Physical and Earth Sciences Newsletter

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Well, I have been to about ½ the first year courses to tell students about majoring and minoring opportunities within the Department. For those who have heard the talk, it is part pep-talk, part salesmanship, and a lot of simple "horse-sense." First, I have to say that I am impressed with the number of students who attend your classes on a regular basis. Second, I hope that each of you follow through and help to impress upon the students the importance of their education. Following through with the more advanced student, I expect that each of you make research opportunities available and get students involved in research projects.

Next month I am attending the Sigma Xi annual meeting in Houston, Texas. Sigma Xi has a large poster session for undergraduate students. My son, Steven (in his last semester at Univ. TN—Chattanooga), is presenting his first real science poster at the meeting. He has kept me informed as he wrote, revised, change, modified, corrected and re-wrote and then submitted his abstract. It became clear to me how much Steven did not really understand and how much he learned in a very short time by submitting this abstract. I am certain his discussions at the meeting will also teach him a lot. We need to send as many of OUR students as possible to conferences. The learning value is tremendous.

--Lou

Department News

Department Meeting

The Department Meeting is today, Friday, 16 October at 12:30 in Joint Conference Room.

Kelly Gregg as Acting Head

Kelly will fill in for me as acting Department Head on Friday, 23 October. I will be at a committee meeting of Sigma Xi for the week-end.
Preview Day
This year's Preview Day will be on November 14 from 8:30-11:30am. We need at least one person from every division to attend. Nixon has agreed to coordinate this event but will be unable to attend the actual day. He has placed a sign-up sheet in everyone's mailbox, please fill it out and give back to Nixon or email him at nmwebi@jsu.edu

Canyon Center Celebrates the Season

Watch the skills of local Appalachian artisans at work. Wander down nature trails on top of colorful fall leaves. Hear some great music. Sample some delicious food. Do all of this and more at the first ever Canyon Fest at Jacksonville State University's Little River Canyon Center on November 7 from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. "We will also have blacksmiths, ceramicists, painters, printmakers, photographers and furniture-makers, among others," says Dr. Kelly Gregg, professor of geography and geology at JSU. "They all have in common that they are devoted to preserving traditional southern Appalachian crafts. Local residents, foremost the Eugene Mann family from Cedar Bluff, and Warwick Woodall from Birmingham, have donated several artifacts of great significance to the history and culture of this region." Adds Dr. Gregg. "One of these artifacts is a large floor loom used to weave fabrics.

Student News

ACS Student Affiliate Sponsored Blood Drive
Friday 23 October, 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM, please sign up for a time. The list in posted on the door of the Department mail room.

University News

Additional Zimbra Training Offered
Academic Computing/Network Support will conduct training/orientation sessions in using the new campus e-mail messaging system, Zimbra, on Friday, October 23. Two sessions will be held at 9 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. If you are interested in attending one of these sessions, please fill out the form located www.jsu.edu/dit/acns/email/training.html to reserve your spot. Reservations must be made by Wednesday, 21 October.
Degenerate States

Polikits
Three weeks ago, Rush Limbaugh, excited at the prospect of being an NFL team owner was taking a stroll when he came upon a little girl carrying a basket with a blanket over it. Curious, Rush asked the girl, "What’s in the basket?" She replied, "New baby kittens," and she opened the basket to show him. "How nice," said Rush. "What kind are they?" The little girl said, "Republicans." Rush smiled, patted the girl on the head and continued on.

Yesterday, Rush was taking another stroll, this time with Dave Checketts (owner of the NHL’s St. Louis Blues) discussing the recent downturn in public opinion. They saw the little girl with the same basket and Rush, wanting some relief to the gloomy conversation, said "Watch this, Dave - it’s real cute." They approached the girl. Rush greeted her and asked how the kittens are doing, and she says, "Fine." Then, smirking, he nudged Checketts with his elbow and asked the girl, "And can you tell us what kind of kittens they are?" She replied, "Democrats." Aghast, Rush says, "But three weeks ago you told me they were Republicans!" "I know," she said. "But now their eyes are open."

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.