We are well into the Fall semester and I think I have the Spring semester schedule finalized. I thank each of you for your comments and checking that I did not have you teaching in two places at the same time. It would be nice (for both Tracy and me) if we decided this schedule was “it” and we would teach the same way for the next five years. However, that is not a very dynamic way to teach. So, while I complain about spending too much time on the schedule, I am glad to see that we are constantly improving and modifying our teaching.

I will be out of the office on Friday (today). Kelly will be acting head. You can bring your travel grant questions to him. If you want answers, bring them to Tracy. 😊 I will be back on Monday and will see that all the grant applications are signed and delivered to the Dean’s office.

Enjoy your week-end. Check out the Anniston Museum if you have not been there in a while (see notice below).

-- Lou

**Department News**

**Chemists Bring Home the Bacon**

Nixon Mwebi and Brent Helms, together with four students (Brian Ogendi, Samantha Gacasan, Calvin Scott, and Gennilee Feldtman) attended the American Chemical Society (ACS) Local Section meeting on 15 September in Tuskegee. The students brought back a check for $100 to support the JSU student chapter of ACS. Good work!

**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](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!
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.

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!)

Department of Geography at the University of Kentucky

is pleased to be conducting searches to fill three faculty positions. One is in GIS and two are in Physical Geography. For more information, contact Dr. Matthew Zook at Donald.mason@uky.edu

Department of Geography at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville,
seeks one full-time instructor or two part-time instructors for spring 2011. Direct inquiries and letters of application to Carol Harden, Professor and Interim Head (charden@utk.edu).

The University of Texas at Austin.

The Department of Geography and the Environment invites applications for a tenure-track assistant professor to begin in Fall 2011, with a research specialization in GIScience.

University of Minnesota Department of Geography

Currently has two assistant professor searches. For more information, contact Abdi I. Samatar, Professor and Chair, at samat001@umn.edu

University of Maryland, Department of Geography

is seeking applicants for our two faculty positions (Assistant and/or Associate Professor rank) in the areas of Human Dimension of Global Change (HDGC) and/or Geospatial Information Sciences (GIS) . Further information on these positions and on academic research programs of the Department can be found at http://www.geog.umd.edu.
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.

Student News

Gamma Tau Upsilon Meeting
There is an open meeting for anyone interested in geography on Wednesday, 29 September, 11:30 to 1:30 in 216 Martin Hall. If geography is not enough to entice you to attend, there will be free food!

AAG Marble-Boyle Undergraduate Achievement Awards
recognize excellence in academic performance by undergraduate students who are putting forth a strong effort to bridge geographic science and computer science as well as to encourage other students to embark upon similar programs. Each of the Marble-Boyle Undergraduate Achievement Awards consists of a cash prize of $700, a $200 credit for books published by the ESRI Press and a certificate of recognition. All Marble-Boyle awardees will be eligible to compete for an additional research fellowship award that is being offered every two years by the MicroGIS Foundation for Spatial Analysis (MFSA). In addition to access to research facilities, the MFSA fellowship will cover all transportation and housing costs for up to four months of work with MFSA in Lausanne, Switzerland. For complete information about eligibility, criteria, and application procedures, please refer to the AAG webpage describing the award at http://www.aag.org/cs/marble-boyle.

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

Test for Smart People – Do You Qualify?
Your answer to the following four questions will tell you whether you are qualified to be a professional. The questions are NOT that difficult. But don’t read the answers UNTIL you have answered the question!
1. How do you put a giraffe into a refrigerator?
   Answer: Open the refrigerator, put in the giraffe, and close the door. This question tests whether you tend to do simple things in an overly complicated way.
2. How do you put an elephant into a refrigerator?
   Answer: Open the refrigerator, take out the giraffe, put in the elephant and close the door. This tests your ability to think through the repercussions of your previous actions.
3. The Lion King is hosting an animal conference. All the animals attend except one. Which animal does not attend?
Answer: The Elephant. The elephant is in the refrigerator. You just put him in there. This tests your memory.
4. There is a river you must cross but it is used by crocodiles, and you do not have a boat. How do you manage it?
Answer: You jump in and swim across. Have you not been listening? All the crocodiles are attending the Lion King’s meeting. This tests whether you learn quickly from your mistakes.

[According to Anderson Consulting Worldwide, around 90% of the professionals they tested got all questions wrong, but many preschoolers got several correct. Anderson Consulting says this conclusively disproves the theory that most professionals have the brains of a four-year-old.]

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.