It is hard to believe, but here we are at the end of the summer term. Final exams are on Tuesday, grades are due by Wednesday and Graduation is on next Friday.

Al Nichols and Jan Gryko are both working to submit major equipment research proposals by 10 August. Al is writing a proposal for a 400 MHz nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) spectrometer. Jan is writing a proposal for a differential scanning calorimeter and thermogravimetric analysis (DSC-TGA). The Dean asked to have the proposals submitted by 4 August to allow time for the line of signatures needed at JSU. Thus, both Al and Jan are working to meet the accelerated time-line. I have been impressed by the dedication that both have shown in preparing their proposals. The Department definitely profits from these efforts.

On a more local front, the battle over the mound in Oxford has been fought in the newspaper over the past several weeks. Harry Holstein has been quoted several times. He has also written a couple of articles supporting the preservation of this monument. Kelly Gregg was recently quoted when he refuted the claims that the piles of rocks on top of the mound are a natural out-cropping of rocks.

Finally, the Governor of Alabama has announced another 2% decrease in the funding to education. There has been no word, yet, how JSU is going to handle this decrease. We are going to have to tighten our belts another notch this fall.

Lou

Department News

Grades Due by 1:00 PM on Wednesday, 5 August.
Urgent JSU Blackboard Maintenance Scheduled
Emergency maintenance has been scheduled for the network that hosts the JSU Blackboard system. This maintenance is planned for this Saturday, August 1, 2009 from 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. CDT. Intermittent service interruptions should be expected during this maintenance window. Please make certain your students know this if they will be studying for final exams over the weekend.

University News

Important information related to Blackboard upgrade
The Office of Distance Education is planning to upgrade to Blackboard Learn version 9 in December 2009. Ensure that you are prepared by reviewing information about training as well as a document detailing the significant changes. Visit http://deinfocus.blogspot.com and review the July 27, 2009 post.

Degenerate States

Just a Wee Bit
An extraordinarily handsome man from Scotland decided he had the responsibility to marry the perfect woman so they could produce children beautiful beyond compare. With this mission he began searching. Shortly after he met a farmer who had three stunningly gorgeous daughters. He explained his mission to the farmer, asking for permission to marry one of them. The farmer replied, "They're all a lookin' to get married, so pick the one you want."
The man dated one of the daughters and the next day the farmer asked for the man's opinion. "Well," said the man, "she's just a weeeeee bit, not that you can hardly notice...pigeon-toed."
The farmer nodded and suggested one of the other girls. So the man went out with the second daughter and the next day, the farmer again asked how things went. "Well" the man replied, "she's just a weeeeee bit, not that you can hardly tell...cross-eyed." The farmer nodded and suggested the third girl. So he did. The next morning the man rushed in exclaiming, "She's perfect, just perfect. She's the one I want to marry." So they were wed right away.

Months later a baby was born; but the man was horrified. The baby was plain at best but could easily be described as unattractive. So he rushed to his father-in-law asking how such a thing could happen considering the beauty of the parents.
"Well," explained the farmer, "She was just a weeeeee bit, not that you could hardly tell... pregnant when you met her."
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.