It is about this time of year that I get pretty tired of hearing *Jingle Bell Rock* at every store that I visit. As an antidote, I have a CD of Christmas songs with changed lyrics (*Twisted Christmas* by Bob Rivers Comedy Corp). The *12 Days of Christmas*, for instance, is changed to the *12 Pains of Christmas*. The list includes such things as "stale TV specials, sending Christmas cards, Hangovers, 5 months of bills, Charities, putting up the Christmas lights, and finding a Christmas tree." Well, I can add PRISM (JSU’s strategic planning software) to that list. One of the frustrations to PRISM is the total lack of instructions. Even the purpose of PRISM is kept a carefully guarded secret. In keeping with all this secrecy, I can only work on PRISM on campus. It is too dangerous to allow access to PRISM through the internet. They are afraid of what—some computer geeks from MIT hacking into the system and stealing all our great ideas about university education and research???

Right now I am struggling with e-goals. I am supposed to list our e-goals and e-objectives. No one could definitely tell me what an e-goal was. Even our Dean and Associate Dean could only talk around the issue. So, I did what anyone would do today, I "googled" e-goals. Here is what I found:

E-GOALS is the on-line performance measurement system designed to collect information on program participants, measure performance of initiatives and projects. Through a web based application, E-GOALS dynamically creates, tracks, and administers surveys, links questions to outcomes and indicators, and generates comprehensive outcome reports to partner agencies, providing program managers, and senior leadership with immediate feedback on program impact. The system was created to address the performance requirements set forth by the GPRA, the PMA, PART and the OMB.

 Doesn’t that sound great! It tells you nothing, uses lots of jargon and sounds important. I am going to put that into my e-goals! The source, by the way, is the US Department of State.

*The twelfth thing at Christmas that such a pain to me, is...*

--Lou
We are saddened by the news. . .
Bernice's mom passed away on Monday, 30 November. As most of you have probably noticed, Bernice took the week off. We are very sorry for Bernice's loss.

Christmas Luncheon
The annual Martin Hall Christmas Luncheon will be at 12:00 on Monday, 7 December on the second floor of McGee. There is a sign-up list on Tracy's office door. Please sign up to bring something. We are very grateful to our book reps, Tom Ash and Stephen Wallace. They are bringing from Classic on Noble, turkey, ham, stuffing, gravy, cranberries and iced tea.

Getting into Shape for Holiday Feasting
Last Sunday, Karen and I "participated" (I'm avoiding the verb "ran") in the "Space Coast Marathon" in Cocoa Beach, Florida. Out of nearly 2000 runners, we came in 3rd overall (in the costume competition). Also, we set personal records for our fastest times (this being our first half marathon). -- Kelly

Tom Baucom Retirement
Tom retires at the end of this month. We will have a lunch on 12:00 on Wednesday, 9 December at Effina's to say thank you to Tom for his many years of service and to wish him well as he moves on to a higher quality of life.

Dean's Meeting the Department Heads
The Dean met with Department Heads to bring up to date before the holidays.

- Most of the meeting was detailing the many forms that I must fill in and return. These forms include catalogue listings, catalogue revisions, STARS Articulation Guide Information and PRISM (see above).
- Banner will be upgraded 12-22 February. So, for 1 work-week we will not be able to make purchases. Why this was not scheduled during Spring Break remains a mystery.
- Fred Kelley stepped down as the Head of MCIS. Donnie Ford is the new Head.
- 5% of our operating budget has been “pulled back” for the anticipated proration. I think we are now officially in the red. Merry Christmas.

Last Day of Class today, Finals 7-12 December...
Grades are due 15 December, Graduation is 18 December and Santa Claus comes on the night of the 24th of December! Whew!
When a Cruise is “all part of the job.”

It is a tough job, but somebody’s got to do it. Al Nichols with three JSU students spent time on board the Gordan Gunter (a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) research ship collecting samples in the Gulf of Mexico. In addition to samples of sediment, they picked up some strange fish (like a cow fish) and large specimens (like the starfish, above). Back in Jacksonville, they have enough work to keep them busy in the lab... and getting ready for the next cruise.

Student News

Last ACS Student Affiliate Meeting of the Semester

On Wednesday, 2 December the Student Affiliate of the American Chemical Society held their final meeting. At the meeting, they gave out the awards for the Poster Competition. Winners received a T-shirt, a certificate and a check.

In the photograph (from left to right) is Rachael Ginn (Vice President), Krystyn Gatewood (2nd Place), Mercedes Bissey (3rd Place), Stephen Fordham (President), Jessica Hairston (4th Place) and Jessica Hays (5th Place). Missing from the photo is Ashia Castleberry (1st Place).
2010 Arts and Sciences Research Symposium
JSU students, share your research with students and faculty across disciplines in the College of Arts and Sciences. Prepare an abstract up to 450 works and submit it online at http://www.jsu.edu/cgi-bin/apps/symposium
Deadline for submissions is 1 Feb 2010 and $50 is awarded to the best presentation.

University News

Travel and Self-Improvement Grants
There will be only one call for University Travel and Self-Improvement Grants for faculty who will be presenting at regional and national professional meetings. We need the original grant applications in the Associate Dean’s office, 107 Martin Hall, by Monday, January 25. Please note that the College deadline is earlier than the University deadline. Please remember the following guidelines:
1. Only those who are presenting are eligible for this funding.
2. Documentation of acceptance must be included. This can be a letter, email, or program page. The committee will not fund the application if there is no documentation.
3. Forms are also available at http://www.jsu.edu/depart/avpasa/travelgrant.htm. This page has all the information on the grants, plus a link to Word and Adobe documents into which the faculty can enter data.
4. Please be aware of the following stipulations regarding travel reimbursement: Once a faculty member has traveled and been reimbursed for any portion of a trip, he/she cannot receive additional reimbursement for the same trip.

Last Chance for Blackboard Training and Information Sessions
JSU’s Blackboard system will be upgraded to a new version, Blackboard Learn version 9, prior to the beginning of the Spring 2010 term. Here are the "last chance" training and information sessions for faculty who plan to use Blackboard for fully online or supplemented courses during the Spring 2010 term. All sessions will be held in 174 Self Hall. If you have not participated in some form of training for Blackboard Learn version 9 you are strongly encouraged to attend. Please register ASAP as there are only 18 seats are available per session.

Hands-on Training Sessions:
• Assignments and SafeAssignments - Tuesday, December 8 from 2:00-3:00 PM
• Grade Center Basics - Friday, December 11 from 9:00-11:00 AM

Information Sessions:
• Introduction to Collaboration Tools (will provide an overview of Blogs, Journals, the Discussion Board, and the Virtual Classroom/Chat features) - Monday, December 7 from 2:00-3:00 PM
• Introduction to Exam Creation (will discuss the use of the Blackboard Test Manager and Pool Manager and Respondus 4.0 test creation software) - Wednesday, December 9 from 10:00-11:00 AM
• Introduction to Test Security and Distribution (will discuss Blackboard test security and deployment options and the use of the Respondus LockDown Browser) - Thursday, December 10 from 2:00-3:00 PM

Please note: The Information Sessions will provide an overview and demonstration of the listed features and will highlight significant changes from our current version. Due to the condensed time frame, these sessions will not provide opportunities for hands-on practice or extensive questions and answers.
To register for the training or information sessions, send an email to DLHelp@jsu.edu with your name, email address, and the sessions you'd like to attend. All registrations must be received 24 hours prior to the start of the session.

Degenerate States

Chocolate Chip Cookies for Chemists:
Ingredients:
1. 281.25 g C₁₀H₁₀O₅ with appropriate gluten
2. 4.93 ml NaHCO₃
3. 4.93 ml NaCl
4. 226.8 g partially hydrogenated tallow triglyceride
5. 187.5 g crystalline C₁₂H₂₂O₁₁ (sucrose)
6. 150.0 g C₁₂H₂₂O₁₁ (sucrose) with extracted C₆H₁₂NNaO₃S
7. 4.93 ml methyl ether of protocatechuic aldehyde.
8. Two calcium carbonate-encapsulated avian albumen-coated protein (50-60 g each)
9. 473.2 cm³ theobroma cacao
10. 236.6 cm³ de-encapsulated seed meats (Carya illinoinensis) (sieve size #10)

To a 2-L jacketed round reactor vessel (reactor #1) with an overall heat transfer coefficient of about 100 Btu/F-ft²-hr, add ingredients one, two and three with constant agitation.

In a second 2-L reactor vessel with a radial flow impeller operating at 100 rpm, add ingredients four, five, six, and seven until the mixture is homogenous.

To reactor #2, add ingredient eight, followed by three equal volumes of the homogenous mixture in reactor #1. Additionally, add ingredient nine and ten slowly, with constant agitation. Care must be taken at this point in the reaction to control any temperature rise that may be the result of an exothermic reaction.

Using a screw extruder attached to a #4 nodulizer, place the mixture piece-meal on a 316SS sheet (300 x 600 mm). Heat in a 460-K oven for a period of time that is in agreement with Frank & Johnston’s first-order rate expression (see JACOS, 21, 55), or until golden brown.

Once the reaction is terminated, place the sheet on a 25°C heat-transfer table, allowing the product to come to equilibrium.

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: ts_casey@jsu.edu or phone (256) 782-5232.