One of my personal passions is teaching entrepreneurship. I am working on a course for JSU. When discussing management, I give the following question:

If 5 people can make 10 widgets in 2 weeks, how many widgets can 5 people and a manager make in 2 weeks?

The typical response from a university audience is "less than 10." The expected response should be "much greater than 10." If the number is not greater than 10, the manager is not being effective. For that is the job of a manager: to enable individuals to be more productive. It really is that simple. The next response that typically comes from the back of the room, "then boy do we have it wrong at the university."

After a bit of thought and reflection, I have to agree. We do have problems - not just at JSU, but at nearly all universities (including overseas universities). Being academic institutions, our motivations have been along academic lines. We have created bureaucracies that push us in the wrong direction. They do not help us, but they consume a large fraction of our resources (funding) and create work that does not increase our research output, increase the number of the students we graduate or to help the university to serve the surrounding community.

Let me be clear. Not everyone who is in administration is pushing in the wrong direction. I also do NOT advocate that the university should, or could, function without any administration. I am curious to see how JSU will be "managed" this coming academic year. Will we reduce our output or reduce what hinders the output? Only time will tell.

Lou
Graduating
Charlie Mix with a bachelor's degree majoring in Geography. Congratulations Charlie!

Proposals Submitted
Both proposals are submitted to the National Science Foundation (NSF) Major Research Instrumentation with the Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (MRI-R²). Al Nichols is asking for a 400 MHz nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) spectrometer. All the chemists anticipate improved research results for their work having an NMR spectrometer available. Jan Gryko is submitting a request for a differential scanning calorimeter (DSC). The proposal outlines how this will advance the work of Jan, Lou Reinisch and Benji Blair in Biology.

Clickers
I spoke to a representative from iClicker, another company with a student response system to make classroom learning more active. The iClickers can be specified with an ISBN like any textbook for a class. I was told they are only $20 (and can be sold back to the bookstore like a used book). I recommend that you consider these for any of the larger classes. See http://www.iclicker.com or talk to Lou.

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.

University News

Gamecock Express Runs and Parking Changes
On Monday, 10 August, traffic flow on the JSU campus will be adjusted in preparation for the university's new transit system, the Gamecock Express. Parking changes, particularly on Trustee Circle will be made. Visit http://police.jsu.edu/map.pdf for a map and complete list of parking spaces available throughout the campus.
Faculty/Staff Parking Decals
Faculty and staff may pick up their parking decals at Salls Hall (University Police) beginning August 12. Please bring your driver’s license, tag receipt/registration, and proof of insurance. Preferably, decals should be picked up during normal business hours between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday - Friday.

Freshman Convocation Location Changed
Freshman Convocation has been relocated to the Coliseum due to construction at the stadium, and it will begin at 6:30 PM on August 25th. We would like to have as many faculty as possible march for this occasion. Please let Sharee Hutchinson (hutchinson@jsu.edu) know if you will be attending no later than August 20th. Dress is casual.

Degenerate States

East and West
A US marine squad, traveling north of Basra, came upon an insurgent, badly injured and unconscious. On the opposite side of the road was a marine, conscious but seriously injured. First aid was given to both and the marine was asked what had happened.
"I was moving north along the highway and coming south was an insurgent. We both took cover."
"What happened then?"
"We tried to draw each other out of cover. I yelled that Saddam Hussein was a miserable low-life scum bag, and he yelled back that George Bush was a spoiled-rotten, good-for-nothing moron."
"We were standing on the road shaking hands when a bus hit us."

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.