Tonight is graduation and the faithful few faculty are attending. I thank those who are helping the families of our better students to celebrate this important milestone in their lives. I would like to see more of the faculty accept this responsibility. It is a very important aspect of the university.

You will also see a notice below about convocation and President of the Faculty Senate urging you to attend. If you are going to attend one of the events, graduation or convocation, I would urge you to attend graduation. The purpose of graduation is clear, our students and their families expect your presence. Let’s give our support and time to the academic endeavors of JSU.

Also, please note that we will have a Departmental meeting following the University Faculty meeting on Monday 23 August. Please make a note on your calendars.

-- Lou

Department News

Time to get your new Parking Decal

Beginning August 4, 2010 the University Police Department will begin the registration process for purchasing parking decals for the 2010-2011 terms. The cost for faculty, staff, students, and non-JSU personnel to purchase a parking decal is $25. Faculty and Staff may purchase additional decals for other vehicles they own and park on campus as approved by UPD. Students changing parking zones or purchasing a new vehicle must bring their original decal to UPD before purchasing another decal. Faculty, staff, and students should access their MYJSU account to purchase a parking decal. Non-JSU personnel can pay $25 to the Bursar's Office and bring the receipt to UPD. Decals should be picked up at UPD between 8:00 A.M. to 4:30 P.M. Monday thru Friday. Please bring your driver's license, vehicle registration (tag receipt), and a print out of your confirmation page, if applicable, to avoid unnecessary delays. After registering faculty, staff, and non-JSU personnel may begin to pick up their decals on August 4, 2010. Students may begin to pick up their decals on August 19, 2010. Decals must be permanently affixed to the inside, lower front passenger side windshield and must be visible. UPD has updated the parking rules and regulations. These updates can be viewed online at http://www.jsu.edu/police/traffic.html. Persons parking on Campus should also ensure they are parking in the correct zone. A parking map is available online http://www.jsu.edu/police/docs/map.pdf. Please contact UPD at (256) 782-5050 for any questions.
Weather Summary
The weather station on the roof of Sparkman Hall has been reliably recording temperature and wind data. We recorded a high temperature of 106.5 on Wednesday, 4 August at 3:00 PM. The lowest temperature was a balmy was 71.6 on Tuesday 27 July at 5:00 AM (see what great weather you are missing while you sleep!). The prospects for a wind turbine do not look good. The strongest of gust of wind clocked in at 40 miles per hour on Monday 26 July at 5:30 PM (during one of those thunderstorms). However, the average wind speed has been only 2.79 miles per hour. The wind turbine is not effective unless the average wind speed is 8 miles per hour.

Best Practices in College Teaching
Please join us for the following webinar, sponsored by the Division of Academic and Student Affairs and presented by Innovative Educators: Creating an Active Learning Environment, on Wednesday, August 25 and Tuesday, October 19 at 12:00-1:30 in 208 Self Hall. Webinar Description: Research has shown that knowledge retention can be significantly increased by creating a welcoming environment and incorporating active learning strategies into your teaching. Participants in this session will learn teaching strategies and techniques they can immediately implement in their classes to create a learning environment that actively engages their learners and ultimately improves student retention and success. Participants will receive a resource page of active learning strategies. For more information about this webinar, including learning objectives and speaker credentials, please visit: http://www.innovativeeducators.org/product_p/617.htm or contact the Office of Distance Education at dhelop@jsu.edu.

Graduation on Friday 6 August
We congratulate the following students from Physical and Earth Sciences. Graduating with a BS in Chemistry are: Elizabeth Smith Chambers, Courtney Hale, Keri Hill, Ashley Okoro, Stephen Kobsa. Graduating with a BS in Geography are: Kimberly Holmes, David Jones and Matthew McEntyre. Graduation Ceremony will be August 6, 2010 at 7:30 p.m. at JSU Stadium.

University News
Dear Faculty,
As we prepare to begin the fall semester Dr. Tim King requests our participation in an assembly to welcome the incoming freshmen to JSU. This will take place on Tuesday Aug. 24 at 6:30 in the stadium. Faculty will line up at 6:20 on the east side of the stadium, as we do for graduation, and then we will proceed in together. In the case of inclement weather the assembly will occur in the coliseum. Immediately after our part in the assembly, will proceed out to a cookout hosted by President Meehan on Dillon Field on the west side of the stadium. Your families are invited to join us for dinner. As to dress, I suggest that we follow the tradition begun last year by Dr. Krejci and all wear Hawaiian shirts. Shorts are perfectly acceptable, cowboy boots will be optional this year. Since we will be outside, hats and sunglasses are expected. Creativity in hats is always something I personally enjoy. Last year 80 of us turned out for this event. I hope that as many of you will attend this year as we build upon this new tradition here at the University. Please RSVP to Sharee Hutchinson at hutchinson@jsu.edu or by phone at 5020, and I will see you there.
Paul R. Beezley, Faculty Senate President
Phones still are not completely fixed. . .

Due to recent lightning strikes, the University voice mail system has been experiencing problems. A couple of key identifiable issues are: the improper functioning of voice mail lights and the improper voice mail greeting received when checking voice mail. As we continue to work towards correcting these issues, we ask that everyone periodically check their voice mail even if the voice mail light is not glowing. It is also possible that after checking your voice mail, your voice mail light will remain lit.

Additionally, if you check your voice mail and receive a greeting other than the one you recorded, still proceed with the same steps as before and you will still gain access to your individual voice mail. We apologize for the inconvenience and are working to resolve these and other issues relative to the telephone system.

Thank you, Vinson Houston, Acting Vice-President for Information Technology

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Get Notified for Campus Emergencies

If you want to be on the JSU Emergency Alert System, please follow these steps:

1. Go to [www.jsu.edu](http://www.jsu.edu)
2. Click on MyJSU and log into your account
3. Look under Featured Links (far left column)
4. Under Banner Links, click on Self Service Banner
5. Click on Personal Information
6. Click on Update Addresses and Phones
7. Look for Mailing Address. Next to mailing is Phones
8. Under phones click on Primary (in blue)
9. Enter today's date in the valid from this date tab
10. Scroll down to Phone Type
11. Click on the pull down tab next to the first Select and choose cell phone (You MUST select cell phone to be notified)
12. Now enter the phone number that you would like to have called during an emergency. Even though you chose cell phone, you can put any phone number you wish in here. For instance, if you have no cell service in the building you might want to list your office number. You can have multiple "cell phones" listed, too. So, it will try to call you office, your home and your cell phone, if you want!
13. Click Submit
14. The number you provided under cell phone will be number called during tornado warnings and other life threatening emergencies.

Police Chief Giddy stated that nearly everyone at Auburn opted OFF the system after they received too many warnings. He said he would not make the same mistake. He promised the notification would only be for EMERGENCIES. You can, by the way, go in and remove the cell phone number if you feel the service is not helpful.
Degenerate States

Predictions

- "Computers in the future may weigh no more than 1.5 tons." Popular Mechanics, 1949.
- "I think there is a world market for maybe five computers." Thomas Watson, chairman of IBM, 1943.
- "I have traveled the length and breadth of this country and talked with the best people, and I can assure you that data processing is a fad that won’t last out the year." The editor in charge of business books for Prentice Hall, 1957.
- "But what is it good for?" Engineer at the Advanced Computing Systems Division of IBM, 1968, commenting on the microchip.
- "There is no reason anyone would want a computer in their home." Ken Olson, president, chairman and founder of Digital Equipment Corp., 1977.
- "This ‘telephone’ has too many shortcomings to be seriously considered as a means of communication. The device is inherently of no value to us." Western Union internal memo, 1876.
- "The wireless music box has no imaginable commercial value. Who would pay for a message sent to nobody in particular?" David Sarnoff’s associates in response to his urgings for investment in the radio in the 1920s.
- "The concept is interesting and well-formed, but in order to earn better than a ‘C,’ the idea must be feasible." A Yale University management professor in response to Fred Smith’s paper proposing reliable overnight delivery service. (Smith went on to found Federal Express Corp.)
- "Who the hell wants to hear actors talk?" H.M. Warner, Warner Brothers, 1927.
- "I’m just glad it’ll be Clark Gable who’s falling on his face and not Gary Cooper." Gary Cooper on his decision not to take the leading role in "Gone with the Wind."

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.