It is time to get out your chili pot, start soaking the beans and finding that perfect mix is chili pepper and cumin to enter in the 6th Annual Martin Hall Chili Cook-off. Okay, you have a few weeks to practice. The Cook-off is scheduled for Wednesday, 7 March. We are all looking forward to tasting all of the entries. Yes, it is for a good cause, too. All proceeds are donated to the American Cancer Society.

In the more immediate news is the Arts and Sciences Symposium this coming week. Several of our students are presenting. Your support and attendance is always appreciated.

I will be out of town on Monday and Tuesday. As usual, Tracy will take care of things. If you need a signature and it cannot wait until Wednesday, see Kelly. Have a great week.

-- Lou

Department News

Call for Faculty Research Grants 2012-2013
Requests for the 2012-13 Faculty Research Grants are to be submitted to the Dean's office no later than Monday, March 19, 2012 (this is before the University deadline to give the Dean a chance to review the requests). Refer to Faculty Research Grants on the Academic Affairs website for guidelines and proposal submission form.

Faculty Awards Nominations Sought
The Faculty Senate is pleased to announce that nominations are sought for the following faculty awards:

- Faculty Scholar Lecturer Award
- Outstanding Teacher Award
- Ringer Faculty Development Award
- Thomas Award for Outstanding Community Education/Service
- Faculty Research Activity
All full-time faculty members are eligible. Nominations by self, students, colleagues or department heads are encouraged. Please refer to Faculty Awards for guidelines. The recipients will be recognized at the Faculty Awards Reception on May 8, 2012. The Senate has not stated the due-date for the nominations for 2012, but I would guess it will be 23 March (just before Spring Break).

Meeting with the Chemists
Lou will meet with the Chemists on Wednesday, 22 February (a week later than previously announced) at 12:30 to discuss the next steps in the ACS accreditation process.

Department Seminars

ALL Seminars are on Mondays at 12:30 PM in Room 202 Martin Hall

Everyone is ENCOURAGED to attend. Students are more than welcome. If you want to present, please contact Dr. Jan Gryko.

13 February: Understanding the role of Nuclear Magnetic Resonance Spectroscopy in structure elucidation of drugs and drug-like compounds: From an undergraduate’s perspective, presented by Olivia Orr. And TGA/DSC analysis of BP Oil Spill Residue, presented by Colin Holmes.

20 February: India is Still Not Flat, presented by Joe Morgan, Assistant Professor of Geography.

27 February: Metal Concentrations in Free Floating Sea Urchins in Northern Gulf of Mexico, presented by Joi Jacobs. And Efficiency of Extraction and Separation of Petroleum Compounds from Crude Oil Mixtures, presented by Calvin Scott.

5 March: Modeling Laser Treatment of Onychomycosis, presented by Lou Reinisch.
My name is Taylor Stults. I am the Director of Academics at ScorePlus Academics. ScorePlus Academics is a company committed to providing academic enhancement programs such as ACT test preparation, subject tutoring, and school services in both face-to-face and online formats. We are looking to hire instructors to teach test preparation courses, and we have several positions open for students in the Jacksonville/Gadsden area. The positions are part-time with flexible hours. I ask that you let your students know that there are positions available with us. If any students are interested in working with us, they simply need to email info@scoreplusacademics.com or call 256-740-9536.

Student Travel Grants
We have funding from Sam Kinsaul to support student travel to present research work at conferences. Applications are due by 29 February 2012. See Lou or Tracy if you need an application. Requests up to $500 can be made.

MATCH Teacher Residency
I’m the Admissions Director of the most selective teacher prep program in the nation. The program is called MATCH Teacher Residency, in Boston. Basically, we give recent college graduates one year of incredibly intense training designed to make them unusually effective rookie teachers. We then help them find positions in high-need schools, and continue to support them as they begin their careers in the classroom. All the info is here: http://www.matchschool.org/matchcorps/teacher.htm

As you looking to find just the “right” opportunity upon graduation? Do you want to teach in the inner-city and have demonstrated unusual grit and determination? If so, please send me your email address.
Julia Zweig <julia.zweig@matchschool.org>

University News

Arts and Sciences Symposium Scheduled for February 15-16
The Jacksonville State University College of Arts and Sciences will present its annual Symposium on Wednesday Feb 15 from 8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m. and on Thursday Feb 16 from 10 a.m. - 4:10 p.m. with Awards Ceremony at 5 p.m. Awards will be given in Biology, MCIS, Physical and Earth Sciences, English and Art.

Guest Artist Recital - David Zerkel, Tuba
On Friday 10 February from 7:30 PM until 9:00 PM at the Mason Hall Performance Center, David Zerkel will present a Tuba Recital. He will be accompanied by Anatoly Sheludyakov, piano.
2012 Black History Month Events Announced
The JSU Student Government Association and the Office of Multicultural Programming announce the following events as part of Black History Month 2012:

**Soul Food in the Cafe**
Date: February 15th  
Location: Jack Hopper Dining Hall  
Time: 4:30pm-7pm

**Sankofa African-American Museum on Wheels**
Date: February 16th  
Location: TMB Auditorium  
Time: 10:30am-3pm

**Movie: The Great Debaters**
Date: February 22nd  
Time: 7pm-9pm  
Location: TMB Auditorium

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**Top Ten List**

**Top 10 Films to Celebrate Black History Month (from the Houston Press)**
In 1926 historian Carter G. Wilson began what was known as Negro History Week in an effort to make the African American story more prevalent in our culture’s consciousness. The week evolved into an entire month-long celebration and promotion of African American history, which we recognize this month. To spread the love, Art Attack has compiled a list of some of the best African American films to help you celebrate Black History Month.

10. **Stormy Weather**
The lovely Lena Horne belts out the hits in this 1943 musical, which also features the amazing performances of Fats Waller and Cab Calloway.

9. **Amistad**
_Amistad_, directed by Steven Spielberg, was released in 1997 and told the true story of a rebellion of captured slaves in the late 1800s. It is a lesser known, but historically significant, story of the plight of African Americans of the time.

8. **To Sir With Love**
Ahh, how can you not love Sidney Poitier in this classic film about a high school teacher dealing with racial issues in an inner-city school? The movie led the way for all other "teachers can make a difference!" movies going forward.

7. **Coming To America**
To date, _Coming To America_ remains one of the funniest movies Eddie Murphy has ever created and made "Sexual Chocolate" a household name.
6. Boyz N the Hood
John Singleton’s opus, starring a very young Cuba Gooding Jr., was as heart-wrenching as it was eye-opening when it was released in 1991. It introduced the entire world to the hardships of South Central, LA. Singleton was nominated for Academy Awards in both directing and screenwriting, the youngest ever, at age 24, and the first African American to be given the honor.

5. Glory
Glory told the story of the 54th Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry, the first formal unit of the U.S. Army to be made up entirely of African American men. The movie introduced to the world a little actor commonly known as Denzel Washington, who won a well-deserved Academy Award.

4. Malcolm X
Spike Lee’s biographical film is about the life and tragic death of the notorious black nationalist. The film, like its subject, was clouded with controversy over how Lee portrayed Malcolm X, but the role garnered Denzel Washington another Oscar nod.

3. Shaft
John Shaft is awesome! Shaft is cooler than ice, tougher than nails.

2. Do the Right Thing
Spike Lee’s best work and the film that put him on the map, Do the Right Thing is a movie that openly discussed the realities of racism in this country when no one wanted to talk about them.

1. The Color Purple
The first Spielberg masterpiece, which highlighted the issues affecting African American women in the 1900s, was based on the Pulitzer Prize-winning novel by Alice Walker. The film is star-packed with the likes of Whoopi Goldberg, Oprah Winfrey, Danny Glover and co-produced by Quincy Jones.

Source:
http://blogs.houstonpress.com/artattack/2012/02/top_10_films_to_celebrate_blac.php

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.