Well, I have just returned from a meeting with the Dean. Although the meeting was upbeat and positive, the budget crunch looms overhead. The recent 2% additional proration was handled by scrubbing the raises planned for next year. That 2 point something percent raise for the full time faculty and the $500 for adjunct faculty are now gone. The University is budgeting for an expected 10% proration for the 2010 fiscal year. So far, there are no details how the University is going to handle the cuts.

On the positive side, enrollments appear to be up. Of course, we do not know the exact number of students until after 1 September (when fees must be paid). However, our student registration numbers are up. That is good news.

I finished the Prism Report. If anyone needs reading material to help them fall asleep at night or if you are simply interested, please let me know and I will give you a copy of the report (22 pages as a PDF file).

We can discuss all these topics and more at the Faculty meeting on Monday. I will see you there.

Lou

Department News

**Department Meeting - Everyone is invited**
The Department meeting at 10:00 AM on Monday 24 August in the Joint Conference Room.
Freshman Convocation
This is a reminder for those who said they would attend. Families are invited - although they will sit in the stands and the faculty will be seated together. Please note the change in venue. It will be at the Pete Mathews Coliseum. Faculty should meet on the west side (the soccer field side) of the Coliseum. Food will be served from tents on the intramural fields. It is Tuesday 25 August at 6:30 PM. Dress is casual - Hawaiian shirts and shorts are okay!

Summer Semester Terms
The goal was to simplify the terms for summer semester. In a rare alliance between the Chemists and the School of Business, all plans for reform were thwarted. To create the illusion of reform, the names for the summer terms were changed (a well-known bureaucratic maneuver). So, Summer 2010 will see the SAME terms as before, just with new names:

Terms Commencing in May
- May - 4 Week Term  May 1 – May 30
- May - 6 Week Term  May 1 – mid June
- May - 8 Week Term  May 1 – June 30
- May - 12 Week Term  May 1 – July 30

Terms Commencing in June
- June - 4 Week Term  June 1 – June 30
- June - 6 Week Term  mid June – July 30
- June - 8 Week Term  June 1 – July 30

Term Commencing in July
- July - 4 Week Term  July 1 – July 30

Term Commencing in August
- August Term  August 1 – TBA (scheduled as needed, no financial aid)

These new term names replace the "marathons." While some might complain at the lack of creativity in the new names, word has it that creativity "lost" when someone suggested the June - 8 Week Term (formerly Marathon B) be called "Jew-Jew." 😎😎

Training for BlackBoard Version 9
I am told this new version is BlackBoard is NOT intuitive and you WILL NEED training to use it. 😎 The office of Distance Education has been running training sessions in August and they will repeat them in the Fall semester. You might want to catch one of the remaining sessions before you run into problems with your courses.
Items & Folders, Review Status & Learning Modules
Wednesday 26 August 10:15-11:15 AM 174 Self Hall

Blogs and Journals
Wednesday 26 August 2:30-3:30 PM 174 Self Hall

Pools, Tests, Surveys, and Respondus LockDown Browser
Thursday 27 August 8:30-10:00 AM 174 Self Hall

Self & Peer Assessments
Thursday 27 August 10:15-11:15 AM 174 Self Hall

Assignments
Tuesday 25 August 2:30-3:30 PM 174 Self Hall
Thursday 27 August 1:15-2:00 PM 174 Self Hall

Discussion Board
Thursday 27 August 2:15-3:15 PM 174 Self Hall

Grade Center - Basics
Wednesday 26 August 1:15-3:15 PM 174 Self Hall

Register at:
http://www.jsu.edu/distance/fac_res/training_calendar.html

**Guided Archaeology Tour of Calhoun & St. Clair Counties**
Come along with JSU’s Dr. Harry Holstein for a guided archaeology tour of various sites throughout Calhoun and St. Clair counties. We will visit Janney Iron Furnace, a 19th century battlefield and river locks, a prehistoric Indian village, and much more. Participants should bring their own lunch and drinks. Transportation is provided. Space is limited. This is one of our most of our most popular programs so register early!

Date: Saturday, August 22, 2009
Where: Jacksonville, AL (Meeting location to be disclosed upon registration)
Time: 9:00 am – 3:00 pm
Fee: $30 per person (ages 14 and older) Pre-registration is required (call 256-782-5697).

**University News**

**Annual Faculty Meeting**
Monday, 24 August at 8:00 AM in the Leone Cole Auditorium is the annual meeting of the Faculty and Staff. Be prepared to have your photo taken for the Mimosa. Coffee and pastries will be served in the Foyer at 7:30.
Fall 2009 Academic Calendar

24 August    Open Registration 10:00 AM – 6:00 PM
25 August    Open Registration 8:00 AM – 6:00 PM
26 August    Classes Begin
1 September  Last day to register or add or drop a class
7 September  Labor Day (Holiday)
28 October   Mid Term
5 November   Last day to drop a class without academic penalty
18 November  Last day to drop passing class
25-27 November Thanksgiving Holiday
4 December   Last day of class
7-12 December Final Exams
15 December  Grades due
18 December  Commencement

New Tuition Assistance Policy

- Graduated assistance based on prior year (or partial year) of study
- First time freshman will receive 50% assistance for first year

Undergraduate Students

- 100% assistance 3.5 - 4.0 GPA
- 75% assistance 2.5 - 3.49 GPA
- 50% assistance 2.0 - 2.49 GPA

Graduate Students

- 100% 3.7 - 4.0 GPA
- 75% 3.34 - 3.69 GPA
- 50% 3.00 - 3.33 GPA

Publications

M.J. Campbell and A.B. Helms, Surface Studies of 2,5 bis(N,N'-dimethyl)-1,4-
Benzoquinone on Iron, Copper and Aluminum. Journ. Undergrad. Chem. Res. 8, 85-
88 (2009).

Awards

Industrial Design

Veritide’s Ceeker is the winner of Instrument Business Outlook’s 2009 Gold Award for portable instrument industrial design. The Ceeker’s innovative industrial design clearly distinguishes it by creating an appealing visual appearance and enhanced end-user experience.
Degenerate States

Great Truths that Little Children have Learned
1) No matter how hard you try, you can’t baptize cats.
2) When your Mom is angry at your Dad, don’t let her brush your hair.
3) If your sister hits you, don’t hit her back. They always catch the second person.
4) Never ask your three-year old brother to hold a tomato.
5) You can’t trust dogs to watch your food.
6) Don’t sneeze when someone is cutting your hair.
7) Never hold a Dust-Buster and a cat at the same time.
8) You can’t hide a piece of broccoli in a glass of milk.
9) Don’t wear polka-dot underwear under white shorts.
10) The best place to be when you’re sad is Grandpa’s lap.

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.