Hope! It is a driving force in mankind. Some of us live for the hope that JSU’s football team will take the University into fame and glory. Some of us hope for better research support and more teaching resources. A few of us hope that our students simply come to class and take their investment and studies at JSU seriously. We all have our hopes—and that is great, for without hope we are lost. The report from President Meehan should have raised hopes across campus. He said that he was requesting a 3% pay raise effective 1 October. (I heard the budget committee only recommended a 2% pay raise. This means what might look like a small 3% raise is actually the President pushing for a larger raise than what was recommended to him.) This means that we can start the semester a bit happier and bit more hopeful. Who knows, maybe all the students will show up to class everyday during the semester! It was Albert Einstein who said:

"Learn from yesterday, live for today, hope for tomorrow."

I sincerely hope that each of you has the best semester possible. Enjoy your teaching, your research and your service. It is why we are here.

-- Lou

**Department News**

**Preview Days—24 September**

Kelly Gregg will coordinate Preview Day on Saturday, September 24, 2011. The Browse Session, with departmental and organizational displays, will occur in the Stephenson Gym from 1:00 p.m. until 3:30 p.m. Please give Kelly a hand and volunteer to help.

**Board of Visitors**

The Board of Visitors (successful JSU alumni) will be meeting on Friday, 16 September in McGee Hall. Part of the reason for the visit is to show off the new NMR spectrometer. Matt Nichols working with Jan Gryko and Nick Haney working with Kelly Gregg will each make 5 min. presentations of their work to the Board. Everyone is welcome to attend these presentations.
Chemistry Laboratory Clean-up

Jan Gryko has started to clean out some of the chemistry labs (and I never saw Bernice run so fast to get the handcart to help him THROW THINGS AWAY). Before the items go to the dumpster (or the appropriate waste disposal area), Jan is giving each of you one last chance to claim a treasured item. The following equipment is on a cart outside of Rm 209 McGee Hall and is free for the taking:

- Old analytical balance
- Lexmark Inkjet printer
- Epson dot-matrix printer
- Perforated paper for the dot-matrix printer
- Box and pallet from the IR spectrometer
- A big, heavy transformer
- Assorted old NMR amplifiers
- Old ultrasonic bath
- Various other bits and pieces

Study Leave News

News from Nanded, India

Wow, another week is about done, and I know school is getting ready to start at JSU. I feel like half the semester should be over by now... but alas, it is just beginning. The photo is of my students here at SRMT University. The real news is that the computer labs are up and working, the book for the course is taken care of and the author Maribeth Price was nice enough to ftp me the right data set for the older text. Though the computers would not run version 10 of the Arc Software, ESRI made version 9.3 available to us. My new mantra... “all things will come... in time”.

I am growing from this experience, I am learning patience, I am learning resilience, I am adjusting to the rainy season. It has been raining 3 days straight, and it rains almost every night. Oddly enough, they only average about 45 to 50 inches or rain per year. I guess that means the dry season is really dry.

Planning a trip for this weekend or next to Ajanta and Ellora. They have caves there that have etchings and paintings in them that have been dated to the 5th century. And... of course I will take pictures and submit. It's not all fun and games, we will be taking some students with us on sort of a field trip. There is also a
trip planned to the Lunor Crater (and lake), an impact crater from an estimated 600,000 years ago. Should be interesting and I understand a geologic marvel.

Sunday is the celebration of the OX or Bullock in Maharashtra. The festival known also as Baille Pola or simply “Pola” is celebrated more in the rural parts of India, mostly the agricultural areas like Maharashtra or Madhya Pradesh where the Ox and Bullock is still a symbol of possession and luxury for any farmer. It is celebrated with great fervor on the Pithroti Amavasya (the new moon day in Shravan month (August - September)). In 2011, the date for Pola is August 28. On Pola day, the Oxen are brightly decorated and much color applied to them. They are washed well, and colored paper and streamers are tied to the horns and the legs, etc. It is a farming holiday for the farmer. The farmers celebrate and gives thanks to the bullock and oxen for supporting him and his family all through the year, by working diligently in the fields. The farmers parade their Ox around town or the village and collect little gifts and some monies.

[Please note this is about one-quarter of the frequent and lengthy reports that Joe sends me. If you would like to have the full reports, email Joe and ask him to put you on his distribution list. He also has a Facebook page with additional photos.—Lou]

University News

JSU’s football team ekes out a victory for game #1.

LOE Index Final Reminder
Thank you very much if you have completed the survey. If not, please do. All responses are completely confidential. The survey will help administrators and managers plan for change in the months and years to come. --Dr. William A. Meehan. [Please see the email from Dr. Meehan for the link to the survey. He also gives an ID number and password that you must use to access the survey. I am not comfortable in posting that information here. - Lou]

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.