This has been a very successful week for the Department. Monday, Allison provided individual Key Lime Pies and very decadent brownies. Tuesday, I brought in some rich, very thick, Castillian hot chocolate, Wednesday was a variety of Puerto Rican sweets, including Mantecaditos, Besitos de Coco, Merengues, and Brownies con azucar, plus a box of fresh doughnuts. Thursday was leftovers from previous days, and Friday we are all going to have our cholesterol checked and get memberships to a gym.

Otherwise, no excitement this week.

-Kelly

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

Hallway Door to Mailroom
We will begin keeping the hallway door to the mailroom closed and locked during lunch and at the end of the day. If Tracy is out, we will keep it locked all day. This makes it much easier to keep track of packages coming and going from the mailroom. I thank you all in advance for your help and understanding.

News from New Zealand
There does not seem to be much news at JSU this week, so I thought it was time for me to send a “postcard” from New Zealand. The weather held out until this week. A very long Indian Summer (recall that winter is starting in the southern hemisphere) with 60 degree weather was beautiful for getting out and walking, visiting vineyards, and catching up with old friends. I did all of that. One of the most spectacular walks took us to a waterfall and the pool at the bottom of
the falls was literally filled with seal pups (getting pretty big this late in the season) swimming, jumping and just having a great time. I spend a lot of time lecturing and way too much time preparing the lectures (they should be “special” lectures delivered by a Visiting Erskine Fellow). It is tough, to make a lecture on statistical mechanics fresh, new and exciting. Of course the faculty at the University of Canterbury is upset because the University administration wants to reorganize the library and combine the library services with IT. The administration says it is moving Canterbury to be a higher-level research-intensive university. The faculty members are arguing against the change. Somehow this is not much different that being back at JSU.

University News

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

Fifty Dollars is Fifty Dollars
Morris and his wife Esther went to The Show every year; and every year Morris would say, "Esther, I’d like to ride in that helicopter". Esther always replied, "I know Morris, but that helicopter ride is fifty dollars - and fifty dollars is fifty dollars". One year Esther and Morris went to The Show and Morris said, "Esther, I’m 85 years old. If I don’t ride that helicopter now, I might never get another chance." Esther replied, "Morris that helicopter is fifty dollars - and fifty dollars is fifty dollars". The pilot overheard the couple and said, "Folks I’ll make you a deal. I’ll take the both of you for a ride. If you can stay quiet for the entire ride I won’t charge you! But if you say one word, it’s fifty dollars." Morris and Esther agreed and up they went. The pilot did all kinds of fancy maneuvers, but not a word was said. He did his daredevil tricks over and over again, but still not a word. When they landed, the pilot turned to Morris and said, "By golly, I did everything I could to get you to yell out, but you didn’t. I’m impressed!" Morris replied, "Well, to tell you the truth, I almost said something when Esther fell out, but you know - fifty dollars is fifty dollars."

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.