Last Thursday, at 3:00 PM the Dean called a meeting of Department Heads. I personally think he just wanted to make certain that we were on campus until 4:30 (recall that Friday, 3 July was a holiday). The meeting went until 4:30. The first thing we heard was that the Dean would be out for the next two weeks.

The most interesting topic of the meeting was the budget. Money at JSU is so tight that we are asked to close out our FY 2009 so that any extra funds can be collected then redistributed. (Do NOT plan on any end-of-the-year spending by the Dean or by the Department.) When discussing the budget, the Dean predicted that next year will be better than this year, financially, but we would still have reduced budgets.

Other topics discussed are below, like graduation, convocation, Spring and Summer schedules and undergraduate summer study in Germany.

Lou

Department News

Spring 2010 Teaching Schedule
Please check over the Spring 2010 Teaching Schedule. If you are not happy with your teaching load, please see me. Research (publications) can displace teaching. Geography teaching will change when the new hire is made. Make certain that you check for conflicts and clashing schedules. JSU does not want any student to be turned down because a class is "full." They also want to see classes starting after 5:00 PM for individuals with work schedules.
Fall Convocation
Fall Convocation for the freshman class is on Tuesday, 25 August at 6:30 in the stadium—assuming it is still standing. Faculty are requested to attend. All faculty will march onto the field at the same time - no academic regalia is needed. The Dean will be there and that means all the Department Heads will be there. Afterwards, there is a family picnic at Alumni House and all participants are invited to attend. Please let Tracy know if you plan to attend.

Students Studying in German during the Summer
JSU is promoting a summer program in Germany for students in biology, chemistry, physics, earth sciences and engineering. This program is called RISE (Research Internships in Science and Engineering) and is open to all undergraduates in the US, Canada and the UK. The student spends the summer in Germany working with a graduate student in his or her field—all instruction is in English. The German government (DAAD - German Academic Exchange Service) covers ALL the costs, except for the flight over to Germany and back. This is a great program with more than 300 students participating. Last year, 25% of the applicants were awarded a position. Applications are due in December and January for next summer. Please mention this to appropriate students. More info can be found at: http://www.daad.de/rise/en/index.html

Summer Schedules
It was determined that summer schedules were too complicated. So, in 2010 we will have two 8-week terms or three 4-week terms. Thus Marathon G and H are eliminated. This is probably good for chemistry and physics—students have a hard time realizing they have to study a single subject, on average, 20 hours per week with a semester condensed down to six weeks. The 8-week semester might be more realistic. Of course, if you are teaching two 8-week semesters, you will be teaching the ENTIRE summer without so much as one week off.

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.

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**Degenerate States**

**All God’s Children**
After creating heaven and earth, God created Adam and Eve. And the first thing he said was "DON'T!"

"Don't what?" Adam replied.

"Don't eat the forbidden fruit" said God.

"Forbidden fruit? We have forbidden fruit? Hey Eve, we have forbidden fruit!"

"No Way!"

"Yes way!"

"Do NOT eat the fruit!" said God.
"Why?"
"Because I am your Father and I said so!" God replied, wondering why He hadn't stopped creation after the elephants.
A few minutes later, God saw His children eating the forbidden fruit and He was ticked! "Didn't I tell you not to eat the forbidden fruit?" He bellowed.
"Uh huh," Adam replied.
"Then why did you?" raged the Father.
"I don't know," said Eve.
"She started it!" said Adam.
"Did not!"
"Did too!"
"DID NOT!"
Having had it with the two of them, God's punishment was that Adam and Eve should have children of their own. Thus the pattern was set and continues.

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.