Well, I delivered by last lecture for the semester yesterday. The only thing left is a large stack of lab reports to mark and the final exam. This semester I tried something different. I challenged my students to create a distance education lesson plan for a physics topic. I told them they would be assessed on the physics (it is correct and presented well), how engaging the presentation would be, how much a typical student would learn from the presentation, the creativity and professionalism of the lesson plan. About ¼ of the students attempted to create a plan. Some of the lessons are a series of PowerPoint slides that would cause the students to instantly fall asleep – or to run from the classroom. I did receive some interesting lesson plans. One of the things that I noticed was the enhanced learning when materials are integrated. This allows students to learn like many of us eat a dinner… a bite of this then a bit of that. Lessons that allow students to read some text, see an example problem worked, are quizzed on a single concept and then allow them to work a problem seems to be a nice way to learn the material. The more flexible the learning, the more interesting it becomes. Maybe we have to get out of this idea that lectures are delivered an hour at a time?
-- Lou

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 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.
Tour of the Botany Gardens at Saint Gadge Baba Amravati University

Offerings and prayers to the Sea, Bay of Bengal and the Palm Beach, Vishakhapatnam

Preparing and delivering lectures for faculty retraining sessions

Dept. of Geography, Andhra Pradesh University
**Student News**

**Student Travel Grants**
We have funding from Sam Kinsaul to support student travel to present research work at conferences. Applications are due by 31 December. See Lou or Tracy if you need an application. Requests up to $500 can be made.

**Bama Grad Expo 2012**
The University of Alabama (UA) will host Bama Grad Expo 2012 on 12-14 January, 2012. This is a great opportunity to explore the graduate options at UA. If you complete an application for one of UA’s graduate programs, all expenses - travel, lodging and meals - will be paid for your visit. See Tracy if you want a brochure. You can also get more information on-line at: [http://www.BamaGradExpo.ua.edu](http://www.BamaGradExpo.ua.edu)

**University News**

**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.

**Calhoun County Civic Chorale Presents Winter Concert on Dec. 4**
On Sunday, December 4, 2011 at 3:00 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church in Anniston, the Calhoun County Civic Chorale will be performing its winter concert. The featured work on the program will be John Rutter's *Magnificat*, as well as other seasonal music. First Presbyterian Church is located at 1701 Henry Road in Anniston. The concert is free and open to the public.

For further information, please contact Dr. Corbin (256) 782-5544, pcorbin@jsu.edu.
Top Ten List

Top Ten Most Annoying Christmas Songs  [The list and comments are from: http://gawker.com/5713389/the-10-most-annoying-christmas-songs]

Kelly Gregg asked to have the songs embedded into the newsletter. Unfortunately, that would make the newsletter over 25 MB and it would not go through JSU’s email. So, ask Tracy to borrow her CD of the ten songs.

1. **"Grandma Got Run Over by a Reindeer"**  Randy Brooks’ tale of a boozy matriarch who decides to walk home through the snow and gets killed by Santa’s sleigh is supposed to be subversive and amusing. It’s not. It’s just a jangle of chords that are trying way too hard.

2. **"I Saw Mommy Kissing Santa Claus"**  This song is seriously messed up. Either this kid thinks that his mother is cheating on his father by making out with Santa, or he finally realizes that Santa doesn’t really exist at all because it is his father. Either way, his Christmas is ruined.

3. **"The Twelve Days of Christmas"**  The problem with this traditional favorite is by the time you get to the fifth day of ever-compiling gift giving, you’re already sick of the song. Can’t it be like the 4 days of Christmas?

4. **"Baby It’s Cold Outside"**  Another entry in the “creepy lyrics.” A man is convincing a woman that she should stay at his house to cuddle and canoodle, but she really wants to leave. He doesn’t think no means no and is basically saying, “I won’t lend you a coat so your choice is to stay here or try to get home and freeze.”

5. **"The Little Drummer Boy"**  Christmas is reduced to some annoying kid with a drum who shows up and is all "pa rum pa pa pum, rum pa pa pum, rum pa pa pumm-ing" everyone until they want ring his neck. That’s really all this song is, a series of continuous onomatopoeic drum noises that go on and on for hours.

6. **"Happy Christmas (War Is Over)"**  Combine John Lennon with: A children’s choir? A tambourine? A singing Yoko Ono? These are all bad ideas on any song, especially one about seasonal joy. Hearing this song is like when your Aunt Cathy gives you an envelope for Christmas that she donated $25 in your name to the St. Dymphna’s Homeless Shelter for Wayward Women and Autistic Children.

7. **"River"**  Let’s get one thing straight, "River" isn’t about Christmas any more than Die Hard is about Christmas. Sure, they both take place in December, but the plot is completely devoid of any holiday sentiment. "The River" is about a selfish woman who pushed her lover to break up with her and she wishes that she had a river so that she could flee all the people who are happy about Christmas.

8. **"Do They Know It’s Christmas?"**  First of all this holiday predecessor to "We Are The World" is completely formless, the lyrics are atrocious, and it just devolves into an ever-repeating chorus of "Feed the world, don’t they know it’s Christmas time." Second of all, we don’t need songs that make us feel guilty.

9. **"Last Christmas"**  "Last year I gave you my heart, you dumped me, and a whole year later, I am still not over it and completely obsessed with you." This song is like your ex-boyfriend who finally stopped calling, but still tries to find you on Facebook when he gets drunk or depressed.
10. *"The Christmas Shoes"*  This song is spectacularly awful. It’s every bit of Christmas sentimentality packed into three awful country-twinged verses. Everyone who owns a Thomas Kincaid painting thinks it’s beautiful and cries every time they hear it.

**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](mailto:tscasey@jsu.edu) or phone (256) 782-5232.