This academic year is progressing rapidly. The Department is busy with both teaching and scholarly work. We already have a number of students and faculty scheduled to make presentations of their work at major meetings. [We have so many traveling that I am a bit concerned about our travel budget.] So, you can all pat yourselves on the back for your great work.

Now for the bad news—you must document all your good work (a SACS requirement) and JSU has decided that "Digital Measures" will be used for that documentation. There are training sessions (today and Monday—details are below) for learning to use Digital Measures. Please attend one of those sessions.

And back to the travel budget... I would not hesitate for one second to make a plea to the Dean for additional funding to cover travel because of all scholarly work being conducted by the Department. In fact, I would delight in making such a request. So, keep up the great work. You're lookin' great!

-- Lou

**Department News**

**Learning Digital Measures**

As a SACS requirement, all faculty departmental documentation has to be electronic and JSU has decided that the Digital Measures application would provide the accepted mode electronic documentation. Several training sessions have been planned. You are STRONGLY encouraged to attend one of the training sessions:

- **Friday, September 30** 12:00 noon - 2 p.m. in Ayers 357
- **Friday, September 30** 2 p.m. - 4 p.m. in Ayers 357
- **Monday, October 3** 12:00 noon - 2 p.m. in Ayers 357
- **Monday, October 3** 2 p.m. - 4 p.m. in Ayers 357

To sign up, please go to the URL below. Please note that additional training sessions will be made available as needed. [http://doodle.com/rnwitykiabtnrk6f](http://doodle.com/rnwitykiabtnrk6f)
American Association of Geographers (AAG) Extends Deadline
The deadline to submit session proposals and abstracts for the 2012 AAG Annual Meeting in New York has been extended due to high demand. Abstracts and proposals are now due by October 13, 2011. Presenters can register for the annual meeting and submit abstracts for presentations and sessions through the meeting portal at www.aag.org/annualmeeting. Details on themes, speakers, and calls for papers are also online.

All Tenured members of the Department
All tenured members of the Department are invited to review Dr. Nagarajan Vasumathi’s tenure package. Your letters or written comments are due to Lou or Tracy by the start of Monday, 17 October. The letters and comments will be included in the package as confidential information.

Study Leave News

News from Nanded
My journeys this week carried me to the Latur District of Maharashtra. To the M.U. or Maharashtra Udayagiri College, one of the oldest colleges in the state. It is a school of Arts, Science, and Commerce and will soon be instituting a Geographic Information Systems Curriculum in Geography. The school is only about 100 Kilometers from Nanded or SRTM but the trip took about 3.5 hours to travel. This is a testament to the rainy season herein the central region of India. According to most that commented on it, during the rainy season the roads in many areas reach a high state of disrepair. This of course increases travel times in most of the state.

The occasion for the journey was to serve as guest and guest speaker for a one-day workshop. As the saying in India goes “Guest is God.” I was given a royal treatment, if not a Godly one. I received a placard commemorating the occasion, a shawl of honor given to special guests, and series of garlands (from various departments) to honor me... I know it is protocol here but has a way of making one not only feel honored but also a little uneasy from all of the notice. Anyway, the workshop went well, and I do believe my talk was well received by the geography faculty from all over the state. One of the outcomes was a new journal of geosciences. I was honored by asking if I would serve on the board for the new Journal, the Maharashtra Journal of Geosciences and, of course, I accepted.

Along the way to Udayagiri, (in the city of Udgir) we stopped at another college, the Hawagi
Swami College where I met with the academic staff (here means faculty), the principal, and the Department of Geography. I had the pleasure of addressing a class of geographers, (thank goodness most speak English pretty well - my Marati is sorely lacking). And then a whirlwind tour of the campus and the library.

University News

**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.

**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.
Flu Shots for JSU Employees

Healthwise, your Public Education Employees Wellness Program will be on campus giving Flu shots Thursday, October 6, 2011, from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm at TMB Auditorium. There is no cost to you or your adult dependents (must be 18 or older) if you have the PEEHIP medical coverage, PEEHIP supplemental coverage or one of the Southland optional plans. Employees will be required to show proof of insurance before the vaccination can be given (no exceptions will be made). Appointments are not necessary and vaccinations will be given on a FIRST COME FIRST SERVE BASIS.

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.