This newsletter is being generated while I am in St. Louis attending a workshop. Below is a checklist for a good academic faculty member. How many of the characteristics can you check off? How many more can you check off with a little additional effort?

**Qualities of an academic faculty member**

Teaching is a career that provides excitement, challenges, personal reward and a chance to encourage and support young students to achieve their goals. There are many personal qualities and skills that make someone a good or great teacher. Here are what is believed to be the essential Qualities of a Good Teacher:

- Adapt to change (open to change and coping well with change)
- Approachable
- Being fair-minded (just and impartial; not prejudiced)
- Calmness
- Cares about the students
- Challenges the students
- Consistency
- Creative and innovative
- Empathy
- Enjoy working with a wide range of people;
- Enjoying a challenge (a question, ...)
- Enthusiastic
- Explaining things well
- Flexible
- Friendly
- Good communicator
- Keeping cool under pressure;
- Knowledge of subject matter (having a strong knowledge in particular subject areas)
- Motivating and inspiring
- Passion
- Patience
- Personal involvement
- Presentation skills
- Pride in student's accomplishments
- Reflective and introspective
Respectful
Responsive
Sense of humor
Time manager
True compassion for their students
Understanding
Well-organized
Willing to learn
Willingness to help student achieve

This list is alphabetical and not in order of importance. The length of the list indicates the challenge of being a good instructor and should remind all of us that our jobs are not “easy.”
-- Lou

Department News

Summer Graduation
Please let Tracy know if, as soon as possible, you are planning to attend this summer’s graduation and reception. It will be held in the Paul Snow Stadium on Friday, August 5 at 7:30 pm. A reception will be held on the Club Level (5th floor) of the Stadium Towers at 6:00 pm. All faculty members are expected to attend at least one graduation ceremony each year.

Summer Grade Due Dates
The remaining final grades for the summer are due on July 29, 2011 at 1:15 PM. Please note this date on your calendars. We had several grades not turned in on the deadline this past Wednesday. That creates a lot more paperwork for you, for me and for many other across the campus.

PEEHIP INSURANCE COVERAGE
The 2011-2012 Open Enrollment period will start on July 1 and continue through August 31 for changes to become effective October 1, 2011. Again this year PEEHIP will NOT BE mailing the Open Enrollment Booklet to members, instead all active and retired members should be receiving a one page notice, which will inform you of the current coverage you are enrolled and specifics of the open enrollment period. PEEHIP now has the Open Enrollment booklet available on their website, and you can also find the booklet on the HR “Open Enrollment” webpage. Members can download the information and forms, or members can make changes using the Member Online system (recommended).

University News

Board of Trustees to Meet July 11
The Jacksonville State University Board of Trustees will hold their quarterly meeting on Monday, July 11, 2011 at 10 a.m. on the eleventh floor of the Houston Cole Library.
Computer / Software Purchasing Deadlines

The deadline for requesting quotes from the Division of Information Technology for computer, laptop, peripheral, and non-site license software purchases during this fiscal year is Friday, July 29, 2011. Purchase orders for these items should be faxed to vendors by Friday, August 5, 2011 so that receipt of the items will be within the current fiscal year. Purchases of University site-license software for this fiscal year must be requested through a Computer Service Request (CSR) by Friday, August 19, 2011.

TIAA-CREF Individual Consultant on Campus in July

Setting up a long-term financial plan can be a complicated task. It involves evaluating your potential income sources, and then factoring in the impact of taxes, inflation and the larger economic picture. Meeting with a TIAA-CREF Individual Consultant can help you sort things out and make informed decisions. Paul Cimino, a TIAA-CREF Senior Individual Consultant will be at JSU to conduct individual counseling sessions on the following days: July 25th, 26th, and August 16th in Bibb Graves Hall Rm. # 323 If you are interested in signing up for a counseling session, please call TIAA-CREF at 800-732-8353.

Degenerate States

A Healthy Life

I changed my doctor after moving to Jacksonville. After two visits he said I was doing "fairly well" for my age. A little concerned about that comment, I asked him, "So you think I'll live to be 80?" He asked, "Do you smoke tobacco, or drink beer or wine?" "Only one glass of red wine with dinner," I replied. "And I'm not doing any drugs, either." Then he asked, "Do you eat red meat, fish and potato chips or barbecued food?" I said, "No, my former doctor said that they are very unhealthy!" "Do you spend a lot of time in the sun, like playing golf, swimming, backpacking, or biking?" "No, I don't," I said. He asked, "Do you gamble, drive fast cars?" "No," I said. "I don't do any of those things." He looked at me and said, "Then, why do you care?"

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.