The football team is banned from post-season play, the stadium is sinking, the marching Southerners have lost their bleachers and it looks like construction of the stadium expansion (and new dorm facilities) will not be completed in time for the first home game on the third of October. If I were a cynic, I would say that this is all planned to make certain that none of the 9+% increase in tuition makes it to the academic side of the University. However, we all know that I am not a cynic.

On the home front, things are quiet in the Department. Summer teaching continues. Tracy is putting the Spring 2010 semester teaching on-line. We are broke as a Department. However, the Dean has been very supportive when asked.

Of course, this is 4th of July weekend (no work on Friday). Note that the fireworks will be at High School on Friday night, not the University. Have a safe and enjoyable holiday weekend. See you next week.

Lou
Department News

In Preparation
Al Nichols is writing a grant application to the National Science Foundation (NSF) to upgrade the mercury analyzer. His work on tracking the mercury contamination in our environment is extremely important. His recent finding of mercury uptake in worms interesting and potentially valuable. Best of luck to Al, along with Dr. David Steffy and Dr. Mark Meade (Biology) who also contribute to this work.

Graduate Profile
A student receiving a bachelor's of science (BS) degree with a major in chemistry or geography from Jacksonville State University, should be able to:
- Demonstrate knowledge of and an ability to apply scientific principles and concepts
- Solve problems through the application of scientific knowledge and methods
- Engage in intellectual analysis and problem solving
- Demonstrate the development of skills for lifelong learning
- Understand, evaluate, access and critically review new information
- Demonstrate the ability to think independently
- Demonstrate in-depth knowledge and skill of his or her majoring subject
- Effectively access and use information relevant to the subject
- Apply knowledge and skills to new situations
- Analyze, evaluate, and argue in support of conclusions
- Work independently
- Communicate effectively both in written and spoken English
- Communicate concepts, results and conclusions related to research findings

For each point above, we need to list course(s) where this was taught and ways this was tested. I will be formally asking you for this important information at the start of the Fall semester. You can start to think about it.

University News

Summer Commencement
Summer Commencement exercises will be held in Paul Snow Stadium on Friday, August 7, 2009 at 5:30 p.m. A reception honoring the speaker will be held in the Gamecock Center preceding Commencement. The University encourages faculty, on a voluntary basis, to participate in all commencement exercises. The University, however, allows the faculty member the privilege of choosing one of the three commencements held each year in which to
participate. As long as this voluntary system provides approximately one-third of the faculty's presence for each commencement, this system will work. Please let Tracy know if you can attend and if you need regalia. Contact Tracy by Friday, 17 July.

Dealing with Difficult Situations
The Jacksonville State University Office of Continuing Education is hosting the workshop in partnership with the East Alabama Regional Planning and Development Commission. The workshop will be held at the Anniston Meeting Center on July 22 from 1 - 4 p.m. The workshop will provide valuable information for anyone dealing with difficult situations at work. (Note from Lou: I have attended workshops like this and they are very helpful to allow you to stop dwelling on the negative aspects of the situation and to "get on" with the job at hand.)

Your speaker, Patsy Young, is the training director for SearchSouth in Anniston and has over 30 years' experience in business and quality management with a local Fortune 500 company. Ms. Young is a Myers-Briggs Practitioner and frequent instructor for the JSU Office of Continuing Education.

The registration fee is a nominal amount so that everyone can afford to attend. For one participant, the cost is $15.00; for two or more from the same organization, the fee is $10.00 each. There is an additional $5.00 fee for each continuing education certificate.

For additional information or to register by phone contact:
JSU Office of Continuing Education
Phone: (256) 782-5918
Fax: (256) 782-5983
E-mail: ConEd.Help@jsu.edu
You can now register and pay online at www.coned.jsu.edu.

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

Some for me and some for you

• Birds of a feather flock together and crap on your car.
• A penny saved is a government oversight.
• The real art of conversation is not only to say the right thing at the right time, but also to leave unsaid the wrong thing at the tempting moment.
• The older you get, the tougher it is to lose weight, because by then your body and your fat have gotten to be really good friends.
• The easiest way to find something lost around the house is to buy a replacement.
• He who hesitates is probably right!
• Did you ever notice: The Roman Numerals for forty (40) are "XL."
• If you think there is good in everybody, you haven’t met everybody.
• If you can smile when things go wrong, you have someone in mind to blame.
• There’s always a lot to be thankful for if you take time to look for it. For example I am sitting here thinking how nice it is that gray hair doesn’t hurt.
• Did you ever notice: When you put the 2 words "The" and "IRS" together it spells "Theirs."
• Aging: Eventually you will reach a point when you stop lying about your age and start bragging about it.
• The older we get, the fewer things seem worth waiting in line for.
• You know you are getting old when everything either dries up, or leaks.
• One of the many things no one tells you about aging is that it is such a nice change from being young.
• Ah, being young is beautiful, but being old is comfortable.
• First you forget names, then you forget faces. Then you forget to pull up your zipper. It’s worse when you forget to pull it down.

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.