Well, this past week I had to submit a lot of detailed information about our two majors (chemistry and geography) and our GIS certificate for the internal program review. One piece of information that I used to show that our students were learning was the average composite CBase score that our students earned compared to the average for the College of Arts and Sciences and the total average for JSU. (CBase is an exit exam that all JSU graduates must take.) I was most pleased to see that the chemistry graduates scored the highest at JSU of all the majors. The geography students were also near the top (in the top 5). Here is a histogram of average composite scores from 2000 until 2011. These are the top scoring majors and the average for the college and the entire university. I think we should all be pleased with these results and recognize that we are helping our majors in many ways. GREAT JOB, everyone!

![Average Composite CBase Scores 2000-2011](image)

Do not forget that the Chili Cook-off is on Wednesday. Come taste some of the best chili in Alabama and vote for your favorite. It is always a lot of fun and the proceeds go to the American Cancer Society.

-Lou

**Department News**

**Textbook Adoption Due Dates**

It’s time to submit to Tracy your summer and fall textbook orders. Tracy will forward the orders to the bookstore.

Due dates:

For Summer 2012 Terms: **TODAY!**
For Fall 2012 Semester: **March 9**
Congratulations to Keyton Fike and Calvin (Joshua) Scott
Our students represented the department well at the 89th Annual meeting of the Alabama Academy of Science.
1. Calvin Joshua Scott won 2nd place in oral paper presentation “The efficiency of extraction and separation of petroleum compounds from crude mixture”.
2. Keyton Fike won 1st place in poster paper competition “Heavy metal mobilization in sludge amended soils of North East Alabama”.
The awards come with, (1) a certificate, (2) a book “Napoleon’s Buttons: How 17 Molecules Changed History” and (3) a monetary value of $60.00 for first place and $40.00 for second place. Both students are supervised Dr. Nixon Mwebi. Congratulations.

AL Dept. of Health Services seeks Environmentalists at JSU Career Fair
Faculty members, please share this information with your senior students: The Alabama Department of Health Services will be attending the university-wide Career Fair. They are specifically looking for Environmentalists. Please encourage your senior students to dust off their CV and attend. They might find some exciting career opportunities.

Career Fair
Merrill Hall Atrium
March 7, 2012 --Wednesday!
1:00 pm - 4:00 pm [right after the Chili Cook-off!]

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).

**Digital Measures Training**

Below is a list of training sessions for Digital Measures. Sessions typically do not last longer than 45 minutes. Lastly, the deadline for inputting your faculty activity (starting with Fall 2008) is May 1, 2012.

- Friday, March 2
  - 12 noon - 1 p.m. in Ayers 361
- Monday, March 5
  - 2 p.m. - 3 p.m. in Ayers 361
- Friday, March 9
  - 8 a.m. - 9 a.m. in Ayers 361 and 2 p.m. - 3 p.m. in Ayers 361
- Friday, March 16
  - 8 a.m. - 9 a.m. in Ayers 361 and 12 noon - 1 p.m. in Ayers 361

To sign up, please go to: http://www.doodle.com/e6c3mmetap7xrmbt

Be sure to bring a copy of your curriculum vita with you to training. Any questions please contact Dr. David Thornton, thornton@jsu.edu.

**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.

5 March: Modeling Laser Treatment of Onychomycosis, presented by Lou Reinisch.

**Student News**

Spring Career Fair Will Be March 7

Career Services will host its annual Spring Career Fair on March 7, 2012 from 1 - 4 p.m. in the Merrill Hall Atrium. Students of all majors are encouraged to attend, dress professionally, and bring extra copies of their resume. To view a list of companies attending, visit www.jsu.edu/careerservices

Please note the desire for environmentalist from the Alabama Department of Health Services (as stated above).
Name the Library Catalog and Win a $100 Gift Card
As we prepare to move to a new version of the Library online catalog, all students are invited and encouraged to submit a name for that catalog. The deadline for submission is March 23, and a panel will then make the final decision on the best name and award the $100 gift card prize to the person who submitted it. JSU Students should go to http://www.jsu.edu/library/name_contest.html to submit their suggestions.

Advising Open for Summer - Fall 2012 Registration
All JSU students (excluding first-time freshmen) need to schedule an advising appointment with your academic advisor based on your major. Students must be cleared by their academic advisor prior to registration. The registration information link http://www.jsu.edu/registrar/registration.html will give students access to schedule offerings by term and under additional registration information, trial schedules are also available. Priority registration begins March 12, 2012. http://www.jsu.edu/registrar/priority_prereg.html.

STAT Club Sponsoring Student Business Etiquette Dinner
The JSU Alumni Association/STAT Club will sponsor a student business etiquette dinner on Wednesday, March 7 in Leone Cole Auditorium at 6:30 p.m. Cost to attend is $10 and it is open to all JSU students. Reservations must be paid in advance through the Alumni Relations Office located in the Alumni House across the street from the Theron Montgomery Building. Deadline for reservations is February 29. Professional attire is preferred. All attendees will be eligible for grand prize dinner for two at Effinas restaurant.

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.

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.
University News

Pulitzer Prize Winner Connie Schultz to Visit JSU
Pulitzer Prize-winning newspaper columnist Connie Schultz will visit Jacksonville State University on March 8, 2012, to deliver the annual Ayers Lecture hosted by the JSU Department of Communication. Ms. Schultz will speak at 1:30 p.m. on the 11th floor of the Houston Cole Library. The lecture is free and open to the general public.

Ms. Schultz won the 2005 Pulitzer Prize for Commentary for columns that judges praised for providing “a voice for the underdog and the underprivileged.” Also in 2005, Schultz won the Scripps Howard National Journalism Award for Commentary and the National Headliner Award for Commentary. Her newspaper column is nationally syndicated by Creators Syndicate, and she is a regular essayist for Parade Magazine. Her column appears regularly in The Anniston Star.

Top Ten List

Top 10 Basic Geography Books
These ten books are must-haves for every geographer. They make great gifts for anyone interested in geography and for those pursuing a geographic education in school.

1) A Dictionary of Geography
by Susan Mayhew. This comprehensive Oxford reference dictionary is an excellent sourcebook for geographers and anyone else interested in the discipline. I highly recommend it for all students of geography (especially undergraduates). Excellent diagrams and clear descriptions of all essential concepts.

2) The Handy Geography Answer Book
My book is a fun and interesting collection of 1000 questions and answers about geography that includes the regions of the world and geographical concepts. If you like this site, you’ll love my book!

3) Merriam-Webster's Geographical Dictionary
An extremely useful and informative reference. This latest edition has a phenomenal amount of information about places from the obscure to the famous.

4) National Geographic Desk Reference
A fantastic reference that includes chapters about all aspects of physical and human geography. A must for the geography student at the high school or university level.

5) World Almanac and Book of Facts 2002
Where would I be without it? This essential fact-filled book, contains detailed information about U.S. states and countries of the world as well as other less-geographical data. I refer to this excellent book almost daily.

6) The Discoverers: A History of Man's Search to Know His World and Himself
by Daniel J. Boorstin. Boorstin is an excellent historian and writer. This book captures humanity’s discovery and exploration of the world around him. A must-read!

7) Longitude: The True Story of a Lone Genius Who Solved the Greatest Scientific Problem of His Time
by Dava Sobel. A quick read and a great story about John Harrison, the man who made it
possible to determine longitude while at sea.

8) **Physical Geography: A Landscape Appreciation**
by Tom L. McKnight. The sixth edition of this textbook is probably the best overview of the earth and its landscape. It includes sections about the air, water, land, and life of the planet. The text, graphics, and photographs are excellent.

9) **The Mapmakers: The Story of the Great Pioneers in Cartography - From Antiquity to the Space Age**
by John Noble Wilford. The fascinating history of making maps. Wilford’s book reads like an exciting novel and is difficult to put down.

10) **Geography: Realms, Regions, and Concepts**
by Harm J. De Blij and Peter O. Muller. The eighth edition of this steeply-priced yet wonderful textbook is one I can not do without. It has up-to-date profiles of every country, beautiful cartography, and thorough discussion of topics in geography. I fell in love with this text when I first took World Regional Geography.


**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.