It was a busy week for meeting trucks to have packages delivered, assembling the NMR magnet and cooling it down, and tending to all the small details. I thank everyone who helped. I especially thank Jan Gryko for spending many hours helping and learning about maintaining the cryogens. So far, all is going well. Next week a second technician will be here to hook up the electronics and start the magnet. Then, a third technician will be here for training.

Our Texas travelers are due back today (Jonathan Herbert and Joe Morgan with their students). We can expect a report in next week’s newsletter.

Enjoy the Rapture on Saturday!
-- Lou

Department News

CS 201 Course Revision Survey
I would like to ask for your help with an MCIS survey to guide revision of CS 201 course, Introduction to Information Technology. Knowing what the important topics are for your major students provides relevant guidance in revising the course content. If you have not have yet completed the survey, take a few minutes to complete it. The URL for the survey is http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/669RWNS. The survey will be available until the close of the business day May 21, 2011.

May 4 week Term Grades are Due Friday 27 May!
Please note this fast turn-around for the term (final exams are on 26 May). The schedule for final grades for the summer is:
- May Four Week: May 27, 2011 1:15 PM
- May Six Week: June 10, 2011 1:15 PM
- May Eight Week: June 29, 2011 1:15 PM
- June Four Week: June 29, 2011 1:15 PM
- May Twelve Week: July 29, 2011 1:15 PM
- June Six Week: July 29, 2011 1:15 PM
- July Four Week: July 29, 2011 1:15 PM
University News

Board of Visitors Meeting Today
The Board of Visitors (an advisory group of successful alumni) are meeting today (20 May) at JSU McClellan Center. Dean Wade meets with the Board of Visitors and gives them fund-raising projects. The most recent project resulted the Kinsaul Travel Grants that helped many of our students. I expect other great benefits coming from this group. By the way, the next meeting of the Board of Visitors will be in Martin and McGee (to show off the NMR spectrometer). I will share more details as they become available.

Compliance Issues

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/ 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

My New Parrot
Recently I received a parrot as a gift. It had a bad attitude and an even worse vocabulary. Every word out of its mouth was rude, obnoxious and laced with profanity. I tried to change the bird’s attitude by consistently saying only polite words, playing soft music and anything else I could think of to "clean up" the bird’s vocabulary. Finally, I was fed up and I yelled at the parrot. The parrot yelled back. I shook the parrot and the parrot got angrier and even ruder. So, in desperation, I grabbed the bird and put him in the freezer. For a few minutes the parrot squawked and kicked and screamed. Then suddenly there was total quiet. Not a peep was heard for over a minute. Fearing that I’d hurt the parrot, I opened the door to the freezer. The parrot calmly stepped out onto my arm and said "I believe I may have offended you with my rude language and actions. I’m sincerely remorseful for my inappropriate transgressions and I fully intend to do everything I can to correct my rude and unforgivable behavior."
I was stunned at the change in the bird’s attitude. As I was about to ask what had made such a dramatic change, the bird continued, "May I ask what the turkey did?"

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.