Well, IT is busy this year. We just had an upgrade to BlackBoard, a revision of the Departmental webpages (not yet “live”) and next week the email system is changed (see the notice below) and later in February, Banner will be down for a week for an upgrade (again, see the notice below). Some of the notices sound a bit threatening; however, I think the changes will be minor inconveniences that we will soon forget.

I attended the public meeting of the Board of Trustees on Monday morning. The Trustees were concerned with how we are going to afford the increase in full scholarships to students with ACT scores >30. This current year JSU had applications from 6 such students and 2 accepted the awards. Next year JSU has applications from 71 such students and, so far, 21 have accepted the awards. Of course, it costs us almost nothing to accept “for free” students who would not normally come to JSU (our costs is in the numbers and types of courses that we teach). This was immediately followed with a Board lead standing ovation for the volleyball coach. We then heard that the new dorm will be opened this summer; the sky boxes will be finished before the first football game and were presented with swatches of the specially woven carpet for the sky boxes.

We are still operating on a reduced budget, anticipating a new round of proration. The Governor is counting on new stimulus funding to balance the over-spent budget and Senator Sessions is criticizing the federal stimulus spending. What a great state!

--Lou

**Department News**

**Annual Sexual Harassment Prevention Training for JSU Faculty and Staff**

It is time again for our annual Sexual Harassment Prevention Training. The online program is at [http://training.newmedialearning.com/psh/jacksonvillestu/](http://training.newmedialearning.com/psh/jacksonvillestu/). There will be a test at the end that you are required to pass. When you pass the test, HR will be notified of the successful completion. Please complete this program by April 15, 2010. Please contact Judy Harrison, email at harrison@jsu.edu or call ext. 8569, if you have questions.

**MyJSU/Administrative Computer System Availability**

Due to system upgrades the MyJSU portal and the Administrative Computer System will be unavailable from 5:00pm on Friday, February 12 until 7:00am on Monday, February
22. The Administrative Computer System includes Administrative Banner, Self Service Banner, Student Account/Bill Payment and Reports. **[Our ability to make purchases during this time will be limited. Please plan ahead. – Lou]**

**Masters of Scientific Research**

Guided by the Dean, this proposal will be on “hold” for a bit. JSU is facing major battles to obtain approval for the Emergency Management Doctoral degree and the MFA degree. According to the Dean, this is not the time to add to this list.

**New Courses for Fall 2010**

There are three new (experimental) courses for the Fall semester. They are
- GY466, Special Topics in Cultural Geography
- CY115, Concepts of General Chemistry I
- GS451, Science Entrepreneurship I

These are indications of growth and evolution in the department. However, we will have to see if there is student interest, too. Please help to spread the word about these courses when you advise students.

**University News**

**New Exhibit at Hammond Hall: Books on the Shelf**

The Hammond Hall Art Gallery is pleased to announce the opening of **Books on the Shelf**

*The Art of the Handmade Book.* This exhibit features handmade books by Mary Ann Sampson and Louise Lawrence Foster and is presented in conjunction with Kaleidoscope. The exhibition runs from Tuesday, February 2 through Friday, February 19. Opening reception is Tuesday, February 2, from 7 - 9 p.m.

**Campus Changeover to New E-mail System Will Be February 3**

This change affects every JSU e-mail user. Once the system is in place, users will gain access to the new system through their MyJSU account and password. The changeover begins at 8 p.m. on Feb. 3 and actual e-mail downtime is expected to be less than 24 hours.

For faculty and staff who have already migrated to the new system, there will only be a short downtime during the changeover. Those who are already using the new system may continue to log on as they have in the past or may use [http://gem.jsu.edu](http://gem.jsu.edu) to access the system after Feb. 3.

For faculty and staff who have not attended training or who indicated that they would not attend training: After Feb. 3, users will still be able to access GEM in a view only fashion (no sending or receiving) either through [http://gem.archive.jsu.edu](http://gem.archive.jsu.edu) or the previously used mail client (Outlook, Mozilla, Mac Mail, etc.) Faculty and staff who have not been trained or migrated will need to be put in the queue for migration. This may be done by visiting [http://www.jsu.edu/dit/acns/email/zimbramigrate.html](http://www.jsu.edu/dit/acns/email/zimbramigrate.html).

During the time it takes to migrate everyone, old mail will only be accessible at [http://gem-archive.jsu.edu](http://gem-archive.jsu.edu) or via former mail client. All new mail will be sent/received via [http://gem.jsu.edu](http://gem.jsu.edu). Those wishing to ‘start fresh’ need take no action—just begin using the new system from Feb. 3 forward. Users are reminded that the gem-archive server will not be available permanently; therefore, any messages users wish to keep must be migrated.
Deadlines and Dates to Remember
Arts and Sciences Student Symposium, Tuesday and Wednesday, 16-17 February
Faculty Research Grants, due at Dean's office 10 March
Spring Preview Day, Saturday 27 March
Science Olympiad, Saturday 10 April

Degenerate States

Things that are difficult to say when drunk:
1. Innovative
2. Preliminary
3. Proliferation
4. Cinnamon

Things that are very difficult to say when drunk:
1. Specificity
2. Federal Constitution
3. Passive-aggressive disorder

Things that are downright impossible to say when drunk:
1. Nope, no more beer for me.
2. No more to eat for me thank you!
3. Sorry, but you're not really my type.
4. Good evening, officer. Isn't it lovely out tonight?
5. Oh, I couldn't. No one wants to hear me sing!

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.