This newsletter will close out the calendar year and mark three years at JSU for me. With the holidays and break between semesters, I encourage each of you to take some time off and recharge your batteries, see life in a new perspective and return with renewed enthusiasm. For those of you who are traveling–safe journeys. For those of you who are spending time with family—I hope that you have quality time with your families. For those who are seeking some private time to maybe read or nap—I hope that you find a soft bed in a quiet corner of your house. I would like to wish each of you a very Merry Christmas and a Joyous New Year. I hope that Santa is good to you and everyone on his list. Joe, we hope that your trip back from India is uneventful. See you all next year!

-- Lou

**Department News**

**Fall Commencement on 16 December**
Fall Commencement will be at 4:30 p.m. for the College of Arts & Sciences at Pete Mathews Coliseum on Friday, December 16, 2011. We have four students graduating. David Hunter Davis (Chemistry), Brian Ogendi (Chemistry), Victoria Gosnold (Geography) and Brian Morgan (Geography). Congratulations to all the graduating students.

**Board of Trustees Report Items to Lou by 16 December**
Please send to Lou your scholarly accomplishments for the time period of October, November and December 2011 by Friday, 16 December, so that I can compile them and forward them to the Dean.

**Please Lock All Exterior Doors**
If you are in during the holiday break, please check the exterior doors upon entering and leaving that they are closed and locked. It only takes a few seconds to check the door and lock it, if necessary. It takes much more time to file police reports about stolen equipment, find replacement equipment, order it and have it installed.
Student News

**Spring 2012 College Of Arts and Sciences Symposium**
The symposium will be February 15 & 16, 2012. All students are encouraged to participate. If you have presented a poster of your work at other meetings, consider an oral presentation at the symposium. The deadline for the submission of abstracts is January 31st 2012. To submit your abstract, use the following link: [http://www.jsu.edu/cgi-bin/apps/symposium](http://www.jsu.edu/cgi-bin/apps/symposium)

**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)

**Study Leave News**
Natural gas powered electric plant and signs in 3 languages, English, Hindi and Telegu

Dr. Krishnamacharyulu—on one of the long walks discussing the parallels of Hindu and Christian Religions.
New Campus, still under construction. The faculty lounge and a classroom under the Turmeric tree.

Top Ten List

This week we have a Top Ten quiz. Put the following in order. Answers are at the bottom of the newsletter.

1. International Airports. Rank these (busiest = 1). Information is from the International Civil Aviation Organization:
   - New Tokyo International (Narita) - Tokyo, Japan
   - Charles de Gaulle - Paris, France
   - London Gatwick - Gatwick, UK
   - J.F. Kennedy International - New York, US
   - Zurich - Zurich, Switzerland
   - London Heathrow - London, UK
   - Frankfurt - Frankfurt, Germany
   - Hong Kong - Hong Kong, China
   - Singapore International - Singapore
   - Schiphol - Amsterdam, Netherlands

2. Best-selling global brands. Information from Interbrand
   - General Electric
   - IBM
   - BP
   - Panasonic
   - Shell
   - Ford
   - Mercedez
   - AT&T
   - Honda
   - Toyota

   - Calcium
   - Magnesium
   - Silicon
   - Hydrogen
   - Oxygen
   - Aluminum
   - Sodium
   - Titanium
   - Potassium
   - Iron
   - Japan
   - Cuba
   - New Zealand
   - Malaysia
   - Iceland
   - Madagascar
   - Papua New Guinea
   - Philippines
   - Indonesia
   - Great Britain

5. Languages Spoken. Information taken from “The Top 10 of Everything - 2002” by Russell Ash
   - French
   - Russian
   - English
   - Portuguese
   - Bengali
   - Chinese
   - Spanish
   - Malay-Indonesian
   - Arabic
   - Hindustani

6. Top 10 Cleanest Countries. Information from aneki.com
   - Sweden
   - New Zealand
   - Switzerland
   - Austria
   - Iceland
   - Finland
   - Canada
   - Australia
   - Denmark
   - Norway

7. Wine producing countries, Information from Productschap voor Gedistilleerde Dranken.
   - Argentina
   - Chile
   - US
   - South Africa
   - Romania
   - Spain
   - Australia
   - Italy
   - Germany
   - France

   - Australia
   - Canada
   - Netherlands
   - Switzerland
   - Iceland
   - United States
   - Belgium
   - Norway
   - Japan
   - Sweden

   - Alabama
   - Hawaii
   - Louisiana
   - Mississippi
   - Georgia
   - Alaska
   - California
   - Arizona
   - Nevada
   - New Mexico
10. Most dangerous jobs. Based upon fatalities from the Bureau of Labor Statistics (note that NO university job make the list!)

- Pilots and Navigators
- Timber Cutters
- Driver - Sales Workers
- Roofers
- Construction Laborers
- Electrical Power Installers
- Truck Drivers
- Fishers
- Farm Occupations
- Structural Metal Workers

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.