I attended several talks at the College of Arts and Science Symposium this week. There was a lot of interesting work presented, and I think the Faculty gained as much from the symposium as the students. While there were several presentations from Chemistry and Environmental Science, the rest of the Department was not really presented. This is an excellent opportunity for our students, and we should make certain that we use it.

I was expecting a quiet week with Banner down. However, there have been enough things happening to keep me busy. The Chili Cook-Off is coming up (3 March, see below). Also, Brent, Jonathan and Allison will probably approach you to participate in the Science Olympiad (10 April). Keep up all the great work!

--Lou

**Department News**

**Large Format Scanner is Computer Lab is Resurrected**
After a little TLC, and a good cleaning and calibration, the large format scanner in the computer lab is working again. Still to come, a scanner for slides.

**4th Annual Martin Hall Chili Cook-Off**
Get your pots ready, your jalapenos chopped and your cumin ground, the cook-off (to benefit the American Cancer Society) is scheduled for 3 March. Sign-ups are outside of Tracy’s office.

**IDEA Evaluations**
IDEA evaluations from Fall 09 have been distributed. Please pay attention to any and all comments from your students. The Departmental average for “Excellent Teacher” raw score remains at 4.0. Keep up the good work.

**Deadlines and Dates to Remember**
Faculty Research Grants, due at Dean’s office 10 March
Spring Preview Day, Saturday 27 March
Science Olympiad, Saturday 10 April
Seminar

**An Insider’s Perspective of the National Science Foundation**
Presented by LaJoyce Debro (Biology JSU) and Elizabeth Sztual (Cell Biology UAB) on Thursday, 25 February at 11:00 in Room 130 of Martin Hall. [Please re-read my comments for the newsletter last week and then plan to attend! - Lou]

Student News

**GIS Jobs!**
I am a Recruiter at Wiser located in Murfreesboro, TN. We are experiencing a large amount of growth in our Geospatial department and have openings in multiple locations including Birmingham, AL. I am interested in reaching out to any alumni who are currently seeking employment as a GIS Analyst. I would be happy to answer any questions your students might have. Roles are available fitting a wide variety of experience levels. **Meghan B. LeBoeuf, Recruiter**, phone 615.896.7375 Ext. 1089 Email: mbleboeuf@wiserco.com, Web address: [http://www.wiserco.com](http://www.wiserco.com)

**Summer Jobs!**
We are currently in the hiring process for our summer staff here at Camp ASCCA. I am looking for Nature and Fishing Directors. Camp ASCCA is a fantastic place to work for the summer. I know it is cliché, but this job really will be the best summer job you will ever have! If your students have any questions about the positions please have them contact me. Check out our website ([www.campascca.org](http://www.campascca.org)) for more info also. **Geni Lynn Payne**, Director of Environmental Education, Outdoor Education Director, Camp ASCCA-Easter Seals, Jackson’s Gap, AL 36861, Toll free phone: 800-843-2267

**Scholarship Deadline is March 1**
All students interested in applying for a JSU scholarship are reminded that the deadline for JSU scholarship applications is March 1, 2010. Specific questions can be emailed to mweldon@jsu.edu or by telephone to Martin Weldon at 782-5677.

University News

**JSU Drama, Music to Present Beauty and the Beast**
February 18-27
BEAUTY AND THE BEAST, A musical at Ernest Stone Performing Arts Center, Mainstage, Jacksonville State University. 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. Adults $15, Senior Citizen/JSU personnel $12, Students/Military $10. Paid Reservations Strongly Suggested - Call 256-782-5648

**Faculty Senate Seeks Faculty Awards Nominations**
The Faculty Senate is pleased to announce that nominations are sought for the following faculty awards:
- Faculty Scholar Lecturer Award
- Outstanding Teacher Award
• Ringer Faculty Development Award
• Thomas Award for Outstanding Community Education/Service
• Faculty Research Activity

All full-time faculty members are eligible. Nominations by self, students, colleagues or department heads are encouraged. Please refer to Faculty Awards for guidelines. The recipients will be recognized at the Faculty Awards Reception on May 11.

Degenerate States

If Only …
In Jerusalem, a CNN journalist heard about a very old man who had been going to the Wailing Wall to pray, twice a day, everyday for a long, long time. So she went to the Wall and there he was. She watched him pray and after about 45 minutes, when he turned to leave, she approached him for an interview.
"I’m Rebecca Smith from CNN. Sir, how long have you been coming to the Wall to pray?"
"For about 60 years."
"60 years! That’s amazing! What do you pray for?"
"I pray for peace between the Christians, Jews and Muslims. I pray for all the hatred to stop and I pray for all our children to grow up in safety and friendship."
"How do you feel after doing this for 60 years?"
"Like I’m talking to a wall."

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.