Many of us get bogged down in summer teaching. The compressed summer terms mean that we spend many hours per week lecturing, preparing for lectures, grading and writing quizzes, tests and exams. Sometimes we lose track of other things happening within the Department and at JSU.

One of the biggest items for the Department of Physical and Earth Sciences is that Joe Morgan was awarded a Fulbright and he will be off to India on approximately 1 August. He will return to Jacksonville at the end of December or early January. This is a great opportunity for Joe and we all wish him well.

The teaching for the fall semester is scheduled to be covered by Heath Robinson. Heath graduated from JSU with a BS in geography in 2004. He then earned his MS in Geography from the University of Alabama in 2006 and his PhD in Geography in 2010 from SUNY - Buffalo. We are working on all the paperwork to get Heath accepted as an adjunct faculty member and then get a contract to teach. Once we get him officially on-board, I will ask him to write a short paragraph of introduction for the newsletter.

On Friday morning, 29 July, we will have a cake. So, stop by and wish Joe well for his study leave and enjoy a piece of cake.

Stay cool and do not forget final grades are due on Friday, 29 July!

-- Lou

Department News

Summer Grade Due Dates
The remaining final grades for the summer are due on July 29, 2011 at 1:15 PM.

Parking Decals
2011-2012 JSU parking decal registration opens July 20 for university faculty and staff, as well as non-JSU personnel. Student registration begins on August 1. Registration can be done on-line under My-JSU.
NMR Training
NMR training session will be 3-4 August. Mike Brown from Bruker will be here and the tentative schedule is:

1st day Lab
- Setting up experiments manually from scratch and from Bruker Canned Parameters
- Modifications to Pulse programs and parameter sets.
- Macros
- TopSpin Customization and configuration.

2nd day Class
- Gradients
- Solvents suppression
- Pulse Programming and AU programs

University News

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

Sick Leave
I urgently needed a few days off work but knew my boss wouldn't let me. So I hung upside down from a light fitting making buzzing noises. My co-worker asked what I was doing. I told him that I was pretending to be a light bulb so that the boss would think I was crazy and give me a few days off. A few minutes later the boss came in and asked "What are you doing?" I told him I was a light bulb. He said, "You are clearly stressed out. Go home and recuperate for a couple of days." I jumped down and walked out of the office. When my co-worker followed me, the boss asked, "And where do you think you're going?" He said, "I'm going home too, I can't work in the dark."
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.