Well, here it is, a newsletter about a newsletter. In the most recent JSU Economic Update, Dr. Christopher Westley of the Department of Finance, Economics and Accounting comments on the Car Allowance Rebate System (a.k.a., cash for clunkers). The program has been one of the single biggest and most successful environmental programs ever. Yet, Dr. Westley completely dismisses this. I’ll keep this short and only point out that his logic does hold. I am thankful for the Cash for Clunkers program. I can breathe easier for it.

Speaking of good and bad analysis. Here are the normalized credit hours produced each semester from Fall 2001 until Fall 2009. Fall is in blue and spring is in dates progressing left to right. I have ignored summer semesters. I divided all values by the maximum, so I could show them all on the same graph. Overall, things look pretty stable (no positive or negative trends). The maximum number for each discipline is:

- Geography: 2083
- Chemistry: 1878
- Geology: 905
- Anthropology: 617
- Physics: 511
- Env. Sci: 141
- GIS: 93

Of course those disciplines with smaller numbers show more "noise" (semester to semester variation). Chemistry and Geology clearly have increased fall enrollments compared to spring enrollments. Looking at the entire Department, (here the actual credit hour production is plotted) there is no trend.
A lot has changed since 2001. It is amazing, to me, that the numbers have been so stable.
--Lou

Department News

Undergraduate Environment Science Scholarships
The US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the National Center for Environmental Research (NCER) invites applications for undergraduate fellowships for students with an environmentally oriented study leading to a bachelor’s degree. This is a two-year fellowship for up to $46,500. There will be approximately 30 new fellowships awarded. Deadline for application is 10 December 2009. See Lou if you want more information.

Heart Walk
With no teams coming from the largest college on campus, the Dean wanted the plea for participants to go out once more. Consider this the plea.

Looking for Something to do next Weekend?
   Campfire Talk: Cherokee Trail of Tears
   Thousands of Native Americans were taken from their homelands and sent to Oklahoma on this infamous trek. JSU’s Dr. Kelly Gregg will share this tragic story.
   Date: Friday, September 25, 2009
   Where: Meet at DeSoto State Park Nature Center (1-800-ALA-PARK option 2)
   Time: 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm
   Fee: FREE
   Casual Canyon Hike
   Join Dr. Kelly Gregg for this easy to moderate hike along DeSoto State Park trails to learn more about the natural history of the area.
   Date: Saturday, September 26, 2009
   Where: Meet at DeSoto State Park Nature Center (1-800-ALA-PARK option 2)
   Time: 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm
   Fee: $10 per person; pre-registration required (Walk-ins welcome if space is available)
   Campfire Talk: Geologic History of Little River Canyon
   Join geologist Dr. Kelly Gregg to learn about the ancient inhabitants of Little River: sharks, corals, ferns, ancient trees, and even giant salamanders.
   Date: Saturday, September 26, 2009
   Where: DeSoto State Park (1-800-ALA-PARK option 2)
   Time: 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm
   Fee: FREE
Dr. Ira Harvey to Speak at JSU
Dr. William A. Meehan and the JSU Strategic Planning Committee will host a speaker, Dr. Ira Harvey, consultant to the Alabama Higher Education Partnership, who will provide his forecast for Alabama’s economy and its impact on higher education funding in the years to come. The JSU community is invited to this open meeting on Wednesday, September 23, at 3 p.m. in the Houston Cole Library, Room 1103.

New JSU E-Mail System Orientation/Training
Academic Computing will be conducting training/orientation sessions in using the new campus e-mail system, Zimbra, during the week of September 28th. If you are interested in attending one of these sessions, please e-mail Academic Computer Services at ocsv@jsu.edu and reserve your spot. Please include your contact information (campus extension and e-mail address) and the session you would like to attend in the e-mail. Reservations for these sessions must be made by 4:30 PM on Thursday, September 24th. Tentatively there will be two sessions per day on the 28th, 29th, and 30th. A morning session will be held at 9:00 am and an afternoon session at 1:30. Depending on the demand, some of these sessions may be cancelled or more scheduled.

Faculty, Staff Mentors Sought for Leadership Houses
This fall, the Department of University Housing and Residence Life introduces Leadership House for Men. Sixteen men will partake in leadership activities along with the Leadership House for Women. We welcome faculty and staff members from all departments and educational disciplines who are interested in serving as a mentor to our future leaders. Mentors are asked to meet with the students once a month and possibly participate in other house programs as they are scheduled. If you are interested, please complete the application at:
The deadline is Monday, September 21. For more information, contact Brooke Bell in University Housing and Residence Life, ext. 5449 or bbell@jsu.edu.

Reception for New Faculty
The reception will be held on Tuesday, September 29, at 3:15 p.m. in 1101B, Houston Cole library. Please plan to attend to welcome our new faculty and to enjoy the refreshments and fellowship.
Charter Meeting of JSU Chapter of American Association of University Professors Set for September 29th
Faculty are invited to attend an informational meeting for initiating a local chapter of the American Association of University Professors. Dr. William Trimble, state AAUP president, and Dr. Larry Gerber, state AAUP secretary/treasurer, both of Auburn University, will be guest speakers. The meeting will be in 316 Ramona Wood Hall on September 29 from 2 - 4 p.m.

Grants

Initial Phase Funding
Kelly Gregg is principal investigator of "Using digital imagery for preliminary geologic mapping of the Little River Canyon National Preserve". The grant has been submitted to the N.P.S. Geological Resources Division. The major phase of this will be in the next budgetary year. The initial phase is for a trifling amount of money ($2,500 plus our match) while the big project will be in the $100,000 range. The "big one" will be done in collaboration with the Geologic survey of Alabama. Co-investigators are Jonathan Herbert and Doug Clark (Art).

Seminar

Departmental Seminar
Dr. Russell Timkovich from UA, Tuscaloosa will speak on Thursday, September 24th, 1 - 2 pm, in Room 334 MAH. The title of his talk is: "Protein Structure by NMR: Solving a Multi-dimensional Crossword Puzzle." Plan to attend.

Student News

Career Services to Host Annual Fall Career Fair
Wednesday, October 7, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Merrill Hall Atrium.
All JSU students and alumni are encouraged to attend. To view a list of participating companies, please visit www.jsu.edu/careerservices. This list will be updated regularly. Attendees are encouraged to bring copies of their resumes, dress professionally and be prepared for interviewing onsite! Additional copies of your resume may be made in the JSU Print Shop (105 TMB) for $.05/each. Resume editing is available in Career Services. To schedule an appointment, please E-mail resumes@jsu.edu.
A Smart Kiwi?

A man walked into the produce section of his local supermarket and asked to buy half a head of lettuce. The boy working in that department told him that they only sold whole heads of lettuce. The man was insistent that the boy ask his manager about the matter. Walking into the back room, the boy said to the manager, "Some old fool wants to buy half a head of lettuce." As he finished his sentence, he turned to find the man standing right behind him, so he quickly added, "and this gentleman kindly offered to buy the other half."

The manager approved the deal, and the man went on his way. Later the manager said to the boy, "I was impressed with the way you got yourself out of that situation earlier. We like people who think on their feet here. Where are you from son?"

"New Zealand, sir," the boy replied.
"Well, why did you leave New Zealand?" the manager asked.

The boy said, "Sir, there's nothing but whores and rugby players there."
"Really," replied the manager? "My wife is from New Zealand!"
"Really?" replied the boy. "Who'd she play for?"

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.