I spent most of my extra time this past week writing the grant for the NMR spectrometer. It is a nice feeling to write a grant and know ahead of time that it will be funded. I have been writing grant applications for nearly 30 years and this is the first one that I actually enjoyed writing.

While this funding is great, we cannot and should not expect that all our funding needs will be met without some efforts on our part. Publications in peer-reviewed journals and grant applications are a part of academic life. Several small applications where submitted last week for funding from JSU. I hope that the proposed work will lead to larger grants. Seek out those larger grants.

Next week is spring break. I now understand this is an official university holiday, so I wish you all the best. Take time off to recharge your batteries. Come back on the 22nd refreshed and enthusiastic for the remainder of the semester.

--Lou

Department News

**Deadlines and Dates to Remember**
Faculty Awards Nominations 24 March
IDEA Online Faculty Information Forms Completed 26 March
Spring Preview Day, Saturday 27 March
Science Olympiad, Saturday 10 April

**IDEA Online Faculty Information Form Completion**
All faculty need to have their information forms for IDEA completed by 26 March. There is a new feature that allows you to simply “click” to copy objectives from a different form.

**Chemistry Lectures at the Univ. of Alabama**
Professor Guy Bertrand, Distinguished Professor of Chemistry at the Univ. of California, Riverside will present two lectures at 1093 Shelby Hall on the Univ. of Alabama campus. The lectures are: Novel, Stable non-Arduengo Carbenes and Related Sepcies (a technical talk at 12:30 PM on Thursday 25 March) and Bending the Rules (a general audience lecture at 3:00 PM on Friday 26 March). There is also an open, informal reception at 4:00 in the Shelby Hall rotunda immediately following the Friday lecture. You are all invited, no RSVP is requested.
Student News

**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.

**Office of Distance Education Seeks Students for New Focus Group**
The purpose of this focus group is to provide feedback and opinions regarding Blackboard and other educational technologies and services supported by our office. Please note that this focus group will not have face-to-face meetings, but will instead conduct all meetings online. Selected students will be asked to serve from the date of selection through the end of the Fall 2010 term. The deadline for receipt of the email application is Friday, March 26, 2010. Selected students will be notified via email during the week of March 29. Please send the information below to DLHelp@jsu.edu with the subject "STUDENT FOCUS GROUP".
Name; Major; JSU email address; Classification (i.e., Freshman, Sophomore, Junior, Senior, Graduate); Approximately how many distance education courses have you completed? Please include and indicate courses completed via distance education at JSU and other institutions. Please explain why you feel you should be selected for the Distance Education Student Focus Group.

University News

**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

**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

**The Best Headlines of 2009**
Something Went Wrong in Jet Crash, Expert Says
Jacksonville Police Begin Campaign to Run Down Jaywalkers
Panda Mating Fails; Veterinarian Takes Over
Miners Refuse to Work after Death
Oxford Juvenile Court to Try Shooting Defendant
Iraqi War Dims Hope for Peace
If Strike Isn’t Settled Quickly, It May Last Awhile
Cold Wave in Alabama Linked to Temperatures
Anniston Couple Slain; Police Suspect Homicide
Red Tape Holds Up New Bridges in Calhoun County
Man Struck By Lightning: Faces Battery Charge
New Study of Obesity Looks for Larger Test Group
Astronaut Takes Blame for Gas in Spacecraft
Kids Make Nutritious Snacks
Local High School Dropouts Cut In Half
Anniston Hospital is Sued by 7 Foot Doctors

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.