News from the Acting Department Head

I’ve had a very successful first week as Acting Head. So far, Tracy hasn’t let me sign anything or make any decisions. However, she did bring a fellow down to my office who wanted me to identify a rock that he thought looked like a fossilized dog turd. Unfortunately, it was just an iron ore concretion that was cleverly disguised.

The only other notable occurrence this week was Joe Morgan bringing in some truly excellent muffins. We should have hired him years ago!

--Kelly

Department News

Head of Department
Lou is in New Zealand for an Erskine Teaching Fellowship. Kelly Gregg will be acting Head.

Draft Policy Statement on Distance Education
Tracy circulated with email the draft policy statement on Distance Education. Please let Tracy know if there are any concerns. This is your chance to make suggestions if a part of the policy does not agree with the way you handle distance education. Please try to be very clear with your comments. Others might not be as clear on the nuances of distance education.

University News

Spring Graduation Scheduled for TODAY
Jacksonville State University’s Spring 2010 Graduation Ceremony will be April 30, 2010 at 6:30 p.m. at Paul Snow Stadium.

Inaugural Edition of Faculty Trends Now Online
The inaugural edition of Faculty Trends: Recent Scholarship of the JSU Faculty 2007-2008 is now accessible on the JSU website. Faculty Trends highlights scholarship of the JSU faculty during the 2007-2008 academic year. Faculty Trends recognizes JSU’s Fulbright Scholars, successful applicants for external grants and contracts, and the
recipients of the Earlon and Betty McWhorter Outstanding Teacher Award, the Cleo and Carla Thomas Community Education and Service Award, the Faculty Scholar Lecture Award, and the Ray and Ruth Ringer Faculty Award in addition to scholarly activities presented the reports to the Board of Trustees. A biennial print version of Faculty Trends is forthcoming but, in an effort to contain costs, annual editions will be published online only. For information contact Bill Hubbard at (256) 782-8137.

Art Through Process Features Emerging JSU Artists
Gallery 9 announces "Art Through Process" a group show featuring 17 emerging artists from Jacksonville State University. The exhibition will be on view at Gallery 9 from May 6 through June 25, 2010. An opening reception will be held for the artists on Thursday, May 6 from 5 - 8 pm. The exhibition and reception are both free and open to the public. Gallery 9 is located at 9 Public Square East in Jacksonville, Alabama. Gallery hours are Friday 10 am to 5 pm and Saturday 10 am to 3 pm and by appointment.

Cole Drive To Close May 3
In order to proceed with the construction activities at the Stadium/Housing project, Cole Drive will be closed from May 3 through approximately June 7. The road closure will eliminate access to parking areas behind Kenamer Hall and Stephenson/Gamecock Center during this period. Parking remains available at the front of Kenamer and Stephenson.

Degenerate States

Political Surgery
Five surgeons discussed which occupations make the best patients. The first surgeon said, "I like accountants because everything inside is numbered." The second responds, "You should try electricians! Everything is color coded." The third surgeon says, "I think librarians are the best; everything is in alphabetical order." The fourth surgeon chimes in: "I like construction workers...those guys always understand when you have a few parts left over and the job takes longer than you said it would." The fifth surgeon observed: "Politicians are the easiest to operate on. They have no guts, no heart, no brains and no spine - and the head and the rear are interchangeable."

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.