First I want to thank Joe Morgan for organizing and attending Preview Days this past Saturday. I would also like to thank Jonathan Herbert, who helped man the booth. While the crowds were small, there was more time for extended conversations. Dr. Meehan brought his son by—a junior in high school and interested in chemistry—unfortunately we had no chemists for him to talk to. 😞

I note that the same names appear on the list of faculty attending graduation (29 April). Please remember that there are additional obligations for faculty—more than just showing up to deliver your lectures. Your participation in various activities is important to your students.

The final bit of news that just came in. The NMR spectrometer is scheduled to arrive on 9 May. There will be a week or two for installation and training.

Finish up the semester with some enthusiasm for your subject. We are down to the wire for this semester. . . .

-- Lou

**Department News**

**JSU Seeks Feedback for Strategic Plan - LAST DAY TO RESPOND**

As part of an initiative to define and position JSU’s strategies for the next five years, the Strategic Planning Committee developed a definition of a learning centered university, identified core university values, and developed draft mission and vision statements. You now have an opportunity to review these and provide your feedback to the Strategic Planning Committee. You need to find the email from Dr. Meehan sent to you on 28 March to get the link to respond. I have some major concerns about this plan. I encourage everyone to take some time to reply. The administration will know who replied and who did not, as well as how you replied!

**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. This video is rather dry lecture that goes on for 55 minutes. Schedule some time and get this completed. The deadline is Saturday, 30
April.

One Can Program
Since fall 2009, JSU faculty, staff and students have participated in the ONE CAN program benefiting Jacksonville Christian Outreach Center (JCOC). As we finish up the spring 2011 semester, we have an opportunity to double our efforts. For every non-perishable food item collected for JCOC, the Feinstein Foundation will donate $1 to JCOC. All of the money will go to support needy families in our area. Through April 15, faculty, staff and students can donate non-perishable food items to their departmental offices for pick-up. Thanks for supporting JSU in giving back to the Jacksonville community. If you have any questions, please contact Dr. George Cline, x5798, Kim Stevens, x5762, or Karen Gregg, x5231.

University News

Gov. Robert Bentley to Delivery Spring Commencement Address
To those who volunteered to attend the graduation ceremony on Friday 29 April, you will get a chance to hear some thoughts for our governor. Also, you might get a chance to have a bit of a chat in the reception before the graduation ceremony.

Annual Preventing Employment Discrimination Training
The online program allows you to take the training at your leisure. You will need to allow up to 90 minutes to take the training program. You may locate the training on the HR website at http://training.newmedialearning.com/ped/jacksonvillestu/. If you are assigned to a search committee, you must take the Faculty or Supervisory module. This training module replaces the classroom training sessions for search committees. There will be a test at the end you are required to pass. When you pass the exam, HR will be notified of the successful completion. This is required training for administrators and supervisors and must be completed on an annual basis. Others are encouraged, but not required, to take this training. Please complete this program by May 31, 2011. By your participating in this training, it helps control our liability insurance rates.

Blackboard Partners with JSU for First eLearning Symposium
Jacksonville State University announced plans today to host the first Blackboard eLearning Symposium on its campus on Thursday and Friday, April 21 and 22, 2011. The event is sponsored by Blackboard Inc. This two-day event is free to attend and limited to the first 500 higher education faculty, technologists, and leaders from Alabama, Georgia, Florida, and Mississippi. Workshops and meals will be held in JSU’s new stadium and housing addition, Stadium Tower, as well as Leone Cole, Houston Cole Library, Wallace Hall, and the Coxwell Room in the Gamecock Fieldhouse.
Attendees may review the schedule and learn more about registering for the event by visiting http://www.blackboard.com/Contact-Us/Events-Center/Industry-Events.aspx.

Webinars

Creating Learning Environments: Virtual and Physical
This webinar is hosted by the American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU). The webcast will explore examples of creating both virtual and physical learning environments that can fuel innovation and collaboration. The webcast will take place on Tuesday, April 12, 2011 from 1:00-2:30 p.m. CDT and will be broadcast in Room
ACS News

American Chemical Society End of the Year Party
The ACS end of the year party is scheduled for Friday, 22 April (5:00 - 8:00 PM) at the Alumni House. The Faculty is encouraged to attend. We will be awarding certificates for the Richard J. Beschi Leadership Awards in Chemistry. This year Catrina Mze, Matthew Nichols, Brian Ogendi, Olivia Orr and Russell Price were selected for this honor. Please contact Samantha Gacasan if you have any questions about the party. Her email is: sgacasan@jsu.edu

Degenerate States

Barking Dogs
Norman and his wife were lying in bed listening to the next door neighbor’s dog barking. It had been barking for hours and hours. Suddenly Norm jumps up says ‘I’ve had enough of this’, and runs off downstairs. He finally comes back and his wife says, ‘The dog is still barking Norm. What have you been doing?’ To which Norm replies ‘I’ve put the dog in our yard. Let’s see how THEY like it!’

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.