



I have been very busy this week with end-of-the academic year paperwork. So, I nearly forgot the newsletter. On the Department side, news is rather light this week. We are half-way through the May semester. Keep up the great work.  
-- Lou

#### Department News

##### **Chemists Please Help to Complete the ACS Application**

Chemists, your help is needed to complete the application for ACS accreditation. By 9:00 AM on Monday, 21 May we need from you: All syllabi, quizzes, tests and exams used in the past 12 months (hard copies or soft copies are okay). We need to have specific topics (not chapters) listed on the syllabi. Also, if you have any comments, corrections or changes to suggest to the draft application, your thoughts are appreciated—but we need them by 9:00 AM on 21 May. We have various bits and pieces of the required documents from some of you. If you are uncertain what is needed from you, please see Tracy. We sincerely appreciate all your help to get this completed.

##### **Update on Alumnus Kris Williams**

Kris Williams received her Bachelor of Science degree in Chemistry from Jacksonville State University, Jacksonville, AL, in April 2007. As an undergraduate, Kris participated in a NSF REU program at the Texas A&M Cyclotron Institute, where her mentor was Dr. Carl Gagliardi. She began graduate studies at Texas A&M University in August 2007 as a trainee in the NSF IGERT program. She participated in a 9-month project on molecular electronics in the group of Dr. Jorge Seminario in the Artie McFerrin Department of Chemical Engineering, and she formally joined the Cagin research group in June 2008. Kris was selected for two ONR NREIP Summer Fellowships, 2010 and 2011, during which time she conducted research on materials of interest to the U.S. Navy at the Naval Surface Warfare Center in Indian Head, MD. Her research interests include nanoscale additives for solid propellants, magnetic materials, and large-scale molecular modeling. Kris passed her Ph.D. final exam on 9 May 2012. The title of her thesis is: **Atomistic Simulations of Bonding, Thermodynamics, and Surface Passivation in Nanoscale Solid Propellant Materials**. Kris is married with two children and regularly volunteers at her church. Her email address is [kris.smith.williams@gmail.com](mailto:kris.smith.williams@gmail.com).



## University News

### May 4 Week Term Grades Due

Final exams for the 4 week term end 31 May (Thursday) and grades are due at 1:15 on 1 June (Friday).

### CRC Handbook in Electronic Form

Paula Barnett-Ellis from the JSU Library just wanted to let us know that we now have access to the CRC Handbook of Chemistry and Physics in electronic form. This might be helpful in with various research projects.

## Top Ten List

### The National Geographics Pick of the 10 Best Trips of Summer 2012

Source: <http://travel.nationalgeographic.com/travel/best-trips-summer-2012/>

#### 10. Pawleys Island, South Carolina

White sand, weathered cottages, and low-tech diversions like crabbing and cornhole (bean bag toss) have made "arrogantly shabby" [Pawleys](#) a favorite family beach destination since the 1800s.

#### 9. Isla del Sol, Bolivia

Mythological birthplace of the omnipotent sun god, Inti, Isla del Sol is the largest island in Lake Titicaca, one of the world's highest navigable lakes at 12,500 feet.

#### 8. Argyll and the Isles, Scotland

A few hours' train ride west from Glasgow lies an edge-of-the-world landscape—the loch-raked Argyll coastal region and its brooding, windswept Western Isles.

#### 7. Baltimore, Maryland

Charm City welcomes the world to its Inner Harbor June 13 to 19 for [Star-Spangled Sailabration 2012](#).

#### 6. Barcelona, Spain

To the south and east, Barcelona's fanciful cityscape—from playful Joan Miró sculptures to Antoni Gaudí's fantastical architectural swirls—meets the Mediterranean Sea.

#### 5. Dinosaur Provincial Park, Alberta, Canada

North America's boneyard, located about three hours southeast of Calgary in the wind-and-water-carved Canadian Badlands, was and is home to dinosaurs.

#### 4. St. Petersburg, Russia

Peter the Great's stately Baltic city built on 42 Neva Delta islands celebrates "White Nights" (near-round-the-clock summer light) with joyful abandon.

### 3. **Traverse City, Michigan**

Traverse City is the biggest little beach town on the "Third Coast"—the U.S. shores of the eight-state Great Lakes coastline. [Don't forget your bug spray! - Lou]

### 2. **Spencer Glacier, Alaska**

Spencer Glacier is easy to see from the Glacier Discovery Train that winds through Chugach National Forest south of the Portage Valley, but it's a bit harder to reach.

### 1. **Channel Islands, California**

Southern California's Channel Islands National Park and surrounding National Marine Sanctuary (extending for six nautical miles around each island) harbor rich biological diversity, including more than 150 endemic species and a vast, undersea kelp "forest."

### 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](mailto:tscasey@jsu.edu) or phone (256) 782-5232.