Well, I had one of my nice chats with the Dean. Among other things, we discussed teaching in May. He said that he was asked to make a presentation at the next meeting of the Deans to discuss May 6 week courses being compensated as they were in the past. I suspect the Dean is going to be successful. So, that is good news for Chemistry. I also asked about teaching two courses in May (and being compensated for the second course). Although that is technically within the new rules, the Dean was adamant that he would not permit it in Arts and Sciences. He said teaching 6 credits in 4 weeks is equivalent to teaching 24 credits in the Fall semester. He added, “Unless someone was willing to demonstrate to him how they teach 24 credits in the Fall, I will not consider 6 credits in May.” His reasons are sound. Teaching 6 credits in 4 weeks is 1.5 credits per week. Teaching 24 credits in a 15 week Fall semester is almost the same (1.6 credit per week). So, do not plan on teaching any extra this summer—unless you want me to schedule you for 24 credits this spring!

Speaking of the Spring teaching schedule. I put out a preliminary schedule. Many of you gave Tracy feed-back, asking for a change in courses, changes in time and changes in room. Thank you. I have just finished a revised schedule. Tracy will circulate it next week. Again, please look over the revised schedule and make certain that you are happy with it. We are running out of time slots for large classes. Room 234 is used almost all day, everyday. The number crunchers should be happy with your credit hour production. ☺

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Lou

Department News

Scholarly Accomplishments for BOT Report
I need your accomplishments for July, August and September for the Board of Trustees Report. Please send this to Lou by Friday 24 September. The Dean informs me that this quarterly report was created to maintain an academic presence at the Board meetings. Your contributions to that “presence” are appreciated.

Call for Promotion and Tenure
Faculty who are eligible to apply for promotion and/or tenure may pickup binders in the VPASA Office, #235 Bibb Graves. Please refer to the website http://www.jsu.edu/academicaffairs/promotiontenure/index.html for guidelines and schedule.
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](http://www.jsu.edu/academicaffairs/travel_grant.html)

Note: The Dean said they would see after this round, if any money remains they will have a second call for these travel grants. I would anticipate that this is ONLY round!

Historic Davis Farm House Lost; But Significant History of Property Not Forgotten
By Valerie Glesner and Harry O. Holstein

On September 1, 2010, the historic antebellum Davis farmhouse was maliciously burned to the ground. Although this criminal act effectively erased another important structure from the Calhoun County landscape, it did not erase the natural beauty of the property and the remaining archaeological resources that lie beneath it. The Davis farm property bridges both prehistoric and historical time periods. Initially, beginning as early as 8500 BC, migratory bands of Native Americans chose to live at this location for many of the same reasons the historical landowners chose to live there: a large spring next to a major waterway, fertile land, and abundant game surrounding the area. Two thousand years ago an Indian village was well established along both sides of Choccolocco Creek in the vicinity of the former Davis farmhouse.

In previous discussions, we have suggested utilizing a portion of the property as an I-20 Welcome Center. The area necessary for a Welcome Center would consist of a narrow strip of land running from the south edge of I-20, and along the west side of Boiling Springs Road to Choccolocco Creek. By creating a narrow strip of park-like land, the proposed facility could be tied into the City of Oxford sports complex on the other side of Choccolocco Creek by utilizing the historic iron truss bridge as part of a walking trail. This would make a wonderful I-20 welcome center, regional information center, local museum, and park surrounding the spring. Since there are excellent photographs of the original house from the 1935 HABS architectural survey, a replica could be constructed on the original footprint, this antebellum plantation replica, spring and surrounding park could then become the focal point to attract thousands of tourists traveling I-20 along with local citizens alike to this historic property in Oxford, Alabama.

The sad part of this whole situation is that Mrs. Davis repeatedly told Pete Conroy, Director of the JSU’s Environmental Policy and Information Center, she too wanted her lovely house preserved, made public and if a museum was ever placed in her house, she had only one request: Please have one room set aside for her beloved "porcelain and rag doll collection". Please, let's make Mrs. Davis dream come true!

[This was severely edited from the full version to fit the newsletter format—please see Harry Holstein for the full article. Also, a suspect was arrested for setting fire to the Davis house, and he admitted doing it. That bit of good news is in the Friday Anniston Star. - Lou]

University News

Academe New Faculty Reception

Academe invites all faculty to attend a reception honoring our new faculty on Tuesday, September 28, 2010 at 3:15 p.m. in Room 1101-B, Houston Cole Library. Please plan to join us there!
Employment Opportunities

Note: These are sent to the Head, and I am passing them as information. I do not want ANYONE to leave. However, these might be offer opportunities that are special or these might be appropriate for a friend or colleague or former student. (The increase in these offers is a good sign of economic recovery!)

The Department of Geography at the University of Tennessee Knoxville seeks applicants for a tenure-track, Assistant Professor position in Transportation Geography to begin in August 2011. We seek a candidate with expertise in research in transportation geography with an emphasis on quantitative and computational approaches that will strengthen our programs in transportation, spatial analysis, and GIScience. A Ph.D. is required at the time of appointment. Apply electronically or by conventional mail to Dr. Shih-Lung Shaw, Search Committee Chair (ssshaw@utk.edu). Review of applications will begin January 3, 2011 and will continue until the position is filled.

The Geography Department Middlebury College, VT seeks to fill one 3-year term position at the instructor (ABD) or Assistant Professor (Ph.D) level. We seek candidates with demonstrated teaching ability in GIS, a commitment to undergraduate liberal arts education, and an active research program. Review of applications will begin November 15, 2010 and continue until the position is filled. Apply: Peter Nelson, Chair, Department of Geography, Middlebury College, Middlebury, VT 05753. All materials must be submitted in hard copy; no email submissions will be accepted. (Don't forget to set your watch back a few years if you go there for an interview. ☺ --Lou)

Conferences and Meetings

Retrospectives on Archaeology: Recent Events, Field Schools and Issues in Archaeology
A presentation by Dr. Harry O. Holstein to the JSU Archaeology Club, Thursday 30 September, Room 142 Martin Hall. Everyone is welcome.

Grant Opportunities

USDA, Department of Agriculture, Forest Service
2011 National Urban and Community Forestry Challenge Cost Share Grant Program
Grant
http://www07.grants.gov/search/search.do?&mode=VIEW&oppId=57346

Community News

Anniston Museum Offers FREE Weekend
The Anniston Museum of Natural History invites JSU employees and their families to FREE admission to the Museum on Saturday, September 25 from 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. and Sunday, September 26 from 1 - 5 p.m. Simply bring your JSU ID or pay stub as proof of employment. Either day, you can walk on the nature trails, stroll the Bird of Prey Trail, see koi swim in the beautiful courtyard pool or sit in a serene demonstration wildlife garden. The Museum Store will be open also, with items from 'round the globe.
Degenerate States

Traffic Control Conversations

• Tower: "TWA 2341. For noise abatement turn right 45 Degrees." TWA 2341: "Centre, we are at 35,000 feet. How much noise can we make up here?" Tower: "Sir, have you ever heard the noise a 747 makes when it hits a 727?"

• From an unknown aircraft waiting in a very long takeoff queue: "I’m @#$% bored!" Ground Traffic Control: "Last aircraft transmitting, identify yourself immediately!" Unknown aircraft: "I said I was @#$% bored, not @#$% stupid!"

• A DC-10 had come in a little hot and had an exceedingly long roll out after touching down. San Jose Tower noted: "American 751, make a hard right turn at the end of the runway, if you are able. If you are not able, take the Guadeloupe exit off Highway 101, make a right at the lights and return to the airport."

• Tower: "Eastern 702, cleared for takeoff, contact Departure on frequency 124.7". Eastern 702: "Tower, Eastern 702 switching to Departure. By the way, after we lifted off we saw some kind of dead animal on the far end of the runway." Tower: "Continental 635, cleared for takeoff behind Eastern 702, contact Departure on frequency 124.7. Did you copy that report from Eastern 702?" BR Continental 635: "Continental 635, cleared for takeoff, roger; and yes, we copied Eastern … we’ve already notified our caterers."

• The pilot of a Cherokee 180 was told by the tower to hold short of the active runway while a DC-8 landed. The DC-8 landed, rolled out, turned around, and taxied back past the Cherokee. A comedian in the DC-8 crew got on the radio and said, "What a cute little plane. Did you make it all by yourself?" The Cherokee pilot came back: "I made it out of DC-8 parts. Another landing like yours and I’ll have enough parts for another one."

• While taxiing at Gatwick Airport, the crew of a US Air flight made a wrong turn and came nose to nose with a United 727. An irate female ground controller lashed out at the US Air crew: "US Air 2771, where the hell are you going?! I told you to turn right onto Charlie taxiway! You turned right on Delta! Stop right there. I know it’s difficult for you to tell the difference between C and D, but get it right!" Continuing her rage she shouted: "God! Now you’ve screwed everything up! It’ll take forever to sort this out! You stay right there and don’t move till I tell you to! You can expect progressive taxi instructions in about half an hour, and I want you to go exactly where I tell you, when I tell you, and how I tell you! You got that, US Air 2771?" "Yes, ma’am," the humbled pilot responded. The ground control communications frequency fell terribly silent after the verbal bashing of US Air 2771. Nobody wanted to engage the irate ground controller in her current state of mind. But then an unknown pilot broke the silence and keyed his microphone, asking: "Wasn’t I married to you once?"

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: ts casey@jsu.edu or phone (256) 782-5232.