First, I call your attention to a week of meetings and deadlines. Monday starts with the Board of Trustees meeting at 10:00 AM. The Department has a meeting at 12:30 on Monday. Do not forget that Monday is the deadline for travel grant applications. On Wednesday, Distance Ed. has a three-hour presentation on new software for virtual meetings (and virtual classrooms). On Friday, we reach the deadline for students to submit abstracts to the JSU Symposium. Please encourage your student to submit and present at the symposium. We also have a nice way to end the week with the celebration of Bernice being named Employee of the Month. Then, if you have the energy to drive up to Fort Payne on Saturday, you can hear an update of Al Gore’s presentation An Inconvenient Truth. Let's hope they corrected all the errors and misstatements that were in the original presentation. Details for all these events are listed below.

By the way, we have only a two-day weekend and then FIVE full days of work next week. 😊 I did enjoy the opportunity to dig out my cross-country skis during our recent snow. It was not great snow for skiing, but it was the best snow that I have had in years.

Things appear to be getting back to normal in the Department. The first tests of the semester are coming a bit early for some of our students. I have a large number of chemistry students planning on attending the American Chemical Society Meeting in Anaheim, California this spring. I will keep the rest of the news for the Department Meeting on Monday. See you then (if not before).

-- Lou

Department News

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.
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 punch. Please put this on your calendars and plan to stop by for this great event. Congratulations Bernice!

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

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.

Student News

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

New Advances from Distance Education
We are excited to announce that the Wimba Collaboration Suite, a comprehensive live collaboration environment for dynamic instruction, efficient meetings, and effective delivery of academic and administrative help, will soon be available to JSU faculty, staff, and students. The Wimba Collaboration Suite consists of Wimba Classroom, Wimba Pronto, and Wimba Voice, and provides virtual classroom technology, a text,
voice, and video instant messaging platform, audio-based discussion forums, emails, and assignment feedback capability, and much more. We’d like to encourage you to attend a special introductory session with our Wimba Implementation Consultant next Wednesday, January 26 from 9:00-12:00 in 1103 A Houston Cole Library. During this session, we will introduce the Collaboration Suite and discuss our implementation plan, including potential use cases, expected outcomes and associated assessment plans, and our campus awareness campaign.

The Climate Project (TCP)
TCP’s mission is to educate the public about the harmful effects of climate change and to work toward solutions at a grassroots level worldwide. TCP supports more than 3,000 diverse and dedicated volunteers internationally, and TCP U.S. comprises one third of this global force. These volunteers are known as TCP Presenters and have been personally trained by Vice President Al Gore to deliver an updated version of the slide show featured in the Academy Award-winning documentary An Inconvenient Truth. Date: Saturday, January 29, 2011 Where: Little River Canyon Center in Fort Payne, AL Time: 1:00-3:00 pm Fee: No fee

JSU Trustees to Meet January 24
The Jacksonville State University Board of Trustees will hold their quarterly meeting on Monday, January 24, 2011 at 10 a.m. on the eleventh floor of the Houston Cole Library.

Degenerate States
Is it possible to understand the JSU Science Major?
Understanding JSU Science Majors #1
Two male JSU science students were biking on the Ladiga Trail when one said, "Where did you get such a great bike?" The second student replied, "Well, I was walking along yesterday, minding my own business, when a beautiful woman rode up on this bike, threw it to the ground, took off all her clothes and said, "Take what you want." The first science student nodded approvingly and said, "Good choice: The clothes probably wouldn’t have fit you anyway."

Understanding JSU Science Majors #2
To the optimist, the glass is half-full. To the pessimist, the glass is half-empty. To the JSU science student, the glass is twice as big as it needs to be.

Understanding JSU Science Majors #3
A priest, a doctor, and a JSU science student were waiting one morning for a particularly slow group of golfers. The engineer fumed, "What’s with those guys? We must have been waiting for fifteen minutes!" The doctor chimed in, "I don’t know, but I’ve never seen such inept golf!" The priest said, "Here comes the green-keeper. Let’s have a word with him." He said, "Hello, George. What’s wrong with that group ahead of us? They’re rather slow, aren’t they?" The green-keeper replied, "Oh, yes. That’s a group of blind firemen. They lost their sight saving our clubhouse from a fire last year, so we always let them play for free anytime." The group fell silent for a moment. The priest said, "That’s so sad. I think I will say a special prayer for them tonight." The doctor said, "Good idea. I’m going to contact my ophthalmologist colleague and see if there’s anything she can do for them." The JSU science student said, "Why can’t they play at night?"
Understanding JSU Science Majors #4
The graduate with a science degree asks, "Why does it work?" The graduate with a technology degree asks, "How does it work?" The graduate with an accounting degree asks, "How much will it cost?" The graduate with an arts degree asks, "Do you want fries with that?"

Understanding JSU Science Majors #5
Three JSU science students were gathered together discussing who must have designed the human body. One said, "It was a physicist. Just look at all the joints." Another said, "No, it was a chemist. The brain relies on countless chemical reactions." The last one said, "No, actually it had to have been a technology geek. Who else would run a toxic waste pipeline through a recreational area?"

Understanding JSU Science Majors #6
A JSU science student was crossing a road one day, when a frog called out to her and said, "If you kiss me, I'll turn into a handsome prince." The student bent over, picked up the frog, and put it in her backpack. The frog spoke up again and said, "If you kiss me, I'll turn back into handsome prince and stay with you for one week." The science student took the frog out of her backpack, smiled at it and carefully returned it to the backpack. The frog then cried out, "If you kiss me and turn me back into a handsome prince, I'll stay with you for one week and do anything you want." Again, the science student took the frog out, smiled at it and gently put it back into her backpack. Finally, the frog asked, "What is the matter? I’ve told you I’m a handsome prince and that I’ll stay with you for one week and do anything you want. Why won’t you kiss me?" The science student said, "Look, I’m a JSU science student. I don’t have time for a boyfriend, but a talking frog - now that’s cool."

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.