You might not have noticed, but I missed sending out a Newsletter last week. I was completely involved in activities in Rochester. I am not certain if I should extend my apologies for not completing the newsletter or get prepared to accept your thanks for not writing a newsletter last week. 😊 In any event, the newsletter is back this week and there are several important items that you can read about, below.

I mentioned a few weeks ago that CY 115 and CY 116 (new intro chemistry courses for non-science majors) were approved by STARS and the nursing program immediately accepted the courses for their pre-nursing students. In response to pre-nursing accepting CY 115, we quickly added CY 115 to the spring semester and could squeeze in two lab sections. Within the first week of registration, both sections of CY 115 filled up. (We are planning to offer CY 115 in the summer for those students who could not get in this Spring.) Most of these students would have enrolled in chemistry at Gadsden State. So, this does not appear to be a shifting of students from one course to another, but a genuine increase in student numbers. This is great for the chemistry program and a special note of praise to Al Nichols for his efforts in creating and teaching CY 115 and CY 116.

Enjoy the Thanksgiving holiday next week. Be thankful for all that we have and remember those who are not so fortunate. Oh yeah, enjoy the football, too!
-- Lou

Department News

Drop Passing – Final Day -- Today
Today is the last day for students to drop passing. Your signature is required and they’ll take the form to the Registrar’s Office. Please be available for your students throughout the day.

IDEA Evaluations
From Thursday, November 17, through Sunday, December 4, students will receive e-mails from IDEA prompting them to complete their online course evaluations. You should help remind your students to fill out these evaluations.
Fall Commencement on 16 December
Fall Commencement will be divided into two ceremonies at Pete Mathews Coliseum on Friday, December 16, 2011 as follows:
4:30 p.m. - College of Arts & Sciences, College of Commerce & Business Administration and Library faculty
7:00 p.m. - College of Education & Professional Studies and College of Nursing & Health Sciences
If you can attend the 4:30 ceremony (and you are all strongly encouraged to attend) please let Tracy know by 6 December.

University News

Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) Proposals Requested
Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) requires that the QEP development process include “an institutional process for identifying key issues emerging from institutional assessment and focused on learning outcomes and/or the environment supporting student learning and accomplishing the mission of the institution.” If this makes sense to you and you have a great idea how to accomplish the goal, consider submitting a proposal by 15 March 2012. You can request up to $250,000.00 per year for five years! More details can be found at: http://www.jsu.edu/oira/docs/QEP_RFP.pdf

JSU Drama to Present Shakespeare's 'Much Ado About Nothing'

The battle of the sexes rages in one of Shakespeare's most popular comedies, Much Ado About Nothing, which will be presented by the Jacksonville State University Drama Department November 17-20 at the Ernest Stone Performing Arts Center on the JSU campus. Performances will be Thursday-Saturday, Nov. 17-19 at 7 p.m. and Sunday, Nov. 20 at 2 p.m. Tickets are $10 for adults, $8 for senior citizens and JSU personnel, and $5 for students, children and military. To order tickets, call 256-782-5648.

Hear Ye! Hear Ye! Annual Renaissance Madrigal Dinner, December 2-3

On Friday and Saturday December 2-3, the JSU Choral Activities will present its Annual Renaissance Madrigal Dinner in the Leone Cole Auditorium on the JSU campus. Join us for an evening of music and high (and low) drama, featuring the JSU Chamber Singers and A Cappella Choir! Seat reservations are $32 - $55 Adults, $20 Children (Age 10 and under); advanced purchase is required. All reservations must be received by the Choral Activities office by noon on Tuesday,
November 22. Early reservations get the best seats so please don’t delay. Seating will be assigned as the orders are received, so please make any group requests together at one time. Please be certain of your plans, as seat reservations are non-refundable. Doors open at 6:15 p.m. and the festivities begin at 7:00 p.m. Reservation forms may be found on the JSU Music Department website, www.jsu.edu/music or you may phone in your order to the JSU office of Choral Activities (256) 782-5544.

Top Ten List

Top Ten Bizarre and Controversial Archeological Discoveries
You can read more and see pictures at:
http://www.toptenz.net/top-10-bizarre-archeological-discoveries.php

1. Acámbaro Figures: Found in Mexico, these 3,200 figures of people from around the world and dinosaurs are claimed to come from first-hand experience with dinosaurs. Even though these figures had to be in the ground for at least 1500 years, they show absolutely no sign of wear. [In fact, some still have their ancient price tags attached.]

2. The Dropa Stones: These are stones with grooves that I would attribute to a record player from the Flintstones. The stones were found on the border of China and Tibet in a series of caves. Professor Tsum Um Nui of the Beijing Academy of Ancient Studies claims the stones are from an alien spacecraft that crashed in the region 12,000 years ago. [They could master intergalactic flight, but they used Flintstone like record players. What, no iPods?]

3. Horned Human Skull: In Pennsylvania, 59 miles northwest of Scranton, a large burial mound in the 1880’s had a skull of 7 foot tall humans with horns on their foreheads. Unfortunately, all the skulls were stolen and never seen again. [Amazing how all the good stuff disappears.]

4. Map of the Creator: In 1999 a stone in a Russian backyard (5’ x 3.5’ x 0.5’) and is a 3 D relief map of the Ural Region (lots of high points and valleys). This is something than Fred Flintstone might have put into his “car.” [They claim it was used for ancient flying—they can build a plane but they chisel maps out of rocks?]

5. Aluminium Wedge of Aiud: Discovered in Romania in 1974, this large hammer-head was found between two mastodon bone. This hammer-head or wedge is made of an alloy of aluminum. Since mastadons were around about 10,000 years before aluminum was discovered, this is claimed to be evidence of alien spacecrafts. [A new theory to explain the extinction of the dinosaurs: Bad alien pilots running down every last dinosaur on earth.]

6. Los Luna Decalogue Stone: Found in the 1880’s near Los Lunas (35 miles south of Albuquerque), this stone 80 ton stone has the short version of the ten-commandments written in a kind of Hebrew. Where punctuation is a modern invention, this stone uses punctuation and does not follow historical styles. Some still claim this is direct evidence that the early Semitic contact with the Americas. [Obvious evidence that we are supposed to have the ten-commandments in every public building.]

7. Piri Reis Map: A map drawn in 1513 by Piri Reis on gazelle skin. Only ½ of the map remains and it shows Europe, North Africa and the coast of Brazil - not to mention Antarctica. That is about 300 years before Antarctica was discovered. The map
gives credit to a map drawn by Christopher Columbus. The Columbus map has never been found. [Piri must have had a great imagination.]

8. Giants of North America: 12 ft tall humans in California, 10'9" humans in West Virginia, giants twice normal height in Ohio, 9'11" skeleton in Louisiana. All of these were discovered by Dr. F. Bruce Russell, but no physical archeological evidence has ever been displayed. [I wonder if he is related to Piri?]

9. Kensington Runestone: A stone found in Minnesota with ancient writing and carved text. The text was translated to read: "8 Goths and 22 Norwegians on exploration journey from Vinland over the west. We camp by 2 skerries one day-journey from this stone. We were and fished one day. After we came home, 10 men red with blood and tortured. Hail Virgin Mary, save from evil. Have 10 men by the sea to look after our ship, 14 day-journeys from this island year 1362." [I is amazing that the ancient Vikings spoke the same way that Tonto did!]

10. Shroud of Turin: Although the faithful still insist this is the shroud of Jesus, carbon 13 dating puts the date at 1260 - 1390 AD.

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.