Well, last week I identified the wrong people helping with the Science Olympiad. Jonathan Herbert and Nixon Mwebi are helping to organize and recruit volunteers and Bernice is helping with both the chemistry and biology events. My apologies, I do not know how I got the wrong names.

Congratulations to Brent Helms. Associate Professor Helms received tenure and a promotion from Assistant Professor to Associate Professor. Also congratulations to Professor David Steffy who was promoted from Associate Professor to Professor.

If you are looking for something to do this week-end, maybe while your chili cooks in the slow cooker—I recommend the musical the Beauty and the Beast (details below). As is typical for Disney, it is a play for kids with enough jokes to keep the adults entertained.

--Lou

Department News

4th Annual Martin Hall Chili Cook-Off 3 March
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. Please stop by and help to judge!

Out of State Travel
JSU requires out of state travel forms to be filled out EVERY TIME you travel out of state on University business - even if you are not claiming a reimbursement. This assures that you will be covered under JSU's insurance. It is ESSENTIAL that these forms are filled out for STUDENTS traveling out of state, too. As Faculty, it is your responsibility to see that the forms are submitted in a timely fashion. Just telling the student to fill out the form is not enough.

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
Students Present at Arts and Sciences Student Symposium
The College of Arts and Sciences held its annual Student Symposium on Tuesday, February 16, and Wednesday, February 17, on the eleventh floor of Houston Cole Library. Over forty-five students presented papers or poster sessions in the disciplines of biology, English, music education, psychology, chemistry, mathematics, art studio, art history, social work, and computer information systems.

Best Paper in Chemistry was won by Samantha Gacasan (Nixon Mwebi, mentor)
Congratulations is to be given to all the winners and to the other presenters for their contributions to the success of the symposium.

ACS Student Affiliate Blood Drive on 12 March
Sign up in the mail room. All presenting volunteer blood donors will be automatically entered into a quarterly drawing for a $1000 gift card. Please bring a photo ID.

Free Ice Cream Day on March 5

March 5th In Front of TMB from 10am till 2pm
JSU Drama, Music to Present *Beauty and the Beast*
February 18-28

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 Teaching Distance Education Courses
The Office of Distance Education is seeking faculty who teach a distance education course and are interested in serving as a member of a NEW Distance Education Faculty Focus Group. For more information please go to http://www.jsu.edu/distance/de_fac_focus_grp.html

World-Renowned Chef, Restaurateur and Cookbook Author Chef Mai Pham to Bring Thai and Vietnamese Cuisine to Hopper Dining Hall March 8-12
The Hopper Dining Hall will feature *Thai and Vietnamese Cuisine: A Magical Experience* featuring the signature flavors of world-renowned chef, restaurateur and cookbook author Chef Mai Pham during the week of March 8-12.

Faculty Senate Seeks Faculty Awards Nominations (Due 24 March)
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

Letter Home
Ma and Pa Smith
Smith's place
Ohatchee
Alabama

Dear Ma & Pa,
I am doin real good. Hope yall are too. Tell big brothers Doug and Phil that the Army is better than workin’ on the farm - tell them they best get in real quick before the jobs are all gone! I wuz a bit slow in getting myself settled down at first, because yall don’t hafta get outta bed until 6am. But I like sleeping in now, cuz all yall gotta do before breakfast is make yall bed and shine yall boots and clean yall uniform. No cows to milk, no pigs to feed, no feed to stack - nothin’!! Yall haz gotta shave though, but its not so bad, coz there’s lotsa hot water and even a light to see what yall doing! At breakfast yall get cereal, fruit and eggs but there’s no deer steaks or possum stew like wot Mom makes. Yall don’t get fed again until noon, and by that time all the city boys are knackered because we’ve been on a ‘route march’ - geez it’s only just like walking to the crick in the back field!!
This one will kill Doug and Phil with laughter. I keep getting medals for shootin’ - dunno why. The bullseye is as big as a polecat’s tail and it don’t move and it’s not firing back at yall like the Johnson’s did when our cows got mixed up with theirs and we tried sortin’ them out. All yall gotta do is make yourself comfortable and hit the target - it’s a piece of pecan pie!! You don’t even load your own cartridges - they comes in little boxes and yall don’t have to steady yourself against the rollbar of the truck when you reload!
Sometimes yall gotta wrestle with the city boys and I gotta be real careful coz they breaks easy - it’s not like fighting with Doug and Phil and Jack and Bubba and Steve and Junior all at once like we used to do at home. Turns out I’m not a bad boxer either and it looks like I’m the best the platoon’s got, and I’s only been beaten by this one dude from the Engineers - he’s 6 foot 5 and 210 lbs. and three pick handles across the shoulders and as ya know I’m only 5 foot 7 and 120 lbs wringin’ wet, but I fought him till the other guys carried me off.
I can’t complain about the Army - tell the boys to get in real quick before word gets around how good it is.
Your loving daughter,
Shelly

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.