degree, gender, citizenship, employer, age, ethnicity, race, academic rank, work function and region. Please see Al or me if you want a copy of the complete report. If you want to compare your salary: Chemists in the East South Central Region (Kentucky, Tennessee, Mississippi and Alabama) with a PhD, earn on average $67k (adjusted for our 9 month salaries) and for Bachelor’s granting institutions, Assist. Professors earn $42k, Assoc. Professors earn $48k and Full Professors earn $61.5k (adjusted for our 9 month salaries).

University News

JSU Drama Presents Gurney’s Sylvia at Stone Center May 14-17
Showtimes on Thursday, May 14 through Saturday, May 16 are at 7 p.m., with a Sunday matinee on May 17 at 2 p.m. Adult tickets are $10, senior citizen and JSU personnel tickets are $8, and student, military and children’s tickets are $5. (MasterCard, Visa and Discover cards are accepted) Paid reservations are
recommended by calling (256) 782-5648.

**Banner Training**

**New Banner Users**- May 20 (9 a.m.) This session will be covering the basic financial processes (i.e. budget query, encumbrances, purchase requisition entry) and will be formatted for those who have not had any previous Banner training.

**Experienced Banner Users**- May 20 (1:30 p.m.) This will be a review of the financial processes that experienced Banner users work with every day. There will also be a Q & A sessions.

The training will be held in the Ayers Hall lecture hall. To reserve your spot in the training, please call ext. 5002 or e-mail [Jennifer Evans](mailto:Jennifer.Evans@Example.com).

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**Publications and Presentations**

Submitted to Journal of Physical Chemistry, Carbon-Carbon Coupling Reactions on Polycrystalline Iron by [Andrew B. Helms](mailto:Andrew.Helms@Example.com) and Shane C. Street.

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**Degenerate States**

**The Silent Treatment**

A husband and wife were giving each other the silent treatment. The next day the man had an early morning business flight. Not wanting to be the first to break the silence (and therefore "lose"), he wrote on a piece of paper, "Please wake me at 5:00 AM." and left it where he knew his wife would find it.

The next morning the man woke up to discover it was 9:00 AM and he had missed his flight. Furious, he was about to go and see why his wife hadn’t wakened him when he noticed a note by the bed – it read, "It is 5:00 AM. Wake up!"

**Contribution from Allison:**

Two 8th graders were sitting on a bench talking one moonlit night. One said to the other, "Which do you think is farther, Florida or the moon?"

The other replied, "Helllooooooo, can you see Florida?"

**Contribution from Miriam:**

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.