Wow, summer is almost over! I gave the final exam in physics (PHS202), yesterday and then posted the grades into Banner. I glanced at the calendar and realized that it is less than a month before the fall semester starts.

Last week, in the newsletter, I spoke too soon about hiring Heath to take over the teaching for Joe while Joe is on his Fulbright. On Monday Heath was offered a full time position at the University of South Florida. Since Heath is a 2004 graduate of JSU, we are happy to see him successfully land a great job. At the same time, we are disappointed that he will not be teaching for us this fall. We are still working on finding someone to pick up Joe’s classes while he is in India.

I also updated some of the chemistry pictures on our webpages. I would encourage others in the Department to borrow the camera from Tracy and take a few photos so that we can update more of the photos on the web. The students do notice when the pictures become out-of-date. A couple mentioned to me about the “ancient” pictures on the chemistry page. You might even think about having your personal picture updated.

Now that summer teaching is over, take some time to catch up on research, take some time to relax and “get away,” take some time for yourself. Enjoy the summer and stay cool!
-- Lou

Department News

Summer Grades due TODAY
The remaining final grades for the summer are due TODAY (Friday, 29 July) 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

Shifting Sands: Legislature Changes Alabama’s Teachers’ Retirement
The regular session of the 2011 Alabama Legislature adopted several Acts that directly impact the Teachers’ Retirement System participating agencies and their employees. For information on how this will impact the Retirement Systems of Alabama, please visit http://www.jsu.edu/hr/RSA_2011_Legislative_Update.pdf.

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 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

Norman Flies to American
A plane is on its way to the US from Europe when Norman gets up from Economy Class, moves to the First Class section and sits down. The flight attendant watches him do this and asks to see his ticket. She then tells Norman that he’s paid for Economy and will have to go and sit in the back. Norman replies "I’m big, I’m beautiful, I’m going to the United States and I’m staying right here!"

The flight attendant goes into the cockpit and tells the pilot and co-pilot that there is a crazy guy sitting in First Class who belongs in Economy and won’t move back. The co-pilot goes into the cabin and explains that because he paid for Economy, Norman is entitled to only an economy seat and will have to return to his original seat. Norman replies, "I’m big, I’m beautiful, I’m going to the United States and I’m staying right here!"

Exasperated the co-pilot tells the pilot that it was no use and that they probably should
have the police waiting when they land. The pilot says, "I’ll handle this".

The pilot then goes back to Norman, whispers in his ear. Norman says "Oh, I’m sorry- I had no idea," gets up and moves back to his seat in the Economy section.

The flight attendant and co-pilot are amazed and asked him what he said to make Norman move without any fuss. The Pilot replies, "I told him First Class isn’t going to the United States."

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.