Well, I am on my way to a strategic planning meeting for Sigma Xi. The once prestigious honor society for science research is feeling its age. As an organization that refused to change—it was rapidly growing in the 1960's and early 70's—it is now in danger of becoming irrelevant. The growth peaked in the mid 70's. The membership has been falling for the past 20+ years. The society held tight to the "core values" and what always worked before should work tomorrow. Fortunately or unfortunately, the world changes. If we do not change, we get left behind. So, I will spend the entire week-end discussing what changes have to be considered and which changes are essential. Sigma Xi will have a major up-hill climb to get out of its current hole and to regain some of the prestige it once held. It will also take a lot of courage and effort to make the major changes necessary for survival.

It is with an organization like Sigma Xi that one learns that the phrases: “we can't take the chance” or "we have never done that before" or "it's too ambitious" or "it's against tradition" or the ultimate "if it aint broke, don't fix it" are extremely damaging. They are restrictive phrases and prevent growth. I would, personally, love to see those phrases thrown out of the English language. We need to constantly be looking for new and better ways to do things. Change is not an option, it is essential. Bruce Barton stated: "When you are through changing, you are through."

Change is not easy and we sometimes forget how important it is. Even JSU is changing. We all are expected to contribute to that change. When change gets to be too much and it is more than we can deliver, you can recall the famous line from George Carlin, "I put a dollar in one of those change machines. Nothing changed!"
-- Lou
P.S. Kelly is acting-Head in my absence. Thanks, Kelly.

**Department News**

**Bake Sale and Blood Drive a Success**
Those who requested specifics on the Bake Sale and Blood Drive: 56 people attempted to donate blood, and 47 units were actually collected. 22 individuals were first time donors. Great work the Red Cross! Also, the ACS Student Affiliate group made about $120 on the bake sale.

**Physics in Action**
If you want to see some physics in action, check out the "Hamster Water Wheel" on the TMB lawn Oct. 23 (homecoming and family day).
JSU Community Orchestra
Sunday (Oct. 17) at 3:00 at First Methodist Church in Anniston. Laura Weinkauf will be in the 2nd violin section. The program includes Mozart, Grieg, a piece by JSU’s newest professor of music composition and an arrangement of Tony Bennett’s “When Joanna Loved Me” featuring Tracy Tyler (retired music faculty member) on vibraphone.

External Grants - a JSU Update on Procedures
As part of the Extended New Faculty Orientation, Allison Newton will meet with faculty to discuss External Grants and Proposals. I have scheduled two meeting days and times but faculty attend only one meeting. Thursday or Friday, October 21 or 22 at 3:00 p.m. in Bibb Graves Gold Room. The meetings are open to any faculty that may wish to attend. Due to limited seating I am requesting that faculty contact me (Cathy Rose) at crose@jsu.edu or phone 5284 if they plan to attend.

University News

Celebrate Autumn at Canyon Fest 2010
Celebrate Autumn at Canyon Fest 2010, a celebration of art and nature at the Little River Canyon Center, on Saturday, November 6, 2010, 10:00 - 3:00...Arts, Exhibits, Demonstrations, Hikes, Children’s Activities, Music, Great Food and More!!

JSU Trustees to Meet on October 18
The Jacksonville State University Board of Trustees will hold their quarterly meeting on Monday, October 18, 2010 at 10 a.m. on the eleventh floor of the Houston Cole Library.

JSU Drama to Present Tuesdays With Morrie Oct. 21-24
Mitch is a career driven journalist who reconnects with his former professor, Morrie Schwartz, who is now in a battle for his life with Lou Gehrig’s disease. What follows is a class in the meaning of life. Come join the JSU Drama Department October 21-24 as Eric Traynor directs JSU graduate Phil Pyle and JSU English faculty member, Dr. Steven Whittom, in Tuesdays with Morrie, a drama by Jeffrey Hatcher & Mitch Albom, based on the book by Mitch Albom. WHERE: Ernest Stone Performing Arts Center, Mainstage, Jacksonville State University Corner of Church and Eleventh. WHEN: October 21, 22, 23 at 7:00 p.m. and October 24 at 2:00 p.m. HOW MUCH: Adults: $10.00; Sr. Citizen & JSU Personnel $8.00; Students, Military, and youth $5.00. RESERVATIONS: Recommended - Call 256-782-5648

Employment Opportunities

VIRGINIA, BLACKSBURG
The department of Geography at Virginia Tech is seeking applicants for two tenure-track or tenured positions at the assistant or associate level. Full information concerning the department and university can be found at: http://www.geography.vt.edu
Winter Study in India

The University of Iowa is now accepting applications for the 2010-2011 India Winterim program. This intensive, three-week field-based program is open to students of all majors. This program provides students with the opportunity to learn from and directly interact with leading social entrepreneurs, non-profit organizations and academic institutions within the diverse cultural, socioeconomic, and geographic mosaic that is India. Through the India Winterim program students participate in one of 13 courses investigating a wide variety of topics related to Entrepreneurship, Performing Arts, Engineering, Education, Social Justice, Public Health, Sustainable Development and much more. Each course is led by one or two University of Iowa professors. All courses carry 3 semester hours of upper level undergraduate or graduate level credit at the University of Iowa and with appropriate prior approval can be transferred to any other institution of higher education in the USA. Students can find more information, including an application and course descriptions, at: http://www.uiowa.edu/~geog/india.

Application deadline: Applications will be accepted on a rolling, space-available basis until November 1st, 2010, although priority consideration will be given to applications received by October 15th, 2010. Program fee: The estimated program fee, a best buy, for participants for the winter 2010-2011 session is $2,400. Higher fees may apply for some sections to reflect higher costs due to specialized activities. The program fee includes tuition, orientation, lodging in India, all program-related transportation in India, translators and field guides, excursions and cultural programs, and conference registration, luncheons, and banquets. Round-trip airfare is not included in the program fee. Dates: The estimated program dates are December 27, 2010 - January 16, 2011. Please direct questions to: Cory Petersen, India Winterim Program Assistant, cory-petersen@uiowa.edu

Degenerate States

Welcome to the 21st Century

Our communication - Wireless
Our phones - Cordless
Our cooking - Fireless
Our food - Fatless
Our sweets - Sugarless
Our labor - Effortless
Our relations - Fruitless
Our attitude - Careless
Our feelings - Heartless
Our politics - Shameless
Our education - Worthless
Our mistakes - Countless
Our arguments - Baseless
Our youth - Jobless
Our women - Topless
Our boss - Brainless
Our jobs - Thankless
Our needs - Endless
Our situation - Hopeless
Our salaries - Less and less

[Contributed by Nouredine Zettili.]

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.