At a time, FAR, FAR in the past, in a Department, FAR, FAR away... How can you tell that my life has been overtaken by the FAR process? While I strongly encourage and support FAR evaluations, they require a lot of effort from the Department Head. I know the FAR also requires efforts from the faculty, and I thank each of you for your efforts. Overall, I was very pleased with the process. I feel that I had some very frank and open discussions. The objective, of course, is to help each of you reach your goals, and those goals varied from planning retirement to getting tenure. It was also a time of change as you each faced a new Department Head. I thank each of you for your efforts and I hope that you each felt that the process helped you.

Speaking of help, we will all be without the help from Tracy on Tuesday through Friday (2-5 June). She is taking some time off to work on her tan, enjoy the outdoors and spend time with her family. Please plan accordingly.

Lou

**Department News**

**Road Trip! Take 2**
We have rescheduled the trip to Little River Canyon Field School for 10:30 AM on Friday, 29 May. We will take a van up—with a few individuals driving their cars. Lunch will be provided. Dress for the weather—and it looks like the weather will cooperate. ☺

**May Term Grades**
May term grades are due Thursday, 4 June by 1:15 PM. There seems to be some confusion about the date. I am fairly confident that this date is correct.
**Summer I Registration/Advisement**

Registration for Summer I is June 4 from 10-4:30. This means students may be coming around for advisement as well. Check out the time you are scheduled to advise and if anyone needs to be cleared, send them to Suiko in Biology or Karen Gregg. They will be able to help you during Tracy’s absence.

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**University News**

**Iolanthe (pronounced eye-o-lan-thee)**

Performances of Gilbert and Sullivan’s *Iolanthe* run May 21-24 and May 28-30 in the Ernest Stone Performing Arts Center on Jacksonville State University’s campus. Evening performances begin at 7:30 p.m. and the Sunday Matinee on May 2 begins at 2:30 p.m. Tickets can be purchased online or by calling 256-782-5876. Groups are welcome. There will be a special dinner and opera event available on Saturday nights, May 23 and May 30, featuring a lecture on the opera and dinner at Classic on Noble. For more information, please check out our website at [http://music.jsu.edu/OPERA](http://music.jsu.edu/OPERA).

**Music at McClellan Kicks Off with The Machine Performing Pink Floyd**

*The Machine*, America’s top Pink Floyd show, will kick off the sixth season of Music at McClellan (Longleaf Park) on Saturday. Pre-concert events start at 6 p.m. Saturday. Music Begins at 8 p.m. Advance adult tickets are $25 each; $30 on the day of the event. Tickets for children under 12 are $5 each. Tickets may be purchased online at [www.musicatmcclellan.org](http://www.musicatmcclellan.org) or at the Calhoun County Chamber of Commerce, JSU Bookstore, Tyson Art & Frame, The Anniston Star, and the Center for Cultural Arts of Gadsden. For more information, call (256) 782-8010.

**University to Get New E-mail/Calendar System**

Over the summer, a new e-mail/calendaring system will be installed and implemented at JSU. This system will enable the campus community to standardize on a single, fully featured webmail client and calendar application. The system is called Zimbra ([www.zimbra.com](http://www.zimbra.com)) and is comparable to applications such as Yahoo! Mail, Gmail, and Hotmail. A precise implementation schedule has not yet been developed as some hardware components are still on order. In general, the plan is to have this in place by the beginning of the fall term. This installation will certainly result in a much more robust e-mail/calendaring system for the campus community allowing for better communications and planning. Your patience is requested as this project goes forward as some downtime and inconvenience are likely. More details will be posted as this project progresses.
Degenerate States

What’s Zat!
An elderly man feared that his wife was getting hard of hearing. So one day he called her doctor who related a simple, informal test that the man could use to get an indication of the severity of his wife’s problem.
"Here’s what you do" said the doctor. Start out about 40 feet away and, in a normal conversational voice, see if she hears you. If not, go 30 feet, then to 20 feet and so on until she hears you.
That evening his wife was in the kitchen cooking dinner and he was in the living room. He thought "I’m about 40 feet away, so let’s see what happens". In his normal voice he asked "Honey what’s for supper?” No response. So the he moved to the other end of the room, about 30 feet from his wife and asked "Honey, what’s for supper?" Still no response. Next he moved to the dining room about 20 feet away and repeated the question, but again no response. So he walked up to the kitchen door 10 feet away. Again no response. So he walked right up behind her and said "Honey, what’s for supper?" "Dammit Earl” she replied, "for the fifth time - CHICKEN!"

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.