Spring Break is over and this past week has flown by. We are entering the final month of the spring semester. Make certain that you have filled out your IDEA Student Evaluation forms. Also, I will put together the Department’s Board of Trustees Report the first part of next week; send me your accomplishments if you haven’t, already. Finally, I draw your attention to the new Strategic Plan. I am not aware of much input from the sciences. I also have not yet seen the plan. You might want to take a look at it when it is distributed and provide feedback.

On Wednesday of this past week, I rode with Jan Gryko up to Huntsville to look over some surplus equipment. We found a few items that will be useful in the chemistry research labs. It is a nice resource. I hope that we can go back in a few months and see what else they want to dispose of. I was told whatever is not claimed by federal and state agencies is auctioned (on-line) and the stuff is sold for “thousands of dollars.” NASA has done for surplus science equipment what eBay has done for garage sales.

Enjoy the weather, before it gets too hot!
-- Lou

Department News

Faculty Information Form (FIF) for an IDEA Student Ratings of Instruction survey
All faculty should have received an email asking them to fill in the instructor part of the survey forms. Apparently, the JSU email system is not cooperating. If you have not received a request, please email My Voice…My JUS: thma@jsu.edu

Board of Trustees Quarterly Report
Please send to Lou (lou.reinisch@att.net) any significant scholarly activities before Monday 28 March. This report covers anything that happened in 2011 (January, February and March).

JSU Faculty and Staff Required to Complete Statements of Economic Interest
The Office of Human Resources has received its annual notice from the Alabama Ethics Commission regarding the requirement to complete the Statement of Economic Interest form. The criteria for requiring completion of the form are numerous, but the most common are a salary of $50,000 or greater and/or responsibility for handling or investing public funds. This year you must also watch a video as part of the newly legislated “ethics training. Schedule some time and get this completed.
"Caribbean Steel Drum Party!
Come and enjoy the happy sounds of Caribbean steel drum music! This concert will feature JAXPAN - the local community band, JSU Steel - the student band, and the mighty Trion High School band from nearby Trion, Georgia. When playing together, they will form the largest steel drum band ever heard in this region! This may be your only chance to witness Kelly Gregg "getting his groove on" - so don’t miss it! If you are not completely satisfied with this free concert, you will receive DOUBLE your money back! If you would like to be a back-up dancer, please contact Kelly immediately. Tuesday, March 29th. 7:00 p.m. Mason Hall Performance Center".

JSU Seeks Feedback for Strategic Plan
JSU is creating a five-year strategic plan that is focused on learning and the methodologies, technologies and learning outcomes that ensure students are ready for their chosen careers. Since the beginning of the academic year many JSU faculty, staff, students and alumni met to discuss how we can best create this enhanced learning environment.

JSU’s Strategic Planning Committee used the feedback from more than 20 discussion groups across campus and developed a definition of a learning centered university, identified core university values, and developed draft mission and vision statements. Within the next few days you will receive an e-mail asking for your feedback on these components of the strategic plan. We value your responses and will use them to make revisions as needed.

JSU Drama to Present "The Exonerated"
Production dates are March 31, April 1 and 2 at 7 p.m. and April 3 at 2 p.m. This production contains strong prison language and situations, and is not recommended for children under the age of 13. Tickets are $10 for adults; $8 for JSU personnel and senior citizens; and $5 for students.

Brief Synopsis: How many have been wrongfully accused? How many of those are wrongfully convicted? How few of those exonerated? This profoundly intense play about six wrongfully convicted survivors of death row will make you stop and think about "justice." We hear in their own words stories of these six brave souls who persevered and survived a system gone wrong. "Stark...riveting...cunningly orchestrated." ~The New Yorker.
Webinar News

Advanced Chemistry of Beer and Brewing
The American Chemical Society (ACS) is presenting a webinar on Thursday, 31 March from 1:00 PM to 2:00 PM (local time). Do you like your beer malty? Hoppy? Smooth? Light? Dark? With over 1,500 professional breweries and many dedicated home brewers, the United States takes the lead in producing this popular alcoholic beverage. Whether you’re a seasoned home brewer or just like to go “where everybody knows your name,” you don’t want to miss Dr. Charlie Bamforth, brewskie extraordinaire and Anheuser-Busch Endowed Professor of Malting & Brewing Sciences at UC Davis, as he brews up advanced insights and explanations about the chemistry behind beer brewing! The webinar is free and open to everyone—you do have to register before the event. Go to https://www2.gotomeeting.com/register/961101282

Degenerate States

Children are Quick
TEACHER: Maria, go to the map and find North America.
MARA: Here it is.
TEACHER: Correct. Now class, who discovered America?
CLASS: Maria.

TEACHER: John, why are you doing your math multiplication on the floor?
JOHN: You told me to do it without using tables.

TEACHER: Glenn, how do you spell 'crocodile?'
TEACHER: No, that’s wrong
GLEN: Maybe it is wrong, but you asked me how I spell it. (I Love this child)

TEACHER: Donald, what is the chemical formula for water?
DONALD: H I J K L M N O.
TEACHER: What are you talking about?
DONALD: Yesterday you said it’s H to O.

TEACHER: Winnie, name one important thing we have today we didn’t have ten years ago.
WINNIE: Me!

TEACHER: Glen, why do you always get so dirty?
GLEN: Well, I’m a lot closer to the ground than you are.

TEACHER: Millie, give me a sentence starting with ’I.’
MILLIE: I is...
TEACHER: No, Millie..... Always say, ’I am.’
MILLIE: All right... ’I am the ninth letter of the alphabet.’

TEACHER: George Washington not only chopped down his father’s cherry tree, but also admitted it. Now, Larry, do you know why his father didn’t punish him?
LARRY: Because George still had the axe in his hand....

TEACHER: Now, Simon, tell me frankly, do you say prayers before eating?
SIMON: No sir, I don’t have to, my Mom is a good cook.

TEACHER: Clyde, your composition on ‘My Dog’ is exactly the same as your brother’s.. Did you copy his?
CLYDE: No, sir. It’s the same dog.

TEACHER: Harold, what do you call a person who keeps on talking when people are no longer interested?

HAROLD: A teacher

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.