Well, one can tell that the semester is about to start by the length of this newsletter. It is a change from the typical "summer" newsletter.

Enrollments are looking good. Our first semester chemistry laboratory sections are completely filled. Physics laboratories are over-loaded. Geography has nearly full lectures. Enrollments look great, and the Dean tells me that numbers appear to be up across the entire college. We are going to need more space and faculty if JSU does achieve that magic enrollment number of 10,000. I know that we are often criticized for our "inefficient" use of space. Some of our laboratories are not used "around the clock." However, this is not always under our control. A chemistry laboratory (CY108) was scheduled for 9:00 AM until noon on Fridays. Not a single student enrolled in the section! It is rather difficult to be efficient about the use of a laboratory in this instance.

Enjoy the final week of "summer."
-- Lou

**Department News**

**A NO-WORK Week-end**
Due to the campus wide power outage this weekend (August 14th and 15th), all campus computer and network resources will be unavailable until power is restored on Sunday evening. E-mail will continue to function until about midnight Friday.

**Annual Faculty Meeting**
Monday, 23 August at 8:00 A.M. in Leone Cole Auditorium (with coffee and pastries at 7:30 in the foyer). We are not certain what we will be told. We already know there are no raises. ☹

**Departmental Meeting**
We will have a departmental meeting in 201 Martin Hall following the Annual Faculty Meeting (starting around 10:00 AM).

**MESC (Marine Environmental Sciences Consortium) Meeting**
I’d like to call a meeting on Aug 24th at 11:00 am (in the Joint Conference Room) for those interested in working together on projects involving the $5 million initiatives set forth by the BP grant to MESC. We need to know who will be attending the workshops in September and what projects we can work upon. Thanks, Frank Romano.
AAG Annual Meeting - Call for Papers
The Association of American Geographers are calling for papers (abstracts due by 20 October) for the annual meeting, 12-16 April 2011 in Seattle, Washington. More information is on their website: www.aag.org.

ACS Local Sections - Tuskegee University Joint Meeting
The local sections of the American Chemical Society in Alabama have partnered with Tuskegee University's Chemistry Department to host a joint meeting with the current ACS President on the campus of Tuskegee University. Student Chapters of the ACS (formerly known as SAACS) are encouraged to display a poster during the Student Chapter sponsored poster session. Please contact Dr. Michael Curry at Currym@tuskegee.edu for poster size requirements and award details. I look forward to your department's presence and participation on September 14-15.

Grant News

National Science Foundation - Sedimentary Geology and Paleobiology
Full Proposal Deadline Date: January 16, 2011
Expected Number of Awards: 40
Estimated Total Program Funding: $6,000,000
Award Ceiling: $500,000
Award Floor: $30,000
http://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=13691

National Science Foundation - Earth Sciences: Instrumentation and Facilities
Full Proposal Deadline Date: February 9, 2011
Expected Number of Awards: 60
Estimated Total Program Funding: $7,000,000
Award Ceiling: $
Award Floor: $
http://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=6186

National Science Foundation - Geobiology and Low-Temperature Geochemistry
Full Proposal Deadline Date: January 16, 2011
Expected Number of Awards: 40
Estimated Total Program Funding: $5,200,000
Award Ceiling: $
Award Floor: $
http://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=13689

This grant information is courtesy of Allison Newton who asks if she is being missed in Martin Hall.
**PEEHIP, Humana/CompBenefits Open Enrollment Reminder**
The last day to enroll and/or submit, on campus, changes to your PEEHIP Insurance, as well as the Humana/CompBenefits Vision plan is Tuesday, August 31, 2010. All forms mailed to PEEHIP must be postmarked no later than August 31, 2010. Members will be allowed to enroll and/or make changes to their PEEHIP Insurance plan ONLINE ONLY through SEPTEMBER 10 (assuming you have the on-line PIN number!)

**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. After registering, 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. UPD has updated the parking rules and regulations. These updates can be viewed online at [http://www.jsu.edu/police/traffic.html](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](http://www.jsu.edu/police/docs/map.pdf). Please contact UPD at (256) 782-5050 for any questions.

**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](http://www.innovativeeducators.org/product_p/617.htm) or contact the Office of Distance Education at dlhelp@jsu.edu.

**2010-2011 Academic Year Holidays**
Dr. Meehan has authorized the following official holidays for the 2010-11 school year:
- Monday, September 6, 2010- Labor Day (1 Day)
- Wednesday-Friday, November 24 - 26, 2010 - Thanksgiving (3 Days)
- Thursday-Friday, December 23, 2010 - January 1, 2011- Christmas & New Year’s Day (7 Days) (Return to work Monday, January 3 , 2011)
- Monday, January 17, 2011- Martin Luther King, Jr. Day (1 Day)
- March 14 - March 18, 2011 Mon - Fri Spring Holidays (5 Days)
- Monday, May 30, 2011- Memorial Day (1 Day)
- Monday July 4, 2011- Independence Day (1 Day)
Other News

Quilt Exhibition
The Piecemakers quilting group at St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Jacksonville is presenting a quilt exhibition on Saturday, August 28 from 10AM to 4 PM. The exhibition is a celebration of 10 years of quilting fellowship. It will feature work by current members and a display of heirloom pieces from their families. It will be held at St. Luke's, located one block southeast of the Square on Church St. Admission is free, but monetary donations will be accepted to benefit Jacksonville Christian Outreach Center. (My wife, Sue Ann, is a member of the group - hence the free publicity. ☺ - Lou)

Degenerate States

Great Truths that Children Must Learn:
1) No matter how hard you try, you can’t baptize cats.
2) When your Mom is mad at your Dad, don’t let her brush your hair.
3) If your sister hits you, don’t hit her back. They always catch the second person.
4) Never ask your three-year old brother to hold a tomato.
5) You can’t trust dogs to watch your food.
6) Don’t sneeze when someone is cutting your hair.
7) Never hold a Dust-Buster and a cat at the same time.
8) You can’t hide a piece of broccoli in a glass of milk.
9) Don’t wear polka-dot underwear under white shorts.
10) The best place to be when you’re sad is Grandpa’s lap.

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.