Well, I have had my nose into my computer most of the week. I am working on an NSF grant application and the more I write, the more work I realize that I need to do. I did not even start working on the newsletter until Friday morning. I did not think there would be much in the newsletter. You can see how wrong I was!

Obviously, the Science Olympiad is tomorrow. Good luck to all the organizers, judges and anyone volunteering to help. Let's hope the students have as much fun as we do with these events.

Please see the notice below about elections for our Faculty Senate representatives. Please get your vote (or your decision to abstain) to Tracy by Tuesday. Also, today (Friday) is the deadline to request a computer upgrade. I know that I will not be able to fulfill all the requests for computer upgrades. I will remind each of you that an external research grant can often be a source of funds for state-of-the-art computers. Several of the faculty members have very slick computers by using external grant funds. As a Department, we really need to work on grantsmanship.

The end of the semester is near. Good luck to all students with final exams!
--Lou

Department News

Science Olympiad, SATURDAY! 10 April
Details are available on the Department web-site.

Spring Graduation 30 April, 6:30 PM
Please let Tracy Casey know if you are planning to attend Spring Commencement exercises held in the Paul Snow Stadium on Friday, April 30, 2010 at 6:30 p.m. A reception honoring the speaker will be held in the Gamecock Center preceding Commencement. Also, "loaner" regalia is available on a first-come, first-serve basis through the Office of Academic Affairs. Contact Cathy Rose at 782-5284 or email crose@jsu.edu no later than two weeks prior to commencement to make a reservation for loaner regalia.
Faculty Senate Representative
We have two nominations for faculty senate representatives: Nixon Mwebi and Nagarajan (Vasi) Vasumathi. Both Nixon and Vasi submit their packets for promotion and tenure in September. So, this service could be important for each (but clearly being a faculty senate rep is NOT essential to be tenured). Please email your choice to Tracy (tscasey@jsu.edu) by the end of the day on Tuesday 13 April. It would be helpful if you have no preference, that you let Tracy know that.

Computer Upgrades Considered
If you feel that you need a computer upgrade, please send Lou (lreinisch@jsu.edu) the following: Details of your current computer; Details of the replacement computer that you need; a short paragraph on why this replacement is necessary now and cannot possibly wait until next year. Include in this paragraph how this purchase will help the Department. Please send me your request by the end of this week (Friday 9 April). The requests will be prioritized and the computers at the top of the list replaced.

University News

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.

Distance Education Evaluation Request
Attention faculty who teach an online, videoconferencing, or Blackboard supplemented (traditional, face-to-face) courses. The Office of Distance Education requests that you complete the Spring 2010 Faculty Evaluation of Distance Education Services. The evaluation should take less than five minutes to complete and is available from now until 11:59 am on Sunday, April 18. To take the evaluation now, please click the following link: http://survey.jsu.edu/cgi-bin/EventHandler.pl?action=entryform&filename=SP2010FacEval&id=dlsurvey2

JSU Drama Presents Last Night of Ballyhoo, April 8-11
THE LAST NIGHT OF BALLYHOO, A comedy by Alfred Uhry at the Ernest Stone Performing Arts Center, Mainstage of Jacksonville State University, Corner of Church and 11th St. on April 8, 9, 10 at 7:00 p.m. and April 11 at 2:00 p.m. All tickets - $5.00
BRIEF SYNOPSIS: It’s December, 1939, in Atlanta, Georgia. “Gone With the Wind” is having its world premier, Hitler is invading Poland, and Atlanta’s social even of the season is about to occur. Atlanta’s elitist Jews are much more concerned with Ballyhoo! It’s very important to see and be seen. No one is more concerned with appearances than the Freitag family. Will prejudices get in the way of romance? Will everyone get to attend Ballyhoo? Situations take unexpected twists and turns that force characters to realize who they truly are.

Trustees to Meet Monday, April 19
The Jacksonville State University Board of Trustees will hold their quarterly meeting on Monday, April 19, 2010 at 10 a.m. on the eleventh floor of the Houston Cole Library.
Carl Orff's Carmina Burana Performed on Sunday

On Sunday, April 11, 2010 at 3 p.m. at First United Methodist Church in Anniston, the Jacksonville State University A Cappella Choir, Calhoun County Civic Chorale and Chamber Winds will present Carl Orff’s masterwork Carmina Burana, a scenic cantata for choirs, soloists and orchestra. The concert will feature professional soloists & string players as well as a community children's choir consisting of students from Coldwater, Dearmanville, & Kitty Stone Elementary Schools; Kristina Sisco, and Lisa Gillespie, instructors. Carmina Burana is a scenic cantata for chorus and orchestra based on secular 13th century Latin and German poetry. Patricia Corbin, JSU Director of Choral Activities is collaborating with Clint Gillespie, JSU Assistant Director of Bands and Director of Chamber Winds, to present this ambitious work. Tickets for the performance are $12 for adults and $6 for students and children. (This performance is not suitable for toddlers and infants.) First United Methodist Church is located at 1400 Noble Street in Anniston. For further information about this performance and tickets, please contact the JSU Office of Choral Activities (256) 782-5544, or Dr. Corbin, pcorbin@jsu.edu. Tickets will be sold at the door (cash only, please).

Student News

Chemistry Lunch on Friday 16 April

The Department invites the ACS (American Chemical Society) student affiliate and ALL Faculty and associates to an end-of-the-year Pizza and Coke lunch in the lounge on the second floor of McGee from 12:00 until 1:30 on Friday 16 April. We will recognize the winners (listed below) of the 2010 Beschi Leadership Award at the lunch.

Ashey M. Abbott
Jacob W. Boydston
Jennifer D. Brown
Stephen A. Fordham
Chad L. Horton
Jayne A. Lampley
Kristin D. Shirey

Students Have Until Sunday, April 18 to Submit DE Evaluation, Enter iPod Drawing

The Office of Distance Education invites students enrolled in Distance Education courses to complete the Spring 2010 Student Evaluation of Distance Education Services. You are asked to complete this evaluation only 1 time. To show their appreciation, the Office of Distance Education is offering an 8G iPod Touch to be given at random to one student who completes the evaluation. To access the evaluation, please click the link below. Please note the evaluation will close at 11:59 pm on Sunday, April 18.

http://survey.jsu.edu/cgi-bin/EventHandler.pl?action=entryform&filename=SP2010StuEval&id=dlsurvey2

Degenerate States

Ode to my spell checker (author unknown):

Eye halve a spelling checker
It came with my pea sea.
It plainly marks four my revue miss steaks eye kin knot sea.
Eye strike a quay and type a word and weight for it to say
Weather eye yam wrong oar write.
It shows me strait a weigh as soon as a mist ache is maid.
It nose bee fore two long and eye can put the error rite.
Its rare lea ever wrong.
Eye have run this poem threw it,
I am shore your pleased to no.
Its letter perfect awl the way.
My checker told me sew.

(Contributed by Miriam Hill)

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: tcasey@jsu.edu or phone (256) 782-5232.