The big news on campus is that our "head count" has reached a record high. It is 9504, up 153 from Fall 2009. However, it is only up 23 from Fall 2008 (2009 was a down year). So, you might say it is only up an average of 10 per year. It will be quite a while before we make that magic number of 10,000. However, if I am fair, I can plot the numbers from 2002 until this year, 2010, and I get the graph shown above. The slope indicates that we are gaining 72 students by head count per year. So, it is still another 6 or 7 years before we hit 10,000 and the current rate of growth. You could argue that student FTE is more representative than head count—and it is strange that we are not given the FTE number for 2010. However, if you plot the student numbers by FTE since 2002 (and without 2010), you see a slightly different graph (shown at right). By FTE we are only adding less than 9 students FTE per year. At a 0.1% growth rate, I would judge that as essentially flat. (The data are courtesy of the JSU Factbook.)

-- Lou
Department News

Meeting of Chemists
The chemists will meet with Lou on Friday, September 10 at 11:15 for a short meeting to discuss a 100 level honors section of chemistry. We will meet in Lou’s office.

Meeting of Geographers
The geographers will meet with Lou on Friday, September 10 at 3:00 for a short meeting to discuss how will can compare our majors with other geography students in the US.

COOSA VALLEY CHAPTER of the Alabama Archaeological Society Yearly Report
The Coosa Valley Chapter has had a successful series of monthly meetings this past year. All of the meetings are held at 7:00 PM in Room 142 in Martin Hall.

· On January 28, Reverend Monty Clendenin gave a presentation on the controversial Oxford Exchange stone mound and the Davis Farm earthen temple mound issue.
· At our February 25th meeting, Dr. Phil Koerper gave a presentation on the Creek Indian War Tallaseehatchee Massacre Site, 1Ca162.
· On March 25th, Dr. Richard Kania discussed the Maine’s 1605 George Waymouth expedition.
· At our final spring meeting on April 29th, Tommy Hudson presented an informative talk on stone mounds and walls of Georgia.
· On May 27 the Coosa Valley club members and my JSU May Term Field school class held a picnic on the Bain’s Gap Site, 1Ca625 along Choccolocco Creek in Calhoun County. We celebrated a successful field class that uncovered numerous post stains and two early Mississippian storage features.

Our next on campus meeting will be on Thursday (30 Sept.) in Room 142 Martin Hall. We already have several interesting guest speakers scheduled for the fall. For more information, please contact me at Holstein@jsu.edu.

Faculty Travel and Self Improvement Grants
Applications are due to Lisa Williams’ office by Monday 27 September (this is a couple of day EARLIER than I guessed it would be last week.) Please make certain that you make this deadline! Rules for the grant applications and the PDF form can be obtained at the website: http://www.jsu.edu/academicaffairs/travel_grant.html

Note: Although there has been no word about this being the ONLY request for proposals (historically there are two each year), I would assume this will be the ONLY request this year. The University is anticipating very tight finances this year with the end of the recovery payments made to JSU.
Weather Updates

When I get frustrated, I go over to Sparkman Hall and collect the weather data. The plots above are not very elegant, but they show the average temperature (°F) and the average wind speed (mph) for each day from 18 July through 1 September. The temperatures are getting cooler and the wind speed is picking up a bit (the average has moved up from 2.8 to 3.0 mph). What amazes me is the number of days that the AVERAGE temperature for the day and night is above 85°F. The cooler days over the past week-end were a pleasant reminder of the great weather we will soon get in autumn.

University News

JSU's new “Where You Are Going” website goes live
JSU went live with its new online orientation website that will reside permanently at www.whereyouaregoing.com. The project was a collaborative effort between JSU students, faculty and staff, with funding from Washington. Check it out and see what kind of website you get when you combine JSU and $200,000.

Degenerate States

Running Repairs
Bubba staggered home very late after an evening with his drinking buddy, Rick. He took off his shoes to avoid waking his wife, Mary Anne. He tiptoed as quietly as he could toward the stairs leading to their upstairs bedroom, but misjudged the bottom step. As he caught himself by grabbing the banister, his body swung around and he landed heavily on his rump. A whiskey bottle in each back pocket broke and made the landing especially painful. Managing not to yell, Bubba sprung up, pulled down his pants, and looked in the hall mirror to see that his backside was cut and bleeding. He managed to quietly find a full box of Band-Aids and began putting a Band-Aid as best he could on each place he saw blood. He then hid the now almost empty Band-Aid box and shuffled and stumbled his way to bed.

In the morning, Bubba woke up to see Mary Ann staring at him from across the room. She said, "You were drunk again last night weren’t you Bubba?" Bubba said, "Why would you say such a thing?" "Well," Mary Ann said, "it could be the open front door, it could be the broken glass at the bottom of the stairs, it could be the drops of blood trailing through the house, it could be your bloodshot eyes, but mostly... it’s the Band-Aids stuck on the hall mirror!"
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.