Well this was an exciting week. Although, I must say that I was in the "dark" for most of the week. My cell phone and my office phone are on the emergency call list. However, I did not receive a single call this past week. So, when I arrived at work at 8:00 AM on Wednesday, I had no idea the University was closed. The same goes for Thursday morning. When the university's internet came back on-line around 9:00 AM on Thursday, I expected some notice of the university status. There was nothing on the website—no news notices, no special notices, no emergency notices. According to the web—nothing special had happened! It was at 1:00 PM on Thursday that I finally received an email stating that the University would open at 10:00 AM on WEDNESDAY (more than 24 hours too late). One thing was confirmed, several times this past week: When in doubt, call Tracy! She always knew what was happening!

I hope that no one sustained much damage during the tornadoes. I did learn that tornadoes are not like the proverbial lightening. Tornadoes will strike the same place twice. In 1967, the grade school down the street from where I grew up had the roof blown off by a tornado. My sister told me that during the storms that wreaked havoc at the St. Louis airport took the roof off that same school, once again.

Much of this newsletter is recycled from last week. Next week starts the May term. Good luck as you prepare for classes.
-- Lou

**Department News**

**Stolen AV Van**

While I was at the BlackBoard Symposium, the Jacksonville State University Police were busy recovering a white van stolen from the AV Dept. They also caught the culprit, although the culprit kept insisting that it was "His Van" and the police stole it. I did not get too many additional details, but I did get these pictures released from the Chief Giddy.

**Faculty Awards Reception**

All faculty and administrators are invited to the Annual Faculty Awards Reception at 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, May 10 on the 11th Floor of the Houston Cole Library. I encourage all of you to attend.
Department Head Evaluations
You should be getting a request from the Dean concerning your evaluations of your Department Head. Please fill the evaluation out and return it by 13 May. Most of you let me know your thoughts (and I sincerely appreciate that). Share those thoughts with the Dean.

Faculty FAR's due to Department Head by 6 May
Your FAR is due by 6 May. Please review your goals for this year and state how you met those goals or reasons that kept you from meeting any of the goals. Then formulate goals for next year. State your accomplishments, explicitly; however, I do not need to see the accomplishments. For instance, give me the complete reference to any papers published, but I do not need to see the actual publications.

Winners of the Beschi Leadership Awards
The ACS held an end of the year celebration and the Beschi Leadership Awards were made to (from left to right in the photo): Matthew Nichols, Brian Ogendi, Olivia Orr, Russell Price and Catrina Mize. Congratulations to these seniors in chemistry.

University News

Who will Deliver the Spring Commencement Address?
With Obama visiting the State of Alabama to survey the storm damage, it is doubtful that the Governor will be able to deliver the Commencement Address today. So, those attending graduation might be pleasantly surprised or bored-to-tears.

Compliance Issues

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.

**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/](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.**

**Annual Training for Prevention of Sexual Harassment**
The training program is available online and may be taken at a time that fits your schedule. It may be taken all in one session or you may bookmark and return at a later time. To access the training, go to the Office of Human Resources web site at [http://www.jsu.edu/hr/](http://www.jsu.edu/hr/) and select Preventing Sexual Harassment Training from the right hand side of the page. **This annual training must be completed by May 31, 2011.**

**Degenerate States**

**Kids’ Science**
*We say the cause of perfume disappearing is evaporation. Evaporation gets blamed for a lot of things people forget to put the top on.*  
*In looking at a drop of water under a microscope, we find there are twice as many Hs as Os.*  
*Clouds just keep circling the earth around and around. And around. There is not much else to do.*  
*Water vapor gets together in a cloud. When it is big enough to be called a drop, it does.*  
*We keep track of the humidity in the air so we won’t drown when we breathe.*  
*Rain is often known as soft water, oppositely known as hail.*  
*In some rocks you can find the fossil footprints of fishes.*  
*A blizzard is when it snows sideways.*  
*A monsoon is a French gentleman.*  
*Thunder is a rich source of loudness.*  
*Isotherms and isobars are even more important than their names sound.*  
*Talc is found on rocks and on babies.*

**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.