With a Department meeting this week (and meetings with Geographers and Chemists), not only is there not a lot of news, but I did not have much time to work on the newsletter.

I mentioned at our Departmental meeting that the administration is looking at JSU’s graduation requirements, which are not in alignment with other Alabama universities. Both the 128 credits required for graduation and 52 credits at the 300/400 level are being evaluated. Jonathan Herbert polled is geography class to see how much influence these numbers had on JSU students. So he asked them to write down the number of credits required for graduation and the number of credits at the 300/400 level needed for graduation. He found:

Not everyone did it or handed it in at the end, but I got about 40 back.
The results were
39% of students knew that 128 total hours are required to graduate
27% were within +/- 10 hours of 128 hours
0% knew that 52 upper level hours are required
24% were within +/-10 hours of 52 hours
10% did not know or get close to either
Answers ranged from 30 to 300 total hours required, and 37% of the class gave me an impossible answer, with more upper level hours than total hours required!

What are the conclusions of this simple poll? We need to educate our students, especially in arithmetic skills!

--Lou
Spring Preview Day
Spring Preview Day for prospective students will occur on Saturday, March 27. The event will be held from 9:30 a.m. until noon in Stephenson Hall. There will not be a registration component to this day. Reservations are not required for Spring Preview Day. Jonathan Herbert is looking for help to represent the Department at this event.

Early Bird Registration
Early Bird Registration for accepted new students will occur on Friday, February 12th, Saturday, February 27th, and Saturday, March 6th. Accepted new students will be invited to attend this event in order to register early for summer and/or fall 2010 classes. Students RSVP for the date they want to attend. The event begins at 9:00 a.m. at Leone Cole Auditorium. Following a welcome from President Meehan, participants will take part in advisement and registration, followed by lunch at the cafeteria. Kelly Gregg will organize our Department to help, as needed, with this registration.

Faculty Research Grants, due to Dean on 10 March
1. Please go to the Academic Affairs website for information on the Guidelines for Research Proposal Format.
   http://www.jsu.edu/depart/avpasa/FacultyResearchGrants/Guidelines.htm
2. Submit the original signed copy, using the current form, available online at
   http://www.jsu.edu/depart/avpasa/FacultyResearchGrants/Research_Proposal_Submission.pdf
   Please do not use old forms! The Dean’s office will make the 10 copies.
3. Please print the budget on white paper. Our office will copy this onto colored paper.
4. If you had a FRG last year, please include a copy of the progress report with your application. The progress reports, due March 1 on last year’s grants, should be submitted even if the research is incomplete. If you had a grant from last year and have not yet submitted a report, please send this as soon as possible to Ms. Horton: ghorton@jsu.edu.
5. Please include a current CV for each faculty researcher.

Arts and Sciences Student Symposium
The Arts and Sciences Student Symposium is scheduled for February 16 and 17. Again this year, we need faculty members to volunteer to judge the students’ presentations. If you can help with the judging, please contact Gena Christopher at genac@jsu.edu. It is best if you can give a morning (8-12) or an afternoon (1-4), but any help will be appreciated. -- Gena
University News

Beauty and the Beast is Spring Musical Production

WHERE: Ernest Stone Performing Arts Center, Mainstage, Jacksonville State University, Corner of Church and Eleventh
WHEN: February 18, 19, 20, 25, 26, and 27 at 7 pm; February 21 and 28 at 2:00 p.m.; And February 27 at 1:00 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Adults $15, Senior Citizen/JSU personnel $12, Students/Military $1
MasterCard, Visa, and Discover accepted, as well as personal checks and cash.
RESERVATIONS: Paid Reservations Strongly Suggested - Call 256-782-5648
This play is recommended for ages 5 and up.

Reminder: Travel grants due to Dean’s Office by 25 January
There is only one call this year 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. We will make the additional 9 copies of each grant and will deliver the completed packets to Dr. Delap’s office by the University deadline. Please note that the College deadline is earlier than the University deadline. The guidelines are:
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. The Department Head should check for documentation prior to sending the application to the Dean.
3. Forms are 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. Please refresh your browser and use the new form.

Degenerate States

Headlines for the year 2029
· Ozone created by electric cars now killing millions.
· Spotted owl plague threatens forest rangers.
· Baby conceived naturally. Scientists stumped.
· Couple petitions court to reinstate marriage.
· Last Muslim dies in the American Territory of the Middle East.
· Iran still closed off; physicists estimate 10 more years before radioactivity decreases to safe levels.
· Castro dies at age 112; Cuban cigars now in US, but President Chelsea Clinton bans smoking.
· George Z. Bush to run for President in 2036.
· US Post Office raises price of first class stamp to $18 - reduces mail delivery to Wednesdays only.
· 85-years, $75.8 billion study: Diet and Exercise key to weight loss.
· Average weight of Americans drops to 350 lbs.
· Supreme Court rules punishment violates criminals' civil rights.
· Average height of NBA players now nine feet, seven inches.
· New law requires nail clippers, screwdrivers rolled-up newspapers be registered by January.
· IRS sets lowest tax rate to 75 percent.
· Florida voters have trouble with voting machines.

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.