Well, this week-end is homecoming. There are many activities and I assume that everyone will be involved in something. The Board of Visitors has been invited to campus for the week-end, and that will keep me busy. There is also a play, activities, and oh, yeah, a football game. I am rather certain that football is the sports game they play with the pointy ball. 😊 Seriously, I hope it is a great week-end for everyone.

I will draw you attention to the seminar on grant applications. There are new rules in place about submitting grant applications at JSU. You should be aware that there are new deadlines for submitting grant applications. Feel free to contact Allison Newton (a former adjunct in our Department before going over to the "dark side"). She will help you work through the new regulations.

Congratulations to Jan for his publication in Physical Review (see below). As a physicist, I admire those who can accomplish a publication in Phys Rev.

Finally, I will ask each of you to consider submitting a proposal (or a joint proposal from the group) for the on-line open lectures. There are many topics in our Department that are important for the world and developing high quality videos to communicate those ideas is important. Recall the video I showed at the start of the academic year with the football player and the drummer. Imagine a video on environmental, chemical, geographical, anthropologic, physical or archaeologic science that has a similar impact. Wow! However, it won't happen if you do not submit a proposal.

We are half way through the semester. Keep up the enthusiasm and support of our students.

-- Lou

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Department News

Now in Print
Andrew D. Ritchie, Mark A. MacDonald, Peng Zhang, Mary Anne White, Matt Beekman, Jan Gryko, and George S. Nolas, X-ray absorption spectroscopy studies of local structure and electronic properties of Na_2Si_136 (0 x 24) clathrates. Rhys Rev B 82, 155207-1:9, 2010
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).

On-line Open Lectures
Office of Distance Education invites faculty to participate in the JSU Open Lecture Project, which is designed to exhibit the knowledge and expertise of JSU’s faculty. Our goal is to facilitate the free distribution of knowledge via iTunes U and support the lifelong learning of our students, staff, faculty, alumni and the greater learning community. Interested faculty from all disciplines and skill levels are encouraged to submit proposals. Prior podcasting experience is NOT required.

Each proposal should be for a "collection" of audio/video podcasts covering a single topic or series of related topics. Each collection should consist of 8 to 15 lectures, with each lecture lasting 3 to 10 minutes. Proposals should include a brief abstract (approximately 350 characters) and a summary of the topic(s) to be covered (no more than 1000 characters). Note: Proposals for multiple collections will be accepted, but should be submitted separately. Proposals must be submitted by 12:00 p.m., November 2, 2010. Selections will be announced via email by the Office of Distance Education on November 11, 2010.

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.

Limited Time Access to Royal Society Journals
The Royal Society would like to invite you to read the high-impact scientific research it has published during the past 350 years at no charge until the end of November.

The Royal Society is one of the oldest learned societies in existence. It is a fellowship of 1,400 outstanding scientists representing all areas of biology, physics, engineering and mathematics, which form a global scientific network of the highest caliber. It exists to expand knowledge, support science and guide policy in the UK, the Commonwealth and all over the world.

- Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society A: Mathematical, Physical and Engineering Sciences, IF 2.295
- Proceedings of the Royal Society A: Mathematical Physical and Engineering Sciences, IF 1.702
- Journal of the Royal Society Interface, IF 4.241
- Interface Focus- NEW for 2011

To access these journals, please visit http://royalsocietypublishing.org/site/subscriptions/trials/access-page.xhtml for an overview of the entire collection.
I attended the Board of Trustees meeting on 18 October and there are a few things that should be mentioned. First, a quorum was not present, so the Board acted a committee-of-the-whole and all actions will have to be approved at the next meeting. (1) Dr. Turner was given the title of Provost (with no change in pay). This has something to do with JSU now offering a doctoral degree (Doctor of Science in Emergency Management). (2) JSU’s 8 point something increase in tuition is the smallest of all Alabama state universities for next year. All other Alabama state universities have double digit percentage increases in tuition. (3) JSU has 5% set aside for proration this year. If the proration exceeds 5%, we can expect some squeezing of our budget. (4) There is continued discussion of a bonus payment in-lieu of a proper pay raise. (5) There is a university goal to increase retention by 4%. I find it interesting that this goal has not been shared with the general faculty. Of course, raising entrance requirements by 2 ACT points could cause JSU to reach this goal. (6) Stephenson Center is being expanded and renovated for students and staff. I think this is the alternative to the “rec center” that students voted against last year. (7) About ½ of the sky boxes have been sold. Despite the record attendance at the stadium opening and an excellent winning record, there has only been a “small increase” in football ticket sales.

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 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 Whitton, 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: Reservations Recommended - Call 256-782-5648
Academe to Host Second Meeting of 2010
Academe will hold its second meeting of the year on Tuesday, October 26, at 3:15 p.m. in 110 3 A, Houston Cole Library. Dr. Donald Prudlo, of the Department of History and Foreign Languages, will share experiences from his recent visit to Rome, Italy, with a group of students from Jacksonville State University and West Georgia University, in his presentation, "Scholarship and the Eternal City." The visit was so successful that another trip is already being planned. You won't want to miss the story that will unfold in words and pictures, so make your plans to attend this meeting of Academe. Faculty, staff, students, and the general public are welcome.

Employment Opportunities

The Association of American Geographers seeks applications and nominations for the People, Place, and Region section editor for the Annals of the Association of American Geographers.

The new section editor will be appointed for a 4.5-year editorial term that will commence on July 1, 2011. The appointment will be made by spring 2011. Applications and nominations must be submitted by January 20, 2011. A letter of application that addresses both qualifications and a vision for the People, Place, and Region section should be accompanied by a complete curriculum vitae. Please e-mail applications or letters of nomination to Journals Managing Editor Robin Maier at rmaier@aag.org.

Department Head and Professor, Geology and Geological Engineering

The Department of Geology and Geological Engineering at the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology invites applications for a 12-month position as Department Head at the Professor level. Individuals interested in this position must apply online at http://sdmines.sdsmt.edu/sdsmt/employment

Seattle, Washington

The Department of Geography in the College of Arts and Sciences at the University of Washington invites applications for a full-time, tenure track position as Assistant Professor in environmental geography or nature-society relations. The successful candidate will also possess a strong background in GIS (Geographic Information Science) and geovisualization, and will augment existing departmental strengths in critical development studies and/or geographies of food and agriculture. end a letter of application and CV, including the names and contact information of three references, to Lucy Jarosz, Search Committee Chair, Department of Geography, Box 353550, Seattle, WA 98195. Review of applications will begin on January 15, 2010.

TENURE-TRACK POSITION IN ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES

Saint Michael’s College seeks to hire a full-time, tenure-track faculty member to start August 2011 in our rapidly growing interdisciplinary Environmental Studies program which brings together faculty in the humanities, pre-professional fields, natural and social sciences. The ideal candidate's research interests will be in physical geography, hydrology, hydrogeology, geomorphology or environmental science with a focus upon water. Candidates must apply online at smcvt.interviewexchange.com
AAG Extends Deadline for Abstracts to Nov. 10
AAG Annual Meeting · April 12-16, 2011 · Seattle, Washington

Degenerate States

Prize Winner
Trevor was a farmer in the fertilized egg business. He had several hundred pullets and about ten roosters to service them. He kept records of his roosters’ performance; any that weren’t up to scratch went into the soup pot and were replaced. To track the roosters’ performance he attached to them tiny bells, each with a different tone. He could sit on the porch and fill out an efficiency report simply by listening. Trevor’s favorite rooster was Gordon, a very fine specimen and a strong performer. But one morning Trevor realized that Gordon’s bell hadn’t rung, so he went to investigate. The other roosters were chasing pullets, bells-a-ringing, but the pullets, hearing the bells, were scuttling for cover. To Trevor’s amazement, Gordon was holding his bell in his beak so it wouldn’t ring. He’d sneak up on one pullet, do his job and then sneak on to the next.

Trevor was so proud of Gordon he entered him in the County Fair rooster competition. Gordon was a sensation with the judges and they gave him two awards, the No-Bell Piece Prize and the Pullet-Surprise. The talk around the fair was that Gordon was a great politician in the making: after all, he had won two coveted awards by simply “taking advantage of” the populace when they weren’t paying attention.

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.