Well the great news of the week is that I had the opportunity to meet with Robert Ringer. Robert is the person who spearheaded and significantly contributed to the McCluer Professorship in Geography. Robert is actually a retired chemist, but as a student at JSU, he lived with Professor McCluer and has fond memories of his time at JSU. He now lives in Florida, but was born in Jacksonville and grew up in Valley Head (just north of Fort Payne on I-59). His brother, Raymond, who also contributed to the professorship, still lives in Valley Head. Robert is a warm and wonderful person. I hope that he is able to make the celebration for the professorship being planned for the fall.

The not-so-great news of the week is not worth repeating here.
-- Lou

**Department News**

**Chili Cook-Off**

It is only $5 to participate in the Chili Cook-off. Get your fill of Chili, help determine who makes "the best chili in town." It is a lot of fun and the proceeds go to the American Cancer Society. Mark your calendars for Wednesday, 2 March at 12 noon!

**Annual Faculty Awards Are Now Open for Nominations**

The Faculty Senate is pleased to announce that nominations are sought for the following faculty awards:
- Faculty Scholar Lecturer Award
- Outstanding Teacher Award
- Ringer Faculty Development Award
- Thomas Award for Outstanding Community Education/Service
- Faculty Research Activity

All full-time faculty members are eligible. Nominations by self, students, colleagues or department heads are encouraged. Please refer to Faculty Awards for guidelines. The recipients will be recognized at the Faculty Awards Reception on May 10, 2011.

**Textbook Forms Due**

Your textbook forms are due on MONDAY (21 Feb) for summer and FRIDAY (25 Feb) for Fall. Tracy said very few have been turned in. Do it TODAY.
Why is the Red Balloon Initiative Called “Red Balloon?”

The project at JSU is really part of a larger project of the American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU). According to AASCU, the project is the result of recent drastic cuts in state support, which are thought to be permanent cuts, the increased demands on Colleges and Universities by the government and others to educate an increased percentage of the population and the new technologies that we have available, today. They picked the name “Red Balloon Project” because of a contest that DARPA (Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency) created to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the ARPANET in Dec. 2009. ARPANET was the first network of computers and, like Al Gore, claims to be the creator of the internet. DARPA put 10 large red helium filled weather balloons at 10 locations in the continental US. The first team to locate all ten balloons won $40,000. A team from MIT using the internet and offering $2000 bounty for each correct balloon site reported won in less than 9 hours. AASCU cites the use of the internet and the collective use of many people to solve a problem from the Red Balloon Contest as its guidance and reason for the name. And I bet you thought the name came from the colors of the JSU football team!

![Image of Red Balloon Project]

Other News

Calling All Outdoor Enthusiasts: What's Your Favorite Alabama Outdoor Space?

From Keeping Alabama Forever Wild on al.com

Your entry can be in the form of an essay (no more than 600 words), photo or even a video. It simply needs to represent a place in Alabama with special meaning to you. Send in your entry, along with an approximate address/GPS coordinates/ or the name of the nearest Alabama community to KeepingAlabamaForeverWild@gmail.com. Photos and videos need to include a brief description. All entries must include a line or two describing yourself, along with your address, email address and phone number where we can contact you. We will not publish your personal phone number or email. DEADLINE FOR ENTRY IS FEBRUARY 28, 2011. A selection will be made daily and published on al.com each day from March 1 to Earth Day- April 22, 2011. We will contact you if your submission is chosen to appear on al.com. If you have any questions, contact KeepingAlabamaForeverWild@gmail.com.
University News

Wuhan Scholar Applications Requested
This serves as a call for Wuhan Scholar participants for May 2011. Interested applicants should submit a Professional Development Leave Form to Dr. Joe Delap, Associate Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs no later than March 7. The narrative of proposed project should focus on a topic of interest to Chinese faculty and students.

Academe–Highlights of Galapagos Islands
Jacksonville State University faculty, staff, students, and the public are invited to attend Academe on Monday, February 21, in Room 1103 A and B, Houston Cole Library, at 3:15 p.m. to hear Megan Cardle, a graduate student in biology, share her perspectives of a trip to the Galapagos Islands under the tutelage of Dr. Mark Meade and Dr. Chris Murdock of the Department of Biology. Ms. Cardle will also share lots of pictures of island scenes.

JSU Drama, Music Departments Present Aida
February 17-27
The Jacksonville State University Departments of Drama and Music will present Aida, with music by Elton John and lyrics by Tim Rice, February 17-27 at the Ernest Stone Performing Arts Center. Show dates/times are Thursday-Saturday, February 17-19 and 24-26 at 7 p.m., with 2 p.m. Sunday matinees on February 20 and 27. Tickets are $15 for adults, $12 for senior citizens and JSU personnel, and $10 for students and military. To reserve your seat, please call (256) 782-5648.

NPR’s Jackie Northam Will Deliver Ayers Lecture on Feb. 24
National Public Radio Foreign Affairs Correspondent Jackie Northam will be the speaker at the Ayers Lecture Series on the Jacksonville State University campus on February 24. The event will be at 1:30 p.m. on the 11th floor of Houston Cole Library and is free and open to the public. A veteran journalist with more than two decades of experience covering the world’s hot spots and reporting on international and foreign policy, Northam has received multiple journalism awards during her career, including Associated Press awards and regional Edward R. Murrow awards. She was also part of an NPR team of journalists that won an Alfred I. duPont-Columbia University Award. She is a native of Canada.
Faculty Research Grants
The deadline for receipt of Faculty Research Grants in the Associate Dean's office is noon Monday, March 21, to provide time for Dr. Wade's review. Please ask faculty to follow these instructions in preparing an application.
3. Please do not use old forms!
4. Please do not send multiple copies of the application; our office will get the Dean's signature, make the Faculty Research Committee's requested ten copies, and deliver them to the committee chair, Ms. Gloria Horton.
5. Please print the budget on white paper. Our office will copy this onto the requested colored paper.
6. Please attach the progress reports for last year's grants to any new research proposal submission. These progress reports are also due to Ms. Horton by March 1, even if the research is incomplete.
7. Please include a current CV for each faculty researcher.

Student News

Publish your research
The editor of The Geographical Bulletin is soliciting manuscripts for upcoming issues. The Geographical Bulletin is a peer-reviewed journal whose primary mission is to provide an outlet for undergraduate and graduate student research in all areas of geography. Non-student submissions are also welcome. Many students have had their first professional publication appear in The Geographical Bulletin. To foster and encourage student publication, a "Best Student Paper" award with a $200 prize is awarded each year to the best paper authored by students. Students who are completing original research through a senior thesis, masters' thesis, Ph.D. dissertation, or similar project, are encouraged to submit the results of their research in article form for publication. The journal is housed in approximately 100 libraries, and is also available in PDF format through EBSCO and ProQuest's databases. For a style sheet, visit GTU's website <www.gammathetaupsilon.org/geographical-bulletin.html>. For further information, contact Steven M. Schnell, Editor, Geographical Bulletin. Department of Geography, Kutztown University of Pennsylvania, Kutztown, PA 19530. (610) 683-1595. E-mail schnell@kutztown.edu

Epidemiology
Prospective Students'
OproHouse

University of Alabama Birmingham School of
Public Health
Department of Epidemiology Informational Session
Learn More About: Our Admissions Criteria, The Application Process, Our Masters & Doctoral Programs, Our Faculty & Current Students, and Scholarship Opportunities
February 25, 2011 , 9:00AM-11:30 AM at the Ryals School of Public Health Building, Room 107, 1665 University Boulevard, Birmingham, AL 35294-0022. For more information contact Kimberly Hawkins hawkinsk@uab.edu or register for our Open House at: UAB Epidemiology Open House 2011 Registration
Exam Answers

Q: Name the four seasons.
   A: Salt, pepper, mustard and ketchup.

Q: Explain a process by which water can be made safe to drink.
   A: Flirtation makes water safe to drink by removing large pollutants like grit,
sand, dead cows and canoeists.

Q: How is dew formed?
   A: The sun shines on the leaves and makes them perspire.

Q: How can you delay milk turning sour?
   A: Keep it in the cow.

Q: What are steroids?
   A: Things for keeping carpets from sliding on the stairs.

Q: What happens to your body as you age?
   A: When you get old, so do your bowels and you get intercontinental.

Q: What happens to a boy when he reaches puberty?
   A: He says good-bye to his boyhood and looks forward to his adultery.

Q: Name a major disease associated with cigarettes.
   A: Premature death.

Q: How are the main parts of the body categorized?
   A: The body is consisted into three parts - the brainium, the borax and the
   abdominal cavity. The brainium contains the brain; the borax contains the heart
   and lungs, and the abdominal cavity contains the five bowels, A, E, I, O and U.

Q: What is the fibula?
   A: A small lie.

Q: What does "varicose" mean?
   A: Nearby.

Q: Give the meaning of the term "Caesarean Section"
   A: A district in Rome.

Q: What does the word "benign" mean?
   A: Benign is what you will be after you be eight.

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.