Things have slowed down this past week. On-line courses mean that we see fewer students in the hallways. It is a good time to catch up on work.

I heard from the Board of Trustees meeting that there will be no raises this year, again! 😞 In fact, the finances might be very tight next year with the slow economy in Alabama and no stimulus money. Tighten your belts another notch.

Of course the other “big” news is that JSU will introduce its stadium makeover to the public on the evening of Sept. 11. Organized by Ken Bodiford (Music), there will be a patriotic halftime with Randy Owen, the Atlanta Bagpipe Concert, cheerleaders, Boy Scouts and members of the National Guard. Trustee Red Ethridge, after hearing the plans at the recent Board of Trustees meeting, stated: “That presentation that Mr. Bodiford did would just blow your skirt up. I was thoroughly impressed with it.” With that statement, I just could not resist adding this picture.

-- Lou

**Department News**

**Congratulations to Jan Gryko**

Jan Gryko has been awarded an NSF grant for a differential scanning calorimeter. Great work, Jan.

**Weather Station on top of Sparkman Hall**

We now have a weather station located on the top of Sparkman Hall. Every 5 minutes the temperature, humidity, wind direction, wind speed and barometer readings are recorded. If you want to access to any of data, please see Lou. In the fall we will probably have all the data we need. Please think of an appropriate new location for the equipment.
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.

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

National Science Foundation - Informal Science Education (ISE)
Full Proposal Deadline Date: December 10, 2010
Expected Number of Awards: 46
Estimated Total Program Funding: $25,000,000
Purpose: The ISE program supports innovation in anywhere, anytime, lifelong learning, through investments in research, development, infrastructure, and capacity-building for STEM learning outside formal school settings.
http://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=5361

University News

Putting things into the Proper Perspective
Dr. Meehan, in his report to Board of Trustees, wrote:
I am very proud to announce that on June 18th the University received approval from the Alabama Commission on Higher Education to offer another new degree…. The Commission unanimously approved JSU’s request for its first doctorate, the Doctorate of Science in Emergency Management. It is the most significant change in the role and scope of JSU since becoming a university in 1966. It is the academic equivalent of becoming Division I in athletics.

Guided Archaeology Tour of Calhoun & St. Clair Counties
Come along with JSU’s Dr. Harry Holstein for a guided archaeology tour of various sites throughout Calhoun and St. Clair counties. We will visit Janney Iron Furnace, a 19th century battlefield and river locks, a prehistoric Indian village, and much more. Participants should bring their own lunch and drinks. Transportation is provided. Space is limited. This is one of our most of our most popular programs so register early!
Date: Saturday, August 21, 2010
Where: Jacksonville, AL (Meeting location to be disclosed upon registration)
Time: 9:00 am - 3:00 pm
Fee: $30 per person (ages 14 and older) Pre-registration is required. 256-782-5697

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 deductibles have increased and you can include your children, up to 26 years old, even if they are not fulltime students.
Deep Thoughts for the Serious Intellectual:
1. Save the whales. Collect the whole set!
2. A day without sunshine is like......night.
3. On the other hand, you have different fingers.
4. 99 percent of lawyers give the rest a bad name.
5. He who laughs last thinks slowest.
6. Depression is like anger without enthusiasm.
7. The early bird may get the worm, but the second mouse gets the cheese in the trap.
8. Support bacteria ...they’re the only culture some people have.
9. A clear conscience is usually the sign of a bad memory.
10. Change is inevitable, except from vending machines.
11. If you think nobody cares, try missing a couple of payments.
12. How many of you believe in psycho-kinesis? OK then, raise my hand.
13. What’s the speed of dark?
14. When everything is coming your way, you’re in the wrong lane.
15. Hard work pays off in the future. Laziness pays off now.
16. How much deeper would the ocean be without sponges?
17. Eagles may soar, but weasels don’t get sucked into jet engines.
18. What happens if you get scared half to death twice?
19. I couldn’t repair your brakes, so I made your horn louder.
20. If the world didn’t suck, we would all fall off.
21. Light travels faster than sound. That’s why some people appear bright until you hear them speak.
22. Life isn’t like a box of chocolates --it’s more like a jar of jalapenos. What you do today might burn your butt tomorrow.

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.