This newsletter will be brief. I am currently in Baltimore. I gave a presentation at the Naval Research Laboratory in Washington, DC on Wednesday. On Friday I will give a presentation at the Biodetection Conference in Baltimore. Both of the presentations are about the Veritide Ceeker ("anthrax detector") that I was a part of inventing and developing. There is a major "press release" out on Friday of the Ceeker being checked at an independent laboratory using real anthrax spores and it passed with flying colors. I made certain that Jacksonville State University in Alabama was mentioned in the press release. I suspect that the death of Michael Jackson is going to dominate the news – so we will not have the media coverage that we hoped for.

The other bit of "somewhat personal news" is that our "container" full of furniture arrived in Jacksonville on Tuesday. That was bad timing for me—I needed the time to get ready for my trip, and I spent it unloading boxes. The positive side of the story is that my books and laboratory equipment have arrived. It is all still in boxes, but I should be getting those boxes unpacked in the next week or so. I am looking forward to spending time in the lab, again.

Lou

Department News

Jan Gryko submitted a proposal to the National Institutes of Standards and Technology (NIST) on the creation of new aluminum alloys. He found "grants.gov" challenging, but did manage to get the grant submitted.
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.

PEEHIP Insurance Coverage
The 2009-2010 Open Enrollment period will start on July 1 and continue through August 31 for changes to become effective October 1, 2009. This year PEEHIP will NOT BE mailing the Open Enrollment Booklet to members, instead all active and retired members will receive a one page notice, which will inform you of the current coverage you are enrolled in and specifics of the open enrollment period. PEEHIP will have the Open Enrollment booklet on their website on or shortly before July 1, 2009, and you can also find the booklet on the HR forms webpage at that time. Members can download the information and forms, or members can make changes using the Member Online system (recommended).

Degenerate States

The Best Headlines of 2008
Something Went Wrong in Jet Crash, Expert Says
Police Begin Campaign to Run Down Jaywalkers
Panda Mating Fails; Veterinarian Takes Over
Miners Refuse to Work after Death
Juvenile Court to Try Shooting Defendant
War Dims Hope for Peace
If Strike Isn’t Settled Quickly, It May Last Awhile
Heat Wave Linked to Temperatures
Anniston Couple Slain; Police Suspect Homicide
Red Tape Holds Up New Bridges
Man Struck By Lightning: Faces Battery Charge
New Study of Obesity Looks for Larger Test Group
Astronaut Takes Blame for Gas in Spacestation
Kids Make Nutritious Snacks
Local High School Dropouts Cut in Half
Hospitals Sued by 7 Foot Doctors
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.