I seem to be in “travel mode.” I was invited to Vanderbilt Medical Center to give a couple of presentations. So, today (Friday) starts at 7:00 AM for me with “Grand Rounds” (the medical term for “seminar”). Some of the motivation is probably because it is now ten years since I worked at Vanderbilt and I still have some good friends there. However, my calculations on the thermal response of tissue to laser light are demonstrating some interesting findings.

Kelly continues to hold down the fort while I am gone. He complains that his only job is to admit students into classes after enrollment has closed. Although it does give him the power to add students to my classes—which he has done!

One unofficial notice that I did not list below: on Monday there will be several Apple Computer reps on campus. This follows a visit by Drs. Turner and Simmons to the Apple Headquarters at Cupertino, CA. It looks like JSU is going to become much more “Mac friendly.” I feel that is great news. No, I do not think anyone will be “forced” to convert to using a Mac. However, for those of us who have, we won’t be totally ignored in the future.

-- Lou

Department News

Board of Trustees
Items for the October Board of Trustees Report are due to the Dean’s office by noon, Friday, September 30. Send any of your accomplishments for July-September 2011 to Lou by the end of Wednesday, 28 September.

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 and hand and volunteer to help.
News from Nanded, India

The opportunity for the weekend field trip finally materialized... part of the reason for the delay is the rain. It is the rainy season, and if activities require you to be out... you get wet or you don't go - actually pretty simple. When we arrived at the Ellora caves it was raining quite a bit... but once inside it was (mostly) dry. Not wanting to overstate the site... they were nothing short of amazing. Caves consisting of monasteries, temples, and religious artifacts from around AD 600, CARVED into the mountain side. It is difficult to imagine this development in such primitive times and with what we would think of as primitive technology... these guys were artistic, scientific and I believe much more technologically and I would say socially advanced than we often give credit.

The caves of Ellora, or excavations sights are a series of 37 caves that were dug or carved into the side the Charandri Hills. They were designed and carved as temples for the Jain, the Hindu and the Buddhist religions of the time. This again is an indication of how the three major religions were able to exist or coexist in harmony the same area.

Daulatabad Fort

Daulatabad Fort is 15 km from Aurangabad. Daulatabad known as 'the abode of wealth' a name given by Muhammad-bin-Tughlq when he made his capital here in A.D. 1327. The ancient name was actually 'Deogiri' meaning 'Hill of Gods' under the Yadavas of Deogiri. The Daulatabad fort was one of the most powerful forts during the medieval period. Built on a 200 meter high conical hill, the fort was defended by mote and glacis (artificial engineered slope) running around the hill at its base and a most complex and intricate defense system. The fortifications comprise three encircling walls with bastions. It was a center for trade and commerce, a stronghold and defense position and located along some of the old silk and spice routes of ancient times. No wonder it was called the "abode of wealth". This is a very rare type of construction and is actually a combination of ground and hill fort. It is built on an isolated pyramid like a natural mountain (similar to Pilot Mountain in NC) and the rock was mostly chiseled creating an almost impossible climb for anyone wanting to get in without invitation. The total fort is actually surrounded by three concentric ring walls or fortifications - known as kots. The outer one (Amberkot) incorporated the old down of Daulatabad - in true medieval style. For the most part this one is gone but the city actually still exists but is for some reason divided into 2 parts... it seems that maybe a newer (relative term) town is growing up a little further up the road. The second Kot is the Mahakot, a physical boundary that is still in place and has the actual entrance to the area. In this area and around the Mahakot was a water body, like a large moat, now dry, that was also a line of defense. The main entrance is in this wall and had a total of eight passages or gates. The third line was the Kalakot. After this wall was the actual moat around the mountain. Some said that the fort could only be captured by treachery... remember keep your friends close and your enemies closer. Reminding me of Abraham Lincoln's mention that "America will never be destroyed from the outside. If we falter and lose our freedoms, it will be because we destroyed ourselves."... was this borrowed???
JSU to Conduct Student Health Center Survey
With the goal of better understanding the healthcare needs and preferences of the students, faculty and staff at Jacksonville State University, the university will launch the JSU Student Health Center survey Wednesday, Sept. 28. An invitation to participate and a personalized link to the survey will be e-mailed to every JSU student and faculty/staff member Sept. 28. The online survey will take less than five minutes to complete. Candid feedback is strongly encouraged to get an accurate reading of the JSU community's healthcare needs, and all responses are confidential.

As an incentive to participate, students will be entered into a drawing for an iPod Touch, JSU messenger bag, or JSU jump drive upon completion of the survey. The random drawing for these prizes will take place Monday, Oct. 24, and winners will be notified via e-mail.
**Academe hosting new faculty reception**

Academe, a group that showcases teaching research, and service projects of JSU faculty, will host its annual New Faculty Reception on Tuesday, September 27, at 3:15 pm. in 1101 B, Houston Cole Library. All faculty and administrators are invited to attend to welcome these new members of the JSU family. Refreshments will be served, and the Academe steering committee will unveil its programs for 2011-2012. Please plan to come to meet our new faculty members and to learn more about the programs faculty members will be presenting for Academe this year.

**Call for Promotion and Tenure**

Faculty who are eligible to apply for promotion and/or tenure may pick up binders in the Provost’s Office in Room 235, Bibb Graves. Please refer to the website [http://www.jsu.edu/academicaffairs/promotiontenure/index.html](http://www.jsu.edu/academicaffairs/promotiontenure/index.html) for guidelines and schedule.

**Call for University Travel Grants**

Call for University Travel and Self-improvement Grants. Please refer to the website [http://www.jsu.edu/academicaffairs/travel_grant.html](http://www.jsu.edu/academicaffairs/travel_grant.html) for guidelines and application. To give the Dean’s staff time to database the grants and to allow Dr. Wade time to review and sign, we need the original grant applications in the Associate Dean’s office, 107 Martin Hall, by **Monday, October 10**. We will make the additional nine copies of each grant requested by Dr. Delap and will deliver the completed packets to his office by the University deadline. Please note that the College deadline is earlier than the University deadline.

**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.