JSU
JACKSONVILLE STATE UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF
PHYSICAL AND
EARTH SCIENCES

Physical and Earth Sciences Newsletter
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More News from the Chronicle of Higher Education

College in Alabama	Grad. rate (6 year)	Grad. rate (4 year)	Student aid per recipient	Students with Pell Grants
University of Alabama at Tuscaloosa	67.3%	37.9%	$6,894	20.7%
Auburn University	66.4%	35.7%	$7,555	15.4%
University of Alabama at Huntsville	43.6%	12.9%	$6,387	27.5%
University of Montevallo	40.8%	19.3%	$5,500	34.5%
University of Alabama at Birmingham	40.8%	18.5%	$5,875	28.8%
Troy University	37.1%	18.2%	$5,349	41.9%
University of South Alabama	36.8%	14.5%	$5,488	31.0%
Alabama A&M University	33.1%	12.2%	$7,183	63.2%
University of North Alabama	33.1%	12.5%	$4,512	33.4%
Jacksonville State University	33.0%	8.9%	$5,287	41.7%
University of West Alabama	27.6%	14.6%	$6,316	57.8%
Auburn University at Montgomery	24.5%	9.3%	$4,748	35.4%
Alabama State University	24.0%	6.6%	$7,124	74.4%

The data above are from a major study by the Chronicle of Higher Education. Overall, Alabama has a 47.5% graduation rate in six years. There are 14 states with lower percentages (and, doing the math, 35 with higher). The average percentage for the US is 56.0% to graduate in six years. The highest is Delaware with 70.8% graduating in six years. Overall, these numbers only include full-time, first-time freshmen. Any part-time student or student who attended college before is not counted. That non-counted fraction is about 40% of the total freshman students—a sizable number.

Overall, these data indicate that Senator Marsh was correct when he suggested that JSU needs to focus more on academics (see New Trustees below). I suspect we will be hearing more about graduation rates in the coming years.

Let me conclude by remarking that we have 18 students eligible for graduation this semester. I think that is a record for our Department. This is an important and significant outcome for our Department. Congratulations to everyone for your efforts and helping to contribute to this success. I hope to see many of you at Graduation next week.
-- Lou

Department News

Final Grades for Spring 2012 Semester
Spring 2012 Final Grades are due Tuesday, May 1 at 1:15 pm.

Digital Measures Deadline is 1
Those who have procrastinated, please note the Tuesday deadline.

Distinguished Professor
I mentioned that our Dean wants this rank to have significance and not just handed to every full professor with 5 years of service. There are discussions about having all applications reviewed by advancement committees at the college level AND at the university level. This would be a great step forward and would help to make this promotion equitable and meaningful.

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.

University News

Faculty Awards Reception
Please join us for the 2012 Faculty Awards on May 8 (Tuesday) at 5:00 on the 11th floor of the Houston Cole Library, followed by a reception on the 12th floor. The following awards will be presented: Cleo and Carla Thomas Service Award, McWhorter Outstanding Teacher Award, Faculty Scholar Lecturer Award, Ray and Ruth Ringer Award, Fulbright Scholar and Faculty Research Awards. Years-of-Service pins will also be awarded.

Three New Trustees (from the Anniston Star)
Gov. Robert Bentley nominated Clarence W. Daugette III, Gale Main and Vivian Davis Figures last week to serve on the board. After the Senate Confirmation Committee's unanimous approval, the nominees were confirmed by the Senate. Daugette, Main and Figures will replace outgoing board members Jim Folsom Jr., Jamie "Red" Etheredge and G. M. "Mack" Roberts, whose terms expired this year. Initally, Bentley nominated Folsom and Etheredge for another term on the board, but the governor's recommendation was denied by the Confirmation Committee earlier this month. Del Marsh serves on the Senate Confirmation Committee and presides over the governing body as the Senate's

President Pro Tem. Marsh said he'd like to see Jacksonville State focus on moving in a new direction.
"I really would like concentration on the academic side. I think in the past there has been a lot of emphasis on the athletic side," Marsh said.
Two of the outgoing members, Folsom and Etheredge serve on the board's athletic committee. During their tenure, the university took on a large-scale football stadium expansion project and explored expanding the football program.
[Isn't this springtime weather nice! Such cool and refreshing breezes are blowing.]

Top Ten List

Top Ten Universities by Graduation Rates
These are universities with 500+ freshmen per year. (Less than 500 and the statistical noise is too large to draw real conclusions.) This is year 2010 data as presented in the Chronicle of Higher Education. There are 1250 universities on this list.

Rank	University	4 year graduation rate	6 year graduation rate
1	Harvard University	87.1%	97.4%
2	Yale University	88.9%	96.3%
3	University of Notre Dame	90.0%	96.0%
4	Princeton University	90.1%	95.7%
5	Brown University	85.7%	95.6%
6	University of Pennsylvania	88.6%	95.5%
7	Dartmouth College	88.1%	95.4%
8	Williams College	91.0%	95.1%
9	Stanford University	78.4%	94.7%
10	Wesleyan University	89.1%	94.4%

And those similar in ranking to JSU….

Rank	University	4 year graduation rate	6 year graduation rate
767	Arkansas State University	16.4%	33.4%
768	Tennessee State University	10.3%	33.4%
769	Southeastern Louisiana Univ.	9.9%	33.3%
772	Alabama A&M University	12.2%	33.1%
773	University of North Alabama	12.5%	33.1%
775	Jacksonville State University	8.9%	33.0%
778	Nicholls State University	12.1%	32.6%
779	Southern Arkansas University	18.6%	32.3%
781	Austin Peay State University	14.9%	32.3%

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.