I was lecturing to my introductory physics class about Newton's Laws of Motion. One of the example problems worked out in the textbook was a young woman sitting on a toboggan being pulled by a young man. I did note that this was a sexist problem, but proceeded to work through the physics, the trigonometry and all the details of the problem. About a quarter of hour later, the board was full of symbols, numbers, Greek letters and arrows. I was covered in chalk dust and I felt pleased that I managed to demonstrate the subtleties of the problem to the class. One woman in the class rather shyly raised her hand and ask, "What difference does it make what she is wearing?" I was thoroughly confused. I asked her back, "Are you asking about the sexist nature of this problem?" (At the time, I was thinking maybe I should not have brought the issue up.). Finally, the student felt that she had no alternative, and was forced to ask, "What is a toboggan?" Oh, how easily I forget that I am in the South, and not only are the accents, culture and foods different, but so is the weather. From now on we will work problems concerning water slides!

--Lou

Department News

Hearts and Sciences
According to the scheme devised by Tracy and Karen, there will be one team from the College of Arts and Sciences called "Hearts and Sciences" Cute... huh?? Anyway, all Department Heads and/or secretaries ask everyone in their department for a cash donation....it could be 5 dollars or more...much more! The department that raises
the most money wins a pizza lunch for their department. All money is due by October 16th. Make checks payable to the American Heart Association. Tracy is determined that we are going to win this, please do your part in helping.

2010 Science Olympiad
The 2010 Science Olympiad State Tournament has been scheduled to take place at JSU on April 10, 2010. I request that you help me make this year's event a great success by taking part. So please mark your calendar. Thank you, in advance, for your help. Vasi

University News

Family Weekend DeSoto State Park (September 25-26)
JSU Field Schools and DeSoto State Park will offer fun activities Friday night, Saturday and Saturday night for families who want to learn about nature together. Join JSU's Dr. Kelly Gregg for Campfire Talks on Friday night (Cherokee Trail of Tears) and Saturday night (Geologic History of the Canyon).

Byan Taylor Exhibits at Hammond Hall Art Gallery
Hammond Hall Art Gallery and Jacksonville State University announce the opening of “Translated Landscapes,” the work of visiting artist Brian Taylor. The opening reception is Tuesday, October 6, from 7 - 9 p.m. with an Artist Talk at 7:30 p.m.

Bryan Taylor is an Associate Professor of Art at Shorter College in Rome, Georgia. He has exhibited nationally and internationally, including exhibits in New York, Chicago, Seattle, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Houston, New Orleans, Atlanta, Miami, Bolivia, Japan, France, Australia, Germany and the United Kingdom.

One Can Program
The One Can Program is a volunteer food drive to support the Jacksonville Christian Outreach Center in their efforts to help care for the needy in our community. Jacksonville Christian Outreach Center (JCOC) is a non-denominational volunteer organization committed to help people in the Jacksonville community. JSU is implementing a voluntary biannual food drive called the One Can Program. Faculty members may participate in the One Can Program by bringing one can of food or one non-perishable food item to their departmental office each semester. These items will be collected by volunteers and delivered to the JCOC.
Emeriti Nominations
The Faculty Senate seeks nominations of individuals for Emeriti status from the academic faculty and/or administrative staff, currently retired, to be selected for recognition at the December 2009 Commencement. Nominees must have been members of the faculty or members of the administrative staff, in the service of the University for ten or more years, who have made outstanding contributions in teaching, research, or service.

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.

Seminar

Mathematica Seminar
Sean McDonald from Wolfram Research will be giving a talk on the latest version of Mathematica and its many new features. His talk will be from 10 - 11 AM Thursday on October 1 in room 116 Ayers Hall. I believe you will find his talk interesting.
Steve White, Mathematics Department

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.
Wrong Email Addresses

A Minneapolis couple decided to go to Florida to thaw out during a particularly icy winter. They planned to stay at the same hotel where they had spent their honeymoon 20 years earlier. Because of hectic schedules, it was difficult to coordinate their travel schedules. So, the husband flew to Florida on Thursday, with his wife flying down the following day.

The husband checked into the hotel. There was a computer in his room, so he decided to send an email to his wife. However, he accidentally left out a letter in her email address.

Meanwhile, somewhere in Houston, a widow had just returned home from her husband’s funeral. He was a minister, called home to glory following a heart attack. The widow checked her email expecting messages from relatives and friends. After reading the first message, she screamed and fainted. Her son rushed into the room, found his mother on the floor, and saw on the computer screen:

To: My Loving Wife
Subject: I’ve arrived
Date: October 16, 2004

I know you’re surprised to hear from me. They have computers here now and you are allowed to send emails to your loved ones. I’ve just arrived and have been checked in. I see that everything has been prepared for your arrival tomorrow. Looking forward to seeing you then! Hope your journey is as uneventful as mine was.

P.S. Sure is hot down here!

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.