



Well, the clouds cleared away and gave us about 90 minutes of viewing the transit of Venus across the sun on Tuesday evening. Many thanks to Laura Weinkauff, Jan Gryko and Doug Nelson for arranging and modifying the telescopes to look at the sun. We all agreed it was the best use of a Walmart plastic bag that we ever saw! Thanks to all others who helped get the equipment up to the 12th floor of the library (and back down) and helped with "crowd control." It was a great event. If you missed it, you can wait another 107 years for the next transit!

While things appear to be quiet on the surface, there seems to be a lot happening in the background. Background events include the application for American Chemical Society approval of our chemistry degree. Tracy has compiled hundreds of pages of course syllabi, quizzes, tests and exams. The Dean and Provost making some final tweaks to the 50-page application.

Enjoy your summer and I hope everyone gets a bit of "down time." Until next week. . .
-- Lou

Department News

New Department Poster

A couple of you have responded about the poster. I assume the rest of you are okay with the pictures and the text used. If not, now is the time to say something.

University News

May 4 Week Term Grades Due

Final exams for the May 6 week term are 14 June and grades are due at 1:15 on 15 June (next Friday).

Stellar Musician Neil Rutman to Present Concert

Jacksonville State University is the proud host of the 60th Annual State Conference of the Alabama Music Teachers Association. On the evening of Friday, June 8 at 7:30 p.m., guest artist Neil Rutman will give a concert, to which the public is welcomed to attend. Neil Rutman has a stellar performing career (neilrutman.net), and was featured at last year's World Piano

Conference in Novi Sad, Serbia. The concert will be held in Mason Hall's Performance Center on the campus of JSU. Tickets are \$15.00 for the general public, and \$5.00 for students.

Top Ten List

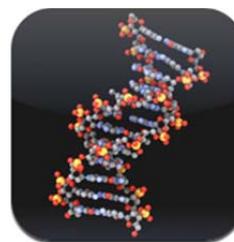
Top Ten Science Apps for the iPhone (and similar devices)

Science apps are becoming more popular because we can use them to illustrate volatile chemical reactions, to look at molecular structures or even find constellations not visible to the human eye. These are all available from iTunes.

Source: <http://appsineducation.blogspot.com/2012/01/10-essential-science-apps.html>

10. **Molecules: FREE**

Molecules is an application for viewing three-dimensional renderings of molecules and manipulating them using your fingers. You can rotate the molecules by moving your finger across the display, zoom in or out by using two-finger pinch gestures, or pan the molecule by moving two fingers across the screen at once. These structures can be viewed in both ball-and-stick and space filling visualization modes.



9. **Star Walk for iPad: \$4.99**

Star Walk enables you to point your iPad at the sky and see what stars, constellations, and satellites you are looking at in real-time. Check out the full list of features below. When someone new asks to see what an iPhone can do, all of us have a list of apps prepared to wow them. Star Walk is a gorgeous, dynamic application that will tease your eyes skyward on clear, starry night says, Billy Miller, 148apps.com.



8. **The Elements: Visual Exploration \$13.99**

If you think you've seen the periodic table, think again. The Elements: A Visual Exploration lets you experience the beauty and fascination of the building blocks of our universe in a way you've never seen before. This is the US English version of The Elements. Fully translated versions are also available in French, German, Japanese, and British English.



7. **Solar Walk: \$9.99**

This 3D Solar System model enables you to navigate through space and time, observe all the planets in close-up, learn their trajectories, inner structure, history of their exploration, points of interest and more. Use 3D mode to get a more realistic experience and zoom out to view and spin the entire Galaxy! Enhanced for iOS 5 with the ability of the iPad 2 and iPhone 4S to wirelessly mirror its screen to an Apple TV 2.



6. **Frog Dissection: \$3.99**

This iPad app is suitable for students who are learning about the organ



systems in their life science curriculum. Students can try dissecting a virtual specimen with all the trappings that come with the real procedure-minus the mess of course! Besides a virtual chloroformed specimen, the app comes with all the dissection tools and detailed instructions to complete the procedure. Once dissection is complete, the frog's organs are exposed for further study.

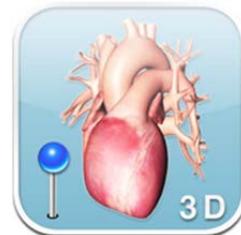
5. iLab Timer: \$0.99

Harnessing the simplicity found in physical laboratory timers, iLab brings accurate, simple, and easy timing to the iPad. Up to 10 independent timers can be set, timing simultaneously, and customised to your timing needs. iLab is perfect not only for laboratory timing needs, but has also a variety of other uses such as timing practice for speeches, timing tests, and exercise programs... your imagination is the limit!



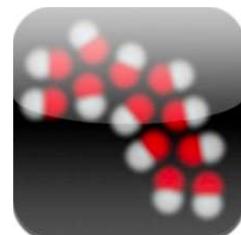
4. Pocket Heart: \$3.99

Pocket Heart on the iPad is a novel way to visualize, hear and understand how the human heart works, in 3D! Whether you're a human biology student needing to learn, understand and memorize all of the anatomical features and functions of the heart, or a health care professional looking for a novel way of communicating a diagnosis or procedure to a patient, colleague or trainee, Pocket Heart's unique 3D interface can facilitate this.



3. Self Assembly: FREE

Design your own molecules and watch them self-assemble into complex two-dimensional structures. The idea is to provide a simple and direct tool for nonscientist to experience first hand the beautiful world of physical chemistry. Figure out how to form interesting structures by manipulating the shape of the molecules, the concentration of the solution, and its temperature. The user can post his/her structures online in a flickr.



2. MythBusters: \$4.99

The MythBusters App for iPad is an engaging experience developed specifically for iPad. You will never think about TV the same way again! Watch the most popular MythBusters video clips and compete against other fans by busting 3 popular myths through multilevel casual games. Stay in touch with the latest MythBusters news and announcements and share your thoughts with the community through Facebook and Twitter feeds.



1. Touch Physics: \$1.99

Touch Physics is a collection of hand drawn levels devised by the professor in his lab. They are as progressively challenging. Can you defy the laws of physics and control the wheel's destiny in order to complete all 89 levels? You can even change the laws of physics to suit your gameplay! Draw shapes that interact with the wheel, causing it to move according to physical laws. When it reaches the star, the level is complete.



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.