Well, this week the Board of Trustees voted for the 3% across the Board raise. 😊 Of course, I try not to think about effect of the Alabama Retirement Account on my take-home pay. 😞

On a positive note, you will see that Laura Weinkauf has several sessions scheduled for next Friday and Saturday at Little River Canyon. I note the talk on Sundials. Long ago I learned the bit of trivia that clocks all run clockwise because of the sundial. Clockwise is the direction the shadow created from the sunlight that moves around the face of a sundial. Since clocks “evolved” from the sundial, that direction has been maintained. It was not until I moved to New Zealand that I realized that a sundial would run “backwards” in the southern hemisphere. It is fairly obvious once you think about it. It was just something that most of us never thought about. One of the physicists had a southern hemisphere clock in his office. It ran counter clockwise (like the southern hemisphere sundials). In the southern hemisphere, the water spinning the opposite way to go down the drain is something you can live with. However, clocks that run backwards are terrible!

-- Lou

Department News

Astronomy Weekend Presented by Little River Canyon Center and DeSoto State Park
Join us for fun activities Friday night, all day Saturday and Saturday night for families who want to learn about nature and astronomy together. Jacksonville State University’s Astronomer Dr. Laura Weinkauf will present Campfire Talks on Friday and Saturday nights at DeSoto State Park and a solar system program at the Little River Canyon Center on Saturday.

Campfire Talk: Canyon Constellations
Learn more about the winter night sky with JSU astronomer Dr. Laura Weinkauf. Sky views dependent upon weather conditions.

Friday, October 28, 2011 at DeSoto State Park
Campfire Circle Time: 6:00 pm, Free
Sundials & Shadows
JSU astronomer, Dr. Laura Weinkauf, will teach children/families about the movement of the sun and how the earth relates to our big star as well as the other planets in our solar system.
Saturday, October 29, 2011 at Little River Canyon Center 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm, Free

Campfire Talk: Moons and Planets
Learn more about the winter night sky with JSU astronomer Dr. Laura Weinkauf. Sky views dependent upon weather conditions.
Saturday, October 29, 2011 at DeSoto State Park Campfire Circle 6:00 pm, Free

New Chemistry Courses Accepted by STARS
Congratulations to Al Nichols. Al created two new chemistry courses (CY115 Concepts of General Chemistry I and CY116 Concepts of General Chemistry II). These courses are designed for the non-science major who will be taking no chemistry beyond CY115 or CY116. The courses cover a broader look at chemistry and a bit less depth in some topics. Both courses were approved as AGSC - STARS (Articulated and General Studies Committee - Statewide Transfer & Articulation Reporting System) General Studies Courses in Area III Math and Science. In the approval process, we received zero votes not recommending approval! As soon as we had STARS approval, nursing stated that CY115 would satisfy their chemistry requirement for pre-nursing students. So, we now have dietetic students and pre-nursing students in a course that better suits their needs. Great work, Al!

Apple iOS Development Seminar
University of Alabama at Birmingham's IT Department will be hosting an Apple iOS Development Seminar event on campus November 1, 2011. This seminar is at UAB Volker Hall, 1st Floor, Lecture Room C, from 1:00-3:00 on November 1. Apple National Consulting Engineer, Steve Hyman, will discuss and demonstrate Apple’s software development tools for the iPad, iPhone and iPod Touch. He will also show how individuals and institutions are building innovative mobile applications for their organizations and the wider world and how to get started building your own applications with Apple’s free developer tools. Steve is part of Apple's Education Team based in Toronto, specializing in Apple’s developer tools for the iPhone and Mac. If you are interested in attending, please let Ann Young know by Friday, TODAY! October 21. Seating is limited and is on a first come basis. Thanks.

University News

Each Thursday is Southerners Day at Cooter Brown’s Rib Shack
Every Thursday during the month of October, Cooter Brown's will donate 15% of all sales (Lunch and Dinner) to the Marching Southerners LONDON fund.
Jacksonville Opera Theatre to Present 'Princess and the Pea'
Jacksonville Opera Theatre will present the children’s musical The Princess and the Pea by Mary Carol Warwick, loosely based on the story by Hans Christian Anderson, October 20-21, November 3-4 and 6.
Performance Dates:
Performance Center, Mason Hall, Jacksonville - October 20 - 21 at 7 p.m.
Ritz Theatre, Gadsden - November 3 - 4 at 7 p.m.; November 6 at 3 p.m.
Purchase tickets at 1-800-838-3006 or www.jacksonvilleopera.org

Study Leave News

News from Nanded (all photos this week)

Above center, the Ajantra Caves and in honor of Lord Buddha

Religion is a big part of the daily live of most who live here. I was told that if you come to the temples on Monday that you will likely have a 2 to 3 hour wait. The pragmatic answer is to worship on Saturday. Above right is a passageway leading into Temple. Vendors selling gifts to the shrine and to Lords Shiva and Vishnu. These serve both a religious and secular function.
Above right is a view from the Ajanta Hills. You can almost make out the ½ scale model of the Taj Mahal in the center.

Above left is at the Soneri Mahal, a museum of Indian History and artifacts.

Top Ten List

This top ten list is good information for advising students. This list was posted on LinkedIn and represents the finding of interviewing 500 recent university grads. Although things are improving, it is still difficult to land a job for the recent university grad. The full report is written by Kelly Eggers and can be read at: http://www.fins.com/Finance/Articles/SBB0001424052970204226204576601420036627098/The-10-Worst-Mistakes-of-First-Time-Job-Hunters

The 10 Worst Mistakes of First-Time Job Hunters

1. "I would have started looking for jobs earlier."
2. "I would have actually networked."
3. "I would have taken on a job or an internship in addition to my course load."
4. "I would have gotten more involved in career-relevant extracurricular activities."
5. "I would have applied to more jobs."
6. "I would have focused more on becoming 'professional.'"
7. "I would have done more to figure out what my career goals were."
8. "I would have gone to the career center."
9. "I would have kept better track of my achievements."
10. "I would have focused more on developing relevant skills."
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.