Overall, the University is very quiet. That is typical for the mid-summer months. The Department, however, appears to be quite active. A couple of grant proposals are being submitted, research is happening, and papers are being submitted for publication. We are making that transition to a research driven university!

As I watch enrollments to make certain that we do not fill some classes, I see reasonable numbers, but nothing very earth shattering or impressive. If our Department is representative of the entire University, we will probably see enrollments this coming year at or slightly below last year's numbers. On the positive side, the fraction of students with conditional admission to JSU has decreased. So we should be seeing better, if not more students.

Keep cool and enjoy the summer.

-- Lou

**Department News**

**Graduation on Friday 6 August**
Please let Tracy know if you can attend graduation on Friday 6 August at 7:30 PM in Paul Snow Stadium. There is the usual reception honoring the speaker at Gamecock Center preceding the commencement, and loaner regalia is available if you need it.

**Physical Plant Survey**
All who have suffered through water dripping through the ceiling, peeling paint in the classrooms or rooms that are too hot and then too cold, please respond to this: The Physical Plant Department is currently participating in Program Review. We are in the process of gathering customer feedback so that we may gain a better understanding of our strengths and weaknesses. We ask that you please take a few moments of your valuable time to answer these short and simple questions that will provide us with invaluable information. Please click here (or copy the link below) to access the survey. The last day to complete the survey is Wednesday, July 14.  
https://survey.vovici.com/se.ashx?s=61BE3D9E2CB4A45E08CCE51A28344BF00C

**Donation to Arthritis Foundation**
A total of $170 was donated to the Arthritis Foundation in memory of Pauline Steffy. There were some very generous donations from both this Department and the Department of Biology. Thanks to all who contributed.
Alternative Energy Source
Alabama Power Company is interested in providing JSU with a 2.4 kw Skystream wind turbine for placement on either Chimney Peak or Sparkman Hall. They have a requirement of an average wind speed of 8 mph, and they've requested that we collect anemometer data over the next few months in both locations. Dr. Meehan is particularly interested in this partnership and demonstration of alternative energy. Thanks to everyone who is helping to collect the data.

Lock the Doors Behind You
If you are here after hours or on week-ends, please make certain that the door locks behind you.

Grant Opportunities

Gulf Oil Spill MRI RAPID proposals
The National Science Foundation Major Research Instrumentation (MRI) program has announced the "Gulf Oil Spill MRI RAPID" opportunity. Deadline: 5:00 pm, proposer's local time, July 30, 2010. Details of the "Gulf oil spill MRI RAPID" awards can be found at: http://www.nsf.gov/publications/pub_summ.jsp?ods_key=nsf10064. Up to $5 million is expected to be available to support Gulf oil spill MRI RAPID awards in FY 2010, pending the number and quality of proposals. Consistent with RAPID guidelines, individual awards will not exceed $200,000, and will have a duration of one year. Institutional submission limits that apply for regular MRI competitions will be waived for this call for Gulf oil spill MRI RAPID proposals. MRI RAPID proposals will be reviewed as they are received. Proposals will not be accepted after 5:00 p.m., proposer's local time, Friday, July 30, 2010.

Further information on the process can be found on the Office of Integrated Activities (OIA) MRI website: http://www.nsf.gov/od/oia/programs/mri. Prospective PIs must contact OIA to consult as to whether the general MRI RAPID guidelines (eligibility, immediacy) can be met. If the PI wishes to pursue the effort we ask them to submit a one-page summary. Proposals should be submitted to OIA as the primary unit for consideration with the appropriate division(s)/office(s) as secondary. Again, PIs interested in submitting a MRI RAPID should contact OIA (Randy Phelps - rphelps@nsf.gov or Craig Henderson- chenders@nsf.gov) to ensure their RAPID meets the guidelines.

University News

Trustees to Meet July 12
The Jacksonville State University Board of Trustees will hold their quarterly meeting on Monday, July 12, 2010 at 10 a.m. on the eleventh floor of the Houston Cole Library.

Health Insurance Changes
Check out the HR website regarding health insurance changes. There is a slight increase in the amount we must pay each month, the deductables have increased and you can include your children, up to 26 years old, even if they are not fulltime students.
Degenerate States

Quack
A duck walks into a bar and asks: "Got any bread?"
Barman says: "No."
Duck says: "Got any bread?"
Barman says: "No."
Duck says: "Got any bread?"
Barman says: "No, we have no bread."
Duck says: "Got any bread?"
Barman says: "No, we haven't got any *@#! bread."
Duck says: "Got any bread?"
Barman says: "No! Are you deaf? We haven't got any *@#! bread, for Pete's sake. Ask me again and I'll nail your *@#! beak to the bar you irritating bastard of a *@#! bird!"
Duck says: "Got any nails?"
Barman says: "No."
Duck says: "Got any bread?"

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.