Well the fall semester is over and this afternoon is graduation. I have been at JSU for one year and we are now working on our third version of Department web pages. They must be getting near perfect! Seriously, Tracy is spending a lot of time and effort in updating the information and getting all the information into the new JSU format. The software she has to use leaves her very limited flexibility (and leaves me very frustrated). Please help her when she asks for additional information or to look-over and revise some statement we post on the web. The web pages are important - they are the “store front” image that prospective students (and parents) look at. We will not get those students through the front door if our web pages are not up-to-date and informative. This is a great chance to look at YOUR web page and update it. Some of the pages have not been updated for a decade!

Joe Morgan, the new Assistant Professor of Geography is in town. Joe officially starts in January, but he has been in Jacksonville securing a place to stay and trying to get moved into an office—which is more complicated than you might imagine. Tom Baucom is moving into Gene Knight’s old office, Jonathan Hebert is moving into Tom Baucom’s old office, and Joe Morgan in moving into Jonathan Herbert’s old office! We welcome Joe to the Department and hope that he settles in and enjoys working at JSU.

I wish each of you the best for this Holiday Season. Enjoy the time off. Spend time with family and / or friends. Relax, have fun, do nothing, or travel around the world... we will start again in January, recharged and full of energy. Happy Holidays!
--Lou

Department News

Incomplete Grade
This is a reminder that the grade “Incomplete” may be assigned by the instructor in unusual circumstances. An Incomplete should not be assigned unless the student is passing the course. The student should not register for the course again but should make arrangements with the instructor to complete the outstanding requirements. An Incomplete will convert to an F one year after the Incomplete was assigned unless the faculty member has recorded the permanent grade before the end of the twelve-month period. A request for an extension of time to remove and Incomplete must be approved by the Instructor, Department Head, and appropriate Dean and the Registrar at least three (3) weeks before the time limit expires.
Graduation
Fall commencement ceremony is on Friday, 18 December at 4:00 PM at the Pete Matthew Coliseum. The graduation commencement will be broadcast live on the Alabama Cable Network (ACN). Both the 4 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. ceremonies will be on ACN. The network is on all 123 Charter Cable systems statewide on channel 80. The ceremonies are also broadcast live on TV24, which is seen in nine northeast Alabama counties.

Change in Mileage Rate, Travel Form
Effective January 1, 2010, the mileage allowance for use of a privately owned vehicle will change to 50.0 cents per mile. The Certification Section of both In-State and Out-of-State Travel Reimbursement forms will also change. The forms are available on-line in the Business Procedures Manual (www.jsu.edu/busaffairs/busprocman/index.html). All travel reimbursement requests should be made on the new travel forms with a January, 2010 revision date.

Visitor Parking Permits
Beginning in January, building managers (Lisa William’s Office) will be able to issue visitor parking passes to guests of the university. Ask your building manager for a pass when needed. Please ensure that all issued passes contain the visitor’s driver’s license number and an expiration date for the visitor parking pass.

Publications

University News
Staff Awards Program
In the Leone Cole Auditorium on Monday 21 December 2009 at 11:45 AM. Lunch will follow upstairs in the Hopper Dining Hall.

Houston Cole Library Holiday Hours
The Houston Cole Library has announced special holiday hours. Please note:

- Monday, Dec. 14 - Friday, Dec. 18: 7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
- Saturday, Dec. 19 - Sunday, Dec. 20: CLOSED
- Monday, Dec. 21 - Wednesday, Dec. 23: 7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
- Thursday, Dec. 24 - Sunday, Jan. 3, 2010: CLOSED

Normal operating hours will resume on January 4, 2010. Normal hours are:

- Monday - Thursday: 7:30 a.m. - 11:00 p.m.
- Friday: 7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
- Saturday: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
- Sunday: 3 - 11 p.m.

Counseling Services to Offer Round House Recovery Group
JSU Counseling Services will offer a support group for those seeking or maintaining
recovery from alcohol or substance abuse beginning in January. The Round House Recovery Group will meet every Monday night beginning on January 11, 2010 at 8 p.m. There is no admission charge and this is a closed group meeting.

Degenerate States

Pleasing Mother at Christmastime...
Three sons left home, went out on their own and prospered. Getting together for Christmas, they discussed the gifts they had sent to their elderly mother. The first said, "I built a big house for mother." The second said, "I sent her a Mercedes." The third smiled and said, "I've got you both beat. You remember how mum enjoyed reading the Bible? And you know she can't see well any more. So I sent her a remarkable parrot that can recite the entire Bible. It took the church elders 12 years to teach him. He's one of a kind. Mum just has to name the chapter and verse, and the parrot recites it."

Soon thereafter, Mum sent out her letters of thanks: "Dear Milton," she wrote to the first son, "The house you built is too big. I live in only one room, but I have to keep the whole house clean, which is a terrible chore with poor eyesight" "Dear Gerald," she wrote to the second, "I am too old to travel and can't see well enough to drive. I stay at home most of the time, so the Mercedes is pretty useless." "Dearest Donald," she wrote to her third son, "You have the good sense to know what your mother likes. The chicken was dee-licious!"

Daily thought: Some people are like slinkies - not really good for anything, but they bring a smile to your face when pushed down the stairs.

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 Thursdays at: tscasey@jsu.edu or phone (256) 782-5232.