I though the weather is the news of the week. However, Bernice changed that (see below). Back to the weather, those days of missed classes are going to be tough on both students and instructors. Next week we have the holiday Martin Luther King Day on Monday (17 January), so any class meeting on only Mondays (like labs) are really going to suffer. I have already heard some requests that we do not cancel classes for the Alabama Academy of Science meeting on 3-4 March (a Thursday and Friday). As the date approaches, I will work with the conference organizers and the Dean to make certain that anyone who wants to hold class on those days will be able to.

On the other side of the coin, I have my lectures available as podcasts on iTunes. That allows students the freedom to view the lectures when they have time. They can view them from their computer, their iPod or their phone. During the days of no classes and no work for most people, the iTunes videos were also not viewed. 😞 I guess the “snow day” mentality of K-12 is hard to break.

I suppose the other news is the replacement of the 12 year-old laptop computers in the physics labs. For those who complain about having a 4 year-old desktop computer, the students in our physics labs were using ancient Gateway computers. Many of the students claimed to have never seen such old computers. The new laptops are a nice upgrade for us.

Another long week-end and short week coming up. Enjoy the warmer weather.
-- Lou

**Department News**

**HEADLINE NEWS:**
Bernice Moser is JSU Employee of the Month for January 2011.

The official reception will be on Friday, 28 January at 1:00 PM on the McGee overpass. We will have cake, nibbles and coke. Please put this on your calendars and plan to stop by for this great event. Congratulations Bernice!
Second Call for University Travel Grants
University Travel Grant Applications are due no later than January 24, 2011 to the Dean. [Please note this is 4 days before the University deadline to allow the Dean to read through the requests.] For more information and application visit our web site http://www.jsu.edu/academicaffairs/travel_grant.html.

Faculty Research Grants
The deadline for receipt of Faculty Research Grants in the Associate Dean’s office is noon Monday, March 21, to provide time for Dr. Wade’s review. Please ask faculty to follow these instructions in preparing an application.
3. Please do not use old forms!
4. Please do not send multiple copies of the application; our office will get the Dean’s signature, make the Faculty Research Committee’s requested ten copies, and deliver them to the committee chair, Ms. Gloria Horton.
5. Please print the budget on white paper. Our office will copy this onto the requested colored paper.
6. Please attach the progress reports for last year’s grants to any new research proposal submission. These progress reports are also due to Ms. Horton by March 1, even if the research is incomplete.
7. Please include a current CV for each faculty researcher.

2010 in Pictures
The slide show on the web is primarily sports pictures with several of snow pictures (amazing for the few days of snow we get each year) and very few academic pictures ☹️. Nouredine, Laura, and Kelly did make it into the slide show ☻️. Their pictures are shown here.

Department Meeting
We will have a Departmental meeting Monday 24 January at 12:30.
Recent Snow Storm

Jonathan Herbert submitted this map of the recent snow in Alabama. The map is from the National Weather Service in Birmingham, AL. They have Jacksonville listed at 4.3 inches of snow. He also said to put this recent “snow storm” in context, the 5 top events recorded for Birmingham have been:

1) 13.0” - March 12th-13th, 1993
2) 11.0” - January 29th-30th, 1936
3) 9.5” - January 23rd, 1940
4) 8.1” - January 28th, 1904
5) 8.0” - December 31st, 1963

Note: The above data are preliminary and may not accurately represent snowfall amounts in some areas.
JSU Symposium
The online abstract submission form is available now for the 2011 Symposium on the Arts and Sciences website. Students may submit abstracts (up to 450 words) at any time up to the January 28, 2011 deadline. Prizes of $50 are awarded to the best presentations.

University News

JOT to Present Operas Based on Works of Gertrude Stein
Ring in the New Year with the Jacksonville Opera Theatre as we present two operas by the poet Gertrude Stein. The pieces, which will be presented the weekend of January 15-16, 2011, are In a Garden by composer Meyer Kupferman and Three Sisters Who Are Not Sisters by composer Ned Rorem. The evening of opera will be presented on Saturday, January 15, 2011 at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, January 16, 2011 at 3 p.m. in the Performance Center of Mason Hall on JSU’s campus. Tickets are $9 for the general public and $5 for students, senior citizens and the military. For ticket reservations, call JOT at 256-782-5876. Both performances promise to be intriguing. This evening of opera will be an evening you won’t forget!

Degenerate States

The Value of a Drink
Sometimes when I reflect on all the wine I drink I feel shame. Then I look into the glass and think about the workers in the vineyards and all of their hopes and dreams. If I didn’t drink this wine, they might be out of work and their dreams would be shattered. Then I say to myself, “It is better that I drink this wine and let their dreams come true than be selfish and worry about my liver.” ~ Jack Handy

“I feel sorry for people who don’t drink. When they wake up in the morning, that’s as good as they’re going to feel all day.” ~ Frank Sinatra

“When I read about the evils of drinking, I gave up reading.” ~ Henny Youngman

“24 hours in a day, 24 beers in a case. Coincidence? I think not.” ~ Stephen Wright

“When we drink, we get drunk. When we get drunk, we fall asleep. When we fall asleep, we commit no sin. When we commit no sin, we go to heaven. So, let’s all get drunk and go to heaven!” ~ Brian O’Rourke

“Beer is proof that God loves us and wants us to be happy.” ~ Benjamin Franklin

“Without question, the greatest invention in the history of mankind is beer. Oh, I grant you that the wheel was also a fine invention, but the wheel does not go nearly as well with pizza.” ~ Dave Barry

“To some it’s a six-pack, to me it’s a Support Group. Salvation in a can!” ~ Dave Howell
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.