



JACKSONVILLE STATE UNIVERSITY

DEPARTMENT OF
PHYSICAL AND
EARTH SCIENCES

Physical and Earth Sciences Newsletter

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Friday April 13, 2012

I am "work shopped-out!" A few weeks ago, I attended a workshop on critical thinking skills. Then, I attended a workshop on diversity hiring. This week it was a workshop on increasing graduate student enrollment numbers. The methods proposed to increase graduate students were tried and true methods of contacting more students, following up every lead and using a mix of media to contact students. However, it was interesting to hear during a round-table sessions with various faculty members that we do not have clear goals for the numbers and types of graduate students at JSU. We also have stipends that are far below other nearby universities. I hope the message that JSU took away from the workshop is to carefully look at the entire graduate program and issue clear goals and guidelines, to update stipends, and to generally revitalize the graduate program. This could all be nicely coordinated with the launch of the DSc in Emergency Management this Fall Semester. I took the opportunity to promote the Master's Degree of Science Research. The research based master's degree fits so well with the Red-balloon initiative, that I am hopeful we can gain some traction.

There are plenty of concerts, plays and Preview Days this week-end to keep everyone busy. Kelly Gregg will be playing steel drums with Jax Pan at the Steel Drum Carnival at 10:30am. Enjoy your week-end, then one more week left in the semester. Time for those procrastinating students to start studying!

-Lou



Department News

Spring Preview Days 14 April

On Saturday, 14 April from 9:00 until 11:00 AM is Spring Preview Days. Please see Joe Morgan and let him know that you can help "man" the booth. Parents and prospective students drive here from far and wide. They are looking to talk to Faculty members about JSU and the different majors. Please make an effort to attend. It is not fair to these families when we are not in attendance to answer questions.

2012 Project Seed Award

Congratulations to Nixon Mwebi for being awarded, once again, the Project Seed Award. This award provides funding to bring disadvantaged and minority high school students on campus during the summer months and gives them a hands-on introduction to chemistry research.

Student News

Student Travel Grants

We have funding from Sam Kinsaul to support student travel to present research work at conferences. Applications are due by 30 April 2012. See **Lou** or **Tracy** if you need an application. Requests up to \$500 can be made.

IDEA Course and Instructor Evaluations

Students are reminded to go on-line and provide evaluations for their courses. You can access the link provided via email or you can go to:

<https://theideaonline.org/idea/cs/survey?S=1090979/X/F/F/364541871>

and provide your JSU username (email and Blackboard log-on name). These evaluations are collected by the IDEA company in Kansas and will NOT be shared with JSU until next semester. Students should feel comfortable that their evaluations will not affect their grade.

University News

Digital Measures Deadline of 1 May is Approaching with Last Minute Training Sessions

Below is a list of additional training sessions for Digital Measures.

The deadline for inputting your faculty activity (starting with Fall 2008) is May 1, 2012.

- Monday, April 23, 1-2 p.m. in Ayers 361
- Tuesday, April 24, 1-2 p.m. in Ayers 361
- Wednesday, April 25, 11-12 noon in Ayers 361

To sign up, please go to: <http://www.doodle.com/459sc72z5fpiyene>

Faculty, be sure to bring a copy of your curriculum vita with you to training.

JSU Celebrates International Week 8-14 April

Jacksonville State University will celebrate International Week April 8-14. Please plan to join us for these great activities:

Friday, April 13- Water Balloon at the International House at 2:00 p.m.

Saturday, April 14- Taster's Fair at Leone Cole Auditorium from 5 -7 p.m.



Southeastern Steel Band Carnival Set for 14 April at Monteith Amphitheatre

The Southeastern Steel Band Carnival will be held Saturday April 14 at Fort McClellan in the historic Monteith Amphitheatre. Eight Steel Drum bands from Alabama, Georgia and Mississippi will provide the sounds of the tropics. The performances begin at 10:30 a.m. and

run until 5:30 p.m. Admission is free. Bring your lawn chair or blanket. Coolers are welcome.

JSU Drama to Present "The Syringa Tree" April 12-15

The Jacksonville State University Drama Department will present *The Syringa Tree* by Pamela Gien on April 12-15 at the Ernest Stone Performing Arts Center.

The Syringa Tree is a personal, deeply evocative story of an abiding love between two families, one black, one white, and the two children that are born into their shared household in the early 1960's South Africa. Seen first through the eyes of a child, six-year old Elizabeth Grace, as she tries with humor and sometimes palpable fear, to make sense of the chaos, magic and darkness of Africa, we follow their destinies in a story that spans four generations, from early apartheid to the present day free South Africa.



Evening performances are Thursday-Saturday, April 12-14 at 7 p.m. The Sunday, April 15 matinee is at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$8 for senior citizens and JSU personnel, and \$5 for students, children, and military

JSU Board of Trustees to Meet 16 April

The Jacksonville State University Board of Trustees will hold their quarterly meeting on Monday, April 16, 2012 at 10 a.m. on the eleventh floor of the Houston Cole Library.

Dr. Jeremy Benson to Perform Concert on 19 April

Dr. Jeremy Benson of the David L. Walters Department of Music will present a concert with New York City cellist Daeil Yang, JSU Music Faculty Pianist Dr. Gail Steward, and Pianist Christopher-Joel Carter on April 19 at 7:30 p.m. in the Mason Hall Performance Center. The program includes compositions for the flute, cello, and piano. Works from the Classical, early Romantic, and 20th Century genres will be performed. Admission is free.



Top Ten List

Top 10 Common Superstitions People Believe

With today being Friday the 13th, I thought we would review what superstitions people believe in. Enjoy. Oh yeah, the list was provided by:

<http://top-10-list.org/2010/05/18/ten-common-superstitions-people-believe/>

1. Friday the 13th.

Almost everybody believes this superstition- that Friday the 13th of any month means bad luck. This superstition is so common that a number of hotels are known to have been built without the 13th floor and airlines don't give tickets for the 13th row. It has been believed that the 13th guest during the Last Supper was Judas and



Friday was the day that Christ got crucified. Basically- quite an unlucky day all in all.

2. An Itchy Palm

It is believed that if your left palm itches, it means that you will lose money but if your right one does, you will earn, inherit or receive money. However, you must let it itch because if you go ahead and scratch it, you may end up countering the effect.



3. Walking Under a Ladder



Most rational people don't walk under ladders lying about because they feel that something may fall on their heads and leave them unconscious. However, those who like to go along with the herd believe that walking under a ladder is equal to bad luck. The "logic" behind this belief is that you will end up awakening evil spirits when you walk through the triangle that the ladder makes with the wall.

4. Breaking a Mirror

This superstition hardly needs an explanation. Basically, if you break a mirror, bad luck will get attached to you for seven years. In the past, it was believed that a mirror reflects



the person's soul and if you smash it, the soul will get hampered as well. In case you break a mirror, you can take the broken mirror outside, dig a hole and throw the pieces inside. Don't forget to cover it with mud or the bad luck will come after you for sure!

5. Finding a Horseshoe

If you find a horseshoe in an open field- you should consider yourself to be extremely lucky. When you find it, you are required to use your right hand to pick it up, cover one end with your spit, wish for something spectacular and then throw it over your shoulder- make sure it is the left one because otherwise, all that activity will bear no fruit.



6. Opening an Umbrella Indoors

Why should one open an Umbrella indoors? However, in case you are feeling particularly

warm inside the house and wish to protect yourself from the sun rays outside, do not open your umbrella as you and your family will be on the receiving end of some bad luck.



7. Knocking on Wood



When you say something that may signify doom or anything that might change somebody else's lucky- For example-

telling somebody how lucky they are or that they will definitely ace their exams- you should immediately knock on wood and say "touch wood". **Tossing Spilled Salt Over Shoulder**

If you spill some salt, pick all of it carefully and toss it over the left shoulders as this will bring you good luck and help to get rid of evil spirits that are obviously lurking around.



8. Black Cats

If a black cat crosses your path, try not to follow it as you will then take the same path as the cat. Bad luck will follow immediately.

9. Mongoose

If you see a mongoose, drop everything that you are doing and follow the same path that it is taking as it will bring you good luck.



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.