The summer is slipping by. Nixon Mwebi (together with Jan Gryko, Jim Rayburn and George Cline) is submitting an equipment grant to measure the effects of the oil spill in the gulf. Al Nichols (together with David Steffy and Frank Romano) just finished submitting an equipment grant to increase their sensitivity for lead in the environment. They will also plan to measure sediment samples from the bottom of the Gulf of Mexico.

I also learned an important academic regulation at JSU, and maybe others should be reminded of this. Students cannot appeal a grade or score on an assignment, or quiz, test or exam. They can only appeal the course grade. I have had to deal with a father who feels that his daughter was unfairly punished for not completing a test within the time limits for an on-line course. Like all conflicts, there are two sides to the conflict. After listening to both sides, I stand behind the faculty member in this case. I am amazed at how "involved" some parents become in their child's education, even at university level. I am not talking about caring how well the student is performing, but parents who seem to know more about the course than the student. 😊 I will also remind everyone that you need to be careful when talking to parents, and you should not discuss a student's performance in a course with anyone, but the student.

Finally, the new Departmental poster is hanging in the display case. You can blame me for anything you do not like. The main function of such a poster is for students and visitors to be able to identify you (i.e., big pictures) and to find you (i.e., office number is listed). If anyone wants your photo updated, please see Tracy. She will be glad to take a new picture. (I have already had one complaint about the old skull, but some of your photos are older than the skull! 😊)

-- Lou

**Department News**

**Power Outage on Friday 23 July from 1:00 PM until 5:00 PM**
To allow the TV truck to hook-up at the stadium, the power will be cut for several buildings on campus. The list includes Hopper Cafeteria and the Computer Center. So, there will be NO internet, NO banner, NO email. Computer services will start being shut down at 11:00 to have all the servers powered down by 1:00. Plan accordingly. (No mention of BlackBoard???)

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

First-Year Student Convocation
This year Convocation will be on Tuesday, 24 August at the Stadium beginning at 6:30 pm, starting with a faculty processional. Last year there were over 80 faculty members participate and Dr. Turner would like to top that number this year. According to Dr. Turner, faculty participation will have a profound effect on our students. Line up outside the east end of the stadium by 6:20 pm, the same way you do for graduation (minus the academic regalia). March onto the field and sit on either side of the fifty-yard line. Following remarks from Dr. Meehan and SGA President Timothy Long, the Marching Southerners and JSU cheerleaders will teach our first-year students the JSU fight song and selected cheers. One student will have the honor of ringing the bell that symbolically starts the beginning of the new academic year. Afterward, Steve Latham will take a picture of the First-Year Class. Immediately following the ceremony faculty are invited to a picnic, which will take place at Dillon field just west of the stadium. If participating, please notify Sharee Hutchinson at hutchinson@jsu.edu or by phone at 5020.

Grant Opportunities
Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics (STEM) for K-12 & Institutions of Higher Education
Purpose: To foster an interest in, knowledge of, and study in science, technology, engineering and mathematics nationwide to ensure an educated and well-prepared workforce, which meets the naval and national competitive needs.
http://www.grants.gov/search/search.do;jsessionid=RqznzM6nGpLTy8bg5WZhYJm4JZQPRLQQr8K9JRv5nxn3MQNKsLxMl404589083?oppId=55774&mode=VIEW

University News
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
Everyone should have received a memorandum about benefits meetings on Monday, 26 July at 10:00, 11:00, 12:30 and 1:30 in room 236 Self Hall to discuss the changes in your health insurance. Everyone is encouraged to attend and NO RSVP is necessary.
Universal Questions
1. Can you cry under water?
2. Under what conditions does a "skinny dip" become a "chunky dunk"?
3. How important does a person have to be before they are assassinated instead of murdered?
4. If money doesn't grow on trees then why do banks have branches?
5. If "put your two cents in"... but it's only a penny for your thoughts? Where's that extra penny going?
6. Once you're in Heaven, do you get stuck wearing the clothes you were buried in for eternity?
7. Why does a round pizza come in a square box?
8. How is it that we put a man on the moon before we put wheels on luggage?
9. Why is it that people say they "slept like a baby" when babies wake up about every two hours?
10. If a deaf person has to go to court, is it still called a hearing?
11. Why are you IN a movie, but you are ON TV?
12. Why is it pronounced "evil" (with a long e) and devil (with a short e). Wouldn't you expect there to be "evil" in the "devil"?
13. Why are a wise man and a wise guy opposites?
14. Why do overlook and oversee mean opposite things?
15. If people from Poland are called Poles, why aren't people from Holland called Holes?

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.