News from the Acting Department Head

Apparently I’ve mastered the duties of being an administrator - I didn’t have to sign anything or make any decisions at all this week.

In entertainment news, I did play in two concerts up at the Little River Canyon Center last week. In the attached photograph, I’m the old guy next to the pillar surrounded by a bunch of high school kids from Trion, Georgia. Also, our very own GTA, Jason Wright, opened last night in a modernized (synonym for weird?) version of the Greek tragedy Eurydice. He was great! Next year I plan on adding "entertainment" as a new category on the FAR. The rest of you faculty and staff need to step up!

-Kelly

Department News

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

College of Arts & Sciences Award Ceremony
Bernice Moser won the Dean's Service Award for Institutional Service at the College of Arts and Sciences annual Awards ceremony yesterday. Congratulations Bernice!

The Biology Department made a clean sweep with Safaa Al-Hamani winning the Research Award, George Cline winning the Service Award and Chris
Murdock won the Teaching Award.

Faculty Awards Ceremony
Congratulations to Nagarajan “Vasi” Vasumathi for winning this year's Faculty Scholar Lecture Award. The Faculty Scholar Lecture Award, established in the Spring of 1998, is a University sponsored, faculty administered program designed to honor an outstanding faculty member for research, publication, or other original work in his or her field. Vasi will deliver a lecture, or an appropriate presentation, to the University community during the academic year. The award carries an honorarium of $500 and a budget of $500 for expenses.

Little River Canyon Center and Field Schools 2011 Planning Meeting
Faculty, Staff, Students, Volunteers, Friends and Partners are invited to attend the 2011 Public Programs Planning Meeting for the Little River Canyon Center and for JSU’s Field Schools. Please join director, Pete Conroy, and coordinator, Renee Morrison, for this planning session. Bring your ideas, suggestions and comments. Refreshments will be served.
When: Thursday May 20, 2010
Time: 10:00 am - Noon
Where: JSU’s Houston Cole Library
Please RSVP to Amanda Wade at 256-782-8010

Distance Message from Lou
The leadership workshop that I missed also circulated a list of leadership best practices. I noted that these practices also applied to teaching. So here are the top ten with “leader” replaced with “teacher” and “follower” replaced with “student”
1. Teaching is about the student. “The only definition of a teacher is someone who has students.” Peter Drucker
2. To be a student is a voluntary choice. One must have students to be a teacher. Consequently, teachers are very good at attracting students.
3. Teaching is about relationships. Relationships require credibility.
4. Teaching is about credibility.
5. Credibility is earned through: Honesty, Competence, Foresight and Inspiration. Kouzes and Posner
6. “The teacher is first a servant.” Robert Greenleaf
7. Effective teaching is about lecturing from the center of the circle not from the top of the triangle.
8. Develop commitment to an inspired and shared vision.
9. Walk your talk.
10. You always are the teacher.

University News

Dr. Glen Browder to Speak at HCL Friends Event
The Friends of Houston Cole Library will present Dr. Glen Browder on Monday, May 17, at 7 p.m. in Room 1103-B of the Houston Cole Library at Jacksonville State University.
Dr. Browder is Professor Emeritus of American Democracy at Jacksonville State University. He has served as a U.S. Congressman, Alabama’s Secretary of State, and Alabama State Legislator. He is the author of several books including The South’s New Racial Politics and, released in January of this year, Stealth Reconstruction: An Untold Story of Racial Politics in Recent Southern History.

Dr. Browder will discuss Stealth Reconstruction, which he co-authored with Dr. Artemesia Stanberry of North Carolina Central University. Covering Alabama and Southern politics of the 1970s-90s, the book is a blend of scholarship and personal observation. Drs. Browder and Stanberry tell how a number of progressive-minded white politicians worked quietly with a number of black leaders and activists to reform Southern politics in the aftermath of the 1960s civil rights movement. References to the areas of Jacksonville and Calhoun County are included in the book and will be discussed at this event. Featured on C-Span, further information can be found on the January 14th and 16th broadcasts. Copies of Stealth Reconstruction and The South’s New Racial Politics will be available for purchase and signing, and refreshments will be served. This event is free and open to the public.

JSU Drama to Present Eurydice

The Jacksonville State University Drama Department will present Sarah Ruhl’s adaptation of the classic story Eurydice on May 13-16 on the mainstage of the Ernest Stone Performing Arts Center. Brief Synopsis: In a contemporary retelling of the classic myth, we see the story through the eyes of the young heroine. Eurydice dies too young, and on her wedding day. She is forced to travel to the underworld where she meets her father and attempts to remember her lost love. Performances are at 7 p.m. on May 13, 14 and 15. The May 16 performance will be a 2 p.m. matinee. Tickets are $10 for adults; $8 for senior citizens and JSU personnel; and $5 for students, military and youth.

Gilbert and Sullivan’s H.M.S. Pinafore

The Jacksonville Opera Theatre will present Gilbert and Sullivan’s H.M.S. Pinafore May 21-29 at the Ernest Stone Center for Performing Arts at Jacksonville State University. Performances are scheduled for Friday and Saturday, May 21-22 and Thursday and Friday, May 27-28 at 7:30 p.m.; and Sunday, May 23 and Saturday, May 29 at 2:30 p.m.. The Saturday, May 22 evening performance will also offer an option for patrons to have dinner with the director at Classic on Noble in Anniston before attending the performance at JSU.

Advance tickets for the performances are:

Adults- $15 side seating; $25 center seating;
Students- $10 side seating;
Dinner and Opera- $35 dinner plus center seating

At the door, all tickets will be $15 or $25.

Tickets may be purchased online at www.jacksonvilleopera.org or by phone, (256) 782-5876.
Degenerate States

Balancing the Budget
Once upon a time in a county not very far away, the county commissioners established a waste-material storage zone in an area of wasteland. The commissioners advised that precautions would be needed to make sure that people didn’t venture into the danger area, so they employed a watchman at $18,000 per year. Then the commissioners enquired as to how the watchman should do his job. So a Planning Department was created with two people: one to write instructions for $22,000 and another to do time studies for an additional $22,000. Then the chairman of the county commissioners asked, "How will we know that the watchman is doing these tasks correctly?" So they created a Quality Control Department with two people; one to do the studies for $31,000.00 and one to write the reports for an additional $31,000.00 per year. Then the chairman said, "How are these people going to get paid?" So they created: a Time Keeper for a $35,000 and a Payroll Officer for an additional $35,000. Then they created an Administrative Section and hired three more people -- an Administrative Officer at $155,000 per year, an Assistant Administrative Officer at $125,000 and a Legal Secretary at $100,000 per year. After a year, the system was working very well and there had been no intruders, but the costs of $574,000 were $18,000 over budget. So they sacked the watchman.

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.