I had discussions this week with the geography search committee about hiring a new full-time faculty member and with the chemists about hiring a new part-time faculty member. Both positions are replacement positions, so this is not the result of "growth." However, both positions allow the Department to grow into new directions and allow us a chance to develop new programs. I do not think that either position should be filled with the idea of "filling a hole" and the Department will remain, more-or-less, the same. In both cases we want someone who is bigger than the hole. Maybe we want someone who is a different shape than the hole. I strongly believe that we want someone who will cause us to adjust and change how we do things. Someone who will push us into new directions and cause us to look at ourselves and allow us to see ways that we can improve.

We have excellent candidates for both positions and we have differences of opinions about who to hire for both positions. Ultimately, we will all come together and support the majority position. Those in the minority will be professional and put aside their differences and support the majority position. Those in the majority will, at the same time, appreciate the comments, arguments and points-of-view of the minority position. With the full support of the Department, both new hires will move us forward and push us to grow.

I hope that I will be able to name person hired in a not-too-distant future newsletter. I thank everyone for their help, efforts and comments. I am pleased with both processes.

Lou
Department News

Department Meeting
The department meeting scheduled for June 24th has been cancelled. The next meeting will be on July 22nd.

Merit Forms Due
The College Level Merit applications forms are due on Friday, June 19. Please bring them to Tracy.
http://www.jsu.edu/depart/cas/collegepolicy.html

Clickers in the Classroom
Clickers have been shown to increase attendance, participation, grades, and course evaluations, while providing professors a valuable tool for assessment and feedback. You may be familiar with Dr. Eric Mazur’s successful use in his Harvard Physics lectures, but they are also widely adopted within the other sciences. My name is Kyle Pavlock. I am Jacksonville State’s representative for Turning Technologies, the industry leader in Student Response Systems (‘clickers’). If you are not familiar with Student Response Systems, they are tiny remotes that students use to respond to questions during lecture, providing valuable feedback and engagement. I am going to be at JSU on Wednesday June 17th. [Details of exactly where and when Kyle will be presenting are forthcoming. Since teaching is important for all of us, please plan to attend. I have used this technology and it is very effective. -- Lou]

Manuscript accepted

University News

Classics and Cannons with the Alabama Symphony Orchestra
Witness the annual firing of the cannon set to Tchaikovsky’s 1812 Overture as the Alabama Symphony Orchestra presents the final concert of the 2009 Music at McClellan season on Saturday, June 13. Join Conductor Christopher Confessore and civil war re-enactors at McClellan for this most popular performance, which begins at 8 p.m. in Longleaf Park. Pre-concert events and picnicking begin at 6 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 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.

JSU Drama to Present "Death By Darkness"
The Jacksonville State University Drama Department will present Elizabeth Orndorff’s Death by Darkness, winner of the 2008 Southern Playwright’s Competition, June 25-28 at the Ernest Stone Performing Arts Center. Performances will be at 7 p.m. on June 25-27, and at 2 p.m. on June 28. Adult tickets are $10; senior citizens and JSU personnel pay $8; and students, military and children pay $5. MasterCard, Visa, and Discover are accepted. Paid reservations are recommended and may be made by calling (256) 782-5648.

INFORMATION FOR FAMILIES: Best enjoyed by ages twelve and up.

Degenerate States

Why did the Chicken Cross the Road?
The Right Reverend: Because it was gay! Can’t you people see the plain truth in front of your face? The chicken was going to the ‘other side’ to be closer to the devil!

Ben Little: To steal a job from a decent, hardworking Anniston resident.

Rush Limbaugh: It crossed the road at the behest of the Leader of the Opposition. The chicken is just another pawn in Mr. Obama’s re-election campaign.

Bill Meehan: The chicken will not be able to cross at JSU, until we get the walkway overpass built.

Grandpa: In my day, we didn’t ask why the chicken crossed the road. Someone told us that the chicken crossed the road, and that was good enough for us.

Ernest Hemingway: To die. In the rain.

Captain James T. Kirk: To boldly go where no chicken has gone before.

Aristotle: It is the nature of chickens to cross roads.

Karl Marx: It was a historical inevitability.

Dr Seuss: Did the chicken cross the road? Did he cross it with a toad? Yes, the chicken crossed the road. But why it crossed, I’ve not been told!

Martin Luther King Jr: I envision a world where all chickens will be free to cross roads without having their motives called into question.

Ronald Reagan: What chicken?

Freud: The fact that you are concerned about why the chicken crossed the road reveals your underlying sexual insecurity.

Einstein: Did the chicken really cross the road or did the road move beneath the
chicken?
Bill Clinton: What do you mean by chicken? Could you define chicken please?
The Bible: God came down from the heavens, and He said unto the chicken,' Thou shalt cross the road.' And the chicken crossed the road, and there was much rejoicing.
Colonel Sanders: You mean - I missed one?

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; tcasey@jsu.edu or phone (256) 782-5232.