Well, I have been much more involved with the Alabama Academy of Sciences meeting than I anticipated. I gave the welcome at the dinner in the Stadium Club. Miriam Hill was there, but I did not see anyone else from the Department. It was a nice event with a great after dinner talk by Dr. Harvey “Hardy” Jackson on the history of the Redneck Riviera. He started his talk by informing us that his mother taught him that “the mind will only absorb what the butt can endure.” The talk continued to be one of the most delightful history lessons I have ever heard. I also was involved in judging those top science students in the state. It is always a lot of fun to talk to this level of student who not only can walk on water, but can walk three feet above the water.

This newsletter is short because of my lack of time. I apologize if I missed anything important. Of course the most important event of the week - even topping the Alabama Academy of Science meeting was the chili cook-off. See details below. I do want to thank everyone who was involved. It is a great effort for a good cause.

-- Lou

Department News

Chili Cook-Off

Was a success, thank you Karen Gregg and Tracy Casey for all your hard work and organization. A total of $531.80 was raised for the American Cancer Society. Among the winners (pictured above), Frank Romano took first place, Andy Hug took second place and Liz Maxwell came in third. Lori Tolley-Jordan won the pottery drawing. As always, thanks to Steve Loucks for providing the pottery for all the awards. The
real winners were those of us who had the chance to taste 13 very different, but excellent chilis. Ranging from traditional to venison, to smoked pulled pork and sausage and mushroom chili, the cook-off is definitely going upscale. If you did not get a chance to join in on the fun, make certain you do so next year.

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.

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.

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

William David Kinsaul Scholarship for Student Excellence in Science Research
Students can apply for up to $500 in funding to support travel to present a paper, poster or oral talk. See your supervisor for an application form. Applications are due 22 March 2011.
**Degenerate States**

**Did you know? (some possibly dubious)**

- In the 1400s a law was set forth that a man was not allowed to beat his wife with a stick thicker than his thumb. Hence we have "the rule of thumb".
- Many years ago in Scotland, a new game was invented and ruled "Gentlemen only, ladies forbidden"... thus the word golf entered the English language.
- The first couple to be shown in bed together on US prime time TV was Fred and Wilma Flintstone
- Every day more money is printed for Monopoly than for the US Treasury.
- Men can read smaller print than women, but women can hear better.
- Coca-Cola was originally green.
- It is impossible to lick your elbow.
- The average number of people airborne over the US at any given hour is 61,000
- Intelligent people have more zinc and copper in their hair.
- The first novel ever written on a typewriter was Tom Sawyer
- Each king in a deck of playing cards represents a great ruler in history: Spades - King David; Hearts - Charlemagne; Clubs - Alexander, the Great; Diamonds - Julius Caesar.
- If a statue of a person on a horse has both of the horse's front legs in the air, the person died in battle. If the horse has one front leg in the air the person died as a result of wounds received in battle. If the horse has all four legs on the ground, the person died of natural causes.

**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.