I spent a lot of time this week in the planning for the NMR spectrometer. I was a bit shocked to learn that the floor of the McGee building was only rated at 40 lbs per square foot. If you measure the bottoms of your two shoes, you will find, together, they cover about $\frac{1}{2}$ sq. ft. So, take your weight and double it. That is the number of pounds per square foot you are exerting on the floor. If you are like me, you are approaching 10 times the rated amount! The building engineer assures us that this number is correct and is the “standard for classrooms.” Please tread carefully when in McGee. (By the way, after careful consideration, the building engineer decided that the floor could support the NMR magnet.)

Other news is detailed below. Please pay attention to Spring Preview Day this Saturday and the student travel grants due on 16 Feb. The summer and fall teaching schedules are final and out for students to enroll. I expect that you each checked the schedules and are happy with your teaching.

-- Lou

**Department News**

Thank you!
I would like to express my appreciation to everyone for recognizing me as the JSU Employee of the Month for January, 2011. My nomination was a well-kept secret and I was honestly taken by complete surprise. Thank you for all the kind words, both in support and in congratulations. I was touched by the number of people who attended and am grateful to each of you who came. The reception was beautifully done, and I would like to say a special ‘Thank you’ to Tracy Casey for the time and effort she put into its preparation. Although I was the recipient, I feel that I share this recognition with each of you, since my job is only made possible by the wonderful people I work with. With my most heartfelt thanks, Bernice Moser.

**Spring Preview Days**
JSU will host Spring Preview Days for high school students, community college students and their families on Saturday, February 5, 2011. Activities begin at 9:30 am (CT) in Stephenson Hall. Representatives from academic departments, student clubs/organizations, and support offices will be available for the browse session that lasts until 12:00 pm (CT). Please see Joe Morgan if you are interested in helping.
Sign-up for the Chili Cook-Off
The sign-up for participants to the annual Chili Cook-Off (on 2 March this year) has been posted on the window in front of Tracy's office. Please sign up if you want to see how your chili compares. By the way, all chili will be served by students in a "double blind" manner. So, chili will be rated on taste - not the fear of Kelly Gregg failing you if you don’t rank his chili as the best.

David Kinsaul Travel Scholarships
We have funding to award to students up to $500 for travel to meetings to present their research. Applications are on-line. See Tracy if you need a copy of the form. It is due on 16 Feb. This MS Word file is to be filled-in by the student and then sent to you -- the research supervisor. You can type your name at the bottom and then email the form to me. (A paperless application!)

Student News

Summer Jobs
We are currently in the hiring process for our summer staff here at Camp ASCCA. I am looking for Nature, Fishing, Horseback, and Farm Directors. Camp ASCCA is a fantastic place to work for the summer. I know it is cliche, but this job really will be the best summer job you will ever have! If you have any questions about the positions please contact me (genilynnpayne@gmail.com). Check out our website (www.campascca.org) for more info also. - Geni Lynn Payne

University News

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.
1. Please go to the Academic Affairs website for information on the Guidelines for Research Proposal Format. [http://www.jsu.edu/academicaffairs/research_grant.html](http://www.jsu.edu/academicaffairs/research_grant.html)
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.
TIAA-CREF Individual Consultant on Campus February 8-10

Setting up a long-term financial plan can be a complicated task. It involves evaluating your potential income sources and then factoring in the impact of taxes, inflation and the larger economic picture. Meeting with a TIAA-CREF Individual Consultant can help you sort things out and make informed decisions. Paul Cimino, a TIAA-CREF Individual Consultant will be at Jacksonville State University to conduct individual counseling sessions on the following days: February 8th, 9th & 10th 2011 at the Human Resources Conference Room, Room 323 Bibb Graves Hall. If you are interested in signing up for a counseling session, please call (800) 732-8353.

Degenerate States

New HR Rules

Sick days: We no longer accept a doctor's statement as proof of sickness. If you can get to the doctor, you can come to work.

Surgery: Operations are banned. As an employee here, you need all your organs. We hired you intact. To have something removed constitutes a breach of contract.

Personal days: Each employee receives 104 personal days a year. They are called Saturday and Sunday.

Vacation days: All employees will take their vacation at the same time every year. The vacation days are as follows: January 1 & December 25

Bereavement leave: This is no excuse for missing work. There is nothing you can do for dead friends, relatives or coworkers. In rare cases where employee involvement is necessary, the funeral should be scheduled in the late afternoon. We will allow you to work through lunch and subsequently leave one hour early, provided your work is done.

Out from own death: This will be accepted as an excuse but will require at least two weeks notice. It is your duty to train your replacement.

Restroom use: Too much time is being spent in the restrooms. In the future, we will follow the practice of going in alphabetical order. Employees whose names begin with 'A' may go between 8:00 and 8:20, those whose names begin with 'B' from 8:20 to 8:40 and so on. If you’re unable to go at your allotted time, you must wait until the next day. In extreme emergencies employees may swap times with their supervisors' written permission. There will be a strict three-minute limit after which an alarm will sound and the stall doors will open.

Dress code: You should come to work dressed accordingly. If you wear $350 Prada sneakers and carry a $600 Gucci bag we will assume you do not need a raise. If you come dressed in rags, we will assume you do not care about your wardrobe and do not need a raise.

Thank you for your loyalty. We are here to provide a positive employment experience. Questions comments, concerns, complaints, frustrations, irritations, aggravations, insinuations, allegations, accusations, contemplations, consternations or input should be directed elsewhere. Have a nice week.

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.