The chemists were busy this week with an extensive training session for the NMR spectrometer. They were given a lot of information and the instrument should be helpful with many of their experiments and investigations.

I have been busy arranging for the various adjunct instructors. I almost have the fall schedule finalized. I do appreciate the patience that each of you have shown and your willingness to help out.

It is a great day on campus. Graduation is this evening. Thus, it is a time where everyone is happy. We had some rain and a bit of cooler weather, and the debt ceiling was increased... what more could we want?

Take some time off and enjoy life. Keep cool.

-- Lou

**Department News**

**Credit Hour Production**

So far we are scheduled, as a department, to teach 4845 student credit hours. This breaks down to:

- Chemistry 1701 student credit hours
- Geography and GIS 1660 student credit hours
- Geology 580 student credit hours

The remainder divided between anthropology, environmental science, and physics.

**Summer Graduation Will Be Tonight, Friday, August 5**

Jacksonville State University's Summer 2011 Commencement will be Friday, August 5 at 7:30 p.m. at JSU Stadium. Guest speaker will be civil rights activist and former Freedom Rider Bill Harbour. Graduates from our Department include: Mason Heibel (Geography), Jeffrey Caudill (Geography), Timothy Bowen (Geography) and George Kiplagat (Chemistry).
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.

News from Joe Morgan

Latest email from Joe Morgan (in India)
Hi All, and thank you for your support.
I am here, and yes it was a long flight and boy are my arms tired.
Still trying to get situated, and accommodated etc.
Met with the Vice Chancellor this morning, along with the director of Arts and Sciences (Dean) and several of the department faculty members.
It is a remote place, so no wild night life, nothing but work.
will write more when I get my internet working.
Joe

University News

Reflections and Reading, An Evening with Rick Bragg
Jacksonville State University will welcome home its most celebrated storyteller on Friday, September 16, when it presents Reflections and Reading, an evening with Rick Bragg. This event, which begins at 5 p.m. at the Stone Center Auditorium, is a fundraiser to support the JSU Honors Program. Tickets to the event are $35 and include an autographed copy of The Prince of Frogtown, a reception and an evening with author. VIP packages are also available. For more information, contact Janet Whitmore, 256-782-5696 or e-mail her at jwhitmore@jsu.edu.

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
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.
When you're from the country, your perception is a little different........
A rural Alabama farmer in his pickup, drove to a neighbor's, and knocked at the door. A boy, about 9, opened the door

"Is your Dad home?"

"No sir, he isn’t; he went to town."

"Well, is your Mother here?"

"No sir, she went to town with Dad."

"How about your brother, Howard? Is he here?"

"No sir, He went with Mom and Dad."

The farmer stood there for a few minutes, shifting from one foot to the other, and mumbling to himself.

"Is there anything I can do for you? I know where all the tools are, if you want to borrow one, or I can give dad a message."

"Well," said the farmer uncomfortably, "I really wanted to talk to your Dad. It’s about your brother Howard getting my daughter, Suzie, pregnant."

The boy thought for a moment. "You would have to talk to Dad about that. I know he charges $500 for the bull and $50 for the hog, but I don’t know how much he charges for Howard."

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.