Well, I am at Fort Benning, today. The ROTC program has invited the STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) department heads to meet with them about increasing their enrolments of students in STEM. While I do not always support the activities of the military, I have had excellent ROTC students in my classes. If student grades are not up to standards, the ROTC requires them to spend a certain number of hours every day studying. I cannot complain about that!

The other big news is that I was offered an Erksine Fellowship to teach entrepreneurship at the University of Canterbury in Christchurch, New Zealand (yes, that is where I taught before coming to JSU). They want to use the opportunity to bring a new person up-to-speed in teaching entrepreneurship. I want to gain more videos to edit into my on-line courses at JSU. For all of you, it means I will not be in Jacksonville during the May semester. I guess it is one of those win-win-win situations!

☺ You can see the information below about your FAR reports.

--Lou

---

**Department News**

**Deadlines and Dates to Remember**
IDEA Online Faculty Information Forms Completed 26 March
Spring Preview Day, Saturday 27 March (9:30 to noon at Stephenson Hall, arrive early!)
Science Olympiad, Saturday 10 April

**Board of Trustees Quarterly Report**
Publications, presentations, grants and such to Department Head by 31 March for the next Board of Trustees quarterly report. Thanks!

**Choice of dates for FAR for 2010!**
Since I will be out of town, you have a choice of dates for your FAR. You can chose to have the Faculty Annual Review document to me by Friday, 16 April and the review meeting will be the week of 19-23 April, or you can delay and turn in the FAR on Friday, 11 June and have the review meeting 14-25 June. (Obviously, you must plan on being in Jacksonville in June if you turn your far in by the later deadline.) While you should be careful to include details in your report, I do not need to see the supporting documents. You might want to assemble the supporting documents for your personal files, you do not have to submit the supporting documents with your FAR. I am concerned with both your past and the future. I want you to think about personal goals for the next academic year.
Science Olympiad, 10 April 2010
Details are available on the Department web-site.

University News

Steel Band Concert Welcomes Spring with the Sound of the Caribbean
Join us for an evening of the happy, tropical sounds of the Caribbean on March 30 at 7 p.m. at the Jacksonville First United Methodist Church MAC Center! Featuring three different steel drum bands--the student group JAX Steel, the JSU-based community band JAXPAN and the Trion High School band--this concert could feature the largest steel drum band ever assembled in Alabama. Admission to the concert is free, and Hawaiian shirts are encouraged!

Turning Point Software (Clickers for the Classroom) Demonstration April 13
Mr. Brandon Keck from Turning Technologies will demonstrate the capabilities of the Turning Point Software and student response devices (clickers) on April 13 at 2 p.m. in 309 Ramona Wood Hall. In the demonstration, participants learn how TurningPoint® interactive software can provide the necessary tools to engage and assess your students. The demonstration is free.

Degenerate States

If You have a Senior Moment, Make it memorable!
An elderly Floridian, having finished her shopping, found four males leaving in her vehicle. She dropped her bags and drew her handgun and screamed at the top of her voice, "I have a gun and I know how to use it! Get out of the car!" The men didn't wait for a second invitation. They got out and ran like mad. The lady, somewhat shaken, loaded her bags into the backseat and got into the driver's seat. She was so shaken she could not get her key into the ignition. She tried and tried, and then it dawned on her. A few minutes later, she found her own car parked four or five spaces farther down. She loaded her bags and drove to the police station. The sergeant to whom she told the story couldn't stop laughing. He pointed to the other end of the counter, where four pale men were reporting a car jacking by a mad woman described as white, less than five feet tall, glasses, curly white hair and carrying a large handgun.

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.