Boy, I am struggling for news this week! This is not the place to advertise who won the Ms. JSU beauty contest or to advertise that the sky boxes for football games are on-sale. I am not a football fan, but I am amazed how marketing has changed the "nosebleed section" from the cheapest seats to "sky boxes" and the most expensive seats. To those who adore sky boxes, I am aware of the advantage of being able to stand up and move around. However, that is also a "perk" of the cheapest of the "cheap seats." Many of the older rugby stadiums in New Zealand have a "standing section" (tickets are cheaper than "the bleachers"). University students typically fill the standing section and have as much fun "socializing" as they do watching the game. So, I still look at sky boxes as a clever marketing scheme.

Not so clever is the city of Oxford. You can see below that Harry Holstein has made the front page for two days in a row (and I would not be surprised to see him on front page Saturday morning, too). Harry is complaining about the bulldozing of an ancient native American site by Oxford after they promised the would not. Haven't the leaders in Oxford seen Avatar? It seems that public opinion, especially in the under 30 crowd, should be firmly behind Harry.

--Lou

Department News

**JSU professor: American Indian site is gone.** *From the Anniston Star, January 21, 2010:* A Jacksonville State University professor [Dr. Harry Holstein] says an ancient American Indian site Oxford city officials agreed not to disturb has been destroyed, but he does not know by whom. City officials claim the site is still intact.

Harry Holstein, Jacksonville State University professor of archaeology and anthropology, holds a topographic map of the new Oxford Recreation Complex while standing where the Indian mounds were. Photo: Stephen Gross/The Anniston Star
Registered Students ONLY
All registration for the current term is complete. Please check your class list to be sure all students who are attending are registered. Please send any students who are not currently registered to the Registrar's office. -- Kelly M. Osterbind

New Webpages
Tracy Casey has finished the new Department web pages. They match the new JSU style. I am not certain when IT will have them "go live." The deadline for the conversion is the end of February, 2010. Tracy, as per usual, is ahead of the game. Let Tracy know if you want any changes or updates made to your page.

Computer in Room 319
Due to the increase in PowerPoint presentations, we are putting a computer into Room 319. You should be able to bring in your presentation on a jump drive or other format and project in the room.

University News

Deadlines and Dates to Remember
Travel Grants, due at the Dean's office 25 January
Early Bird Registration, Friday 12 February
Arts and Sciences Student Symposium, Tuesday and Wednesday, 16-17 February
Early Bird Registration, Saturday 27 February
Early Bird Registration, Saturday 6 March
Faculty Research Grants, due at Dean's office 10 March
Spring Preview Day, Saturday 27 March
Science Olympiad, Saturday 10 April

Degenerate States

Baptism
An inebriated man, stumbling through the woods, comes upon a preacher baptizing people in the river. He walks into the water and bumps into the preacher. The preacher turns and, being briefly repelled by the smell of alcohol, asks, "Are you ready to find Jesus?" The man answers, "Yes, I am." So the preacher dunks him in the water. He pulls up man and asks him, "Brother have you found Jesus?"
The man replies, "No, I haven't found Jesus."
The preacher dunks him into the water again for a little longer. He again pulls him out of the water and asks again, "Have you found Jesus my brother?"
The man again answers, "No, I haven’t found Jesus."
By this time the preacher is getting frustrated and dunks the man in the water again, this time for about 30 seconds till he begins kicking his arms and legs. He pulls up the man and asks, "For the love of God have you found Jesus?"
The man wipes his eyes, catches his breath and says to the preacher, "Are you sure this is where he fell in?"
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.