Well this is the final issue of the Departmental Newsletter for 2010. As the year winds down, there is not a great deal of news. The Board of Trustees report is included in this issue of the newsletter. I appreciate the high quality work done by each of you. I also appreciate the care and dedication that each of you shows toward teaching. As always, enjoy the time off and relax and let your "batteries recharge."

I want to wish everyone a safe, enjoyable and relaxing holiday season. Those who are traveling, may you arrive safely at your destination and safely return home. For those who are having guests visit them, may the visits be pleasant and too short (you don’t want them too long). May your parties be fun, your days relaxing, your time shared with others be warm and friendly.

2011 looks to be an important year for all of us. The NMR spectrometer will be installed. We will have to, in some way, celebrate the establishment of the Leon and Mary Moore McCluer Professorship in Geography. The chemists have a lot of work with the oil spill in the Gulf. All this, and the year has not yet begun!

Best wishes to everyone for a happy and prosperous New Year.
-- Lou

Department News

Graduation
Fall 2010 Graduation Ceremonies will be Friday, December 17 at Pete Mathews Coliseum. The College of Arts and Sciences and the College of Commerce and Business Administration will confer degrees at 5 p.m.

University News

Christmas Holidays
So far, the official Christmas holidays are 23 December through 2 January. Rumors are that President Meehan will give Wednesday 22 December off. (That is not, yet, official.)
Information Due in by 3 January
So far I have the following items for the January Board of Trustees Report. Please send your contributions to me by 3 January 2011 to be added to this fine list:


Harry O. Holstein and Valerie Glesner, “Sacred American Stone Structure Sites within the Talladega National Forest: Preliminary Research and Possible Explanations as to Their Function and Placement across the Landscape. *Southeastern Archaeological Conference in Lexington, Kentucky, November 2010*


Harry O. Holstein negotiated the purchase of 13 acres of the Shelton Stone Mounds Complex along Whites Gap Road to the Archaeological Conservancy. This was the first stone mound site they have purchased in the United States out of their over 400 land holdings.

Kelly Gregg, “Geoarchaeology” presentation at the November Archaeology Club Meeting.

Laura Weinkauf presented multiple planetarium shows to about 175 different people.
Lou Reinisch attended a Strategic Planning Committee Meeting of Sigma Xi, the Research Society at Research Triangle Park, NC, 15-17 October 2010.

Lou Reinisch attended a Department Chair Workshop of the American Council on Education in Austin, TX 3-6 November 2010.


Student News

JSU Symposium
The online abstract submission form is available now for the 2011 Symposium on the Arts and Sciences website. Students may submit abstracts (up to 450 words) at any time up to the January 28, 2011 deadline. Prizes of $50 are awarded to the best presentations.

Degenerate States

Disorder in Court
Attorney: Are you sexually active?
Witness: No, I just lie there.

Attorney: What is your date of birth?
Witness: July 18th.
Attorney: What year?
Witness: Every year.

Attorney: What gear were you in at the moment of the impact?
Witness: Gucci sweats and Reeboks

Attorney: This myasthenia gravis, does it affect your memory at all?
Witness: Yes.
Attorney: And in what ways does it affect your memory?
Witness: I forget.
Attorney: You forget? Can you give us an example of something you forgot?

Attorney: How old is your son, the one living with you?
Witness: Thirty-eight or thirty-five, I can’t remember which.
Attorney: How long has he lived with you?
Witness: Forty-five years.

Attorney: What was the first thing your husband said to you that morning?
Witness: He said, ‘Where am I, Cathy?’
Attorney: And why did that upset you?
Witness: My name is Susan.
Attorney: Now doctor, isn’t it true that when a person dies in his sleep, he doesn’t know about it until the next morning?
Witness: Did you actually pass the bar exam?

Attorney: The youngest son, the twenty-one-year-old, how old is he?
Witness: Uh, he’s twenty-one.

Attorney: Were you present when your picture was taken?
Witness: Would you repeat the question?

Attorney: So the date of conception (of the baby) was August 8th?
Witness: Yes.
Attorney: And what were you doing at that time?
Witness: Uh....

Attorney: She had three children, right?
Witness: Yes.
Attorney: How many were boys?
Witness: None.
Attorney: Were there any girls?

Attorney: How was your first marriage terminated?
Witness: By death.
Attorney: And by whose death was it terminated?

Attorney: Can you describe the individual?
Witness: He was about medium height and had a beard.
Attorney: Was this a male or a female?

Attorney: Is your appearance here this morning pursuant to a deposition notice which I sent to your attorney?
Witness: No, this is how I dress when I go to work.

Attorney: Doctor, how many of your autopsies have you performed on dead people?
Witness: All my autopsies are performed on dead people.

Attorney: ALL your responses MUST be oral, OK? What school did you go to?
Witness: Oral.

Attorney: Do you recall the time that you examined the body?
Witness: The autopsy started around 8:30 p.m.
Attorney: And Mr. Denton was dead at the time?
Witness: No, he was sitting on the table wondering why I was doing an autopsy on him!

Attorney: Are you qualified to give a urine sample?
Witness: Huh?

Attorney: Doctor, before you performed the autopsy, did you check for a pulse?
Witness: No.
Attorney: Did you check for blood pressure?
Witness: No.
Attorney: Did you check for breathing?
Witness: No.
Attorney: So, then it is possible that the patient was alive when you began the autopsy?
Witness: No.
Attorney: How can you be so sure, Doctor?
Witness: Because his brain was sitting on my desk in a jar.
Attorney: But could the patient have still been alive, nevertheless?
Witness: Yes, it is possible that he could have been alive and practicing law.

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.