



The American Council on Education has a series of articles on the **10 Myths of Higher Education, Busted!** Amongst the myths is: *College Sports are a Cash Cow*. This essay is written by Dr. David Suggs, Associate Professor of Journalism at the University of Georgia. The article starts out to state that only 8 athletic programs at public universities broke even or had a net operating income on athletics each year from 2005-2009. These are (according to USA Today and the Knight Commission on Intercollegiate Athletics) Louisiana State University, Pennsylvania State University, and the universities of Georgia, Iowa, Michigan, Nebraska, Oklahoma and Texas at Austin. (Nope, even Alabama doesn't make the list.) In this same time period and looking at only Division I institutions (those institutions that can make significant income from Bowl games), subsidies of athletics rose by 53%. Meanwhile, spending on education and related functions rose only 22%. Thus, college sports, as great as they might be, are a financial burden on institutions and that burden is growing at an alarming rate. I must admit that tens of thousands of fans enjoy the games, some students select their university on the basis of the football team, and alumni giving can be influenced by the winning record of a football team. Unfortunately, the net sum is negative—and we have not even mentioned the brain damage suffered by the players. When will we decide to move on?

There are a couple of interesting news items below from a meeting that the Dean had with Department Heads. I will also admonish anyone thinking of applying for Distinguished Professor in the Fall that the Dean estimates that about TWO candidates from Arts and Sciences will make the promotion. He wants the "Distinguished" to be rightfully earned.

The July term starts on Friday and the "four week" term is only three weeks and two days—so plan ahead. -- Lou

Department News

Clarification on new JSU regulations for 300-400 level courses

The University has decreased the number of credit hours at 300-400 level needed for graduation down to 36 hours. This is not a maximum number of hours. If any programs require more than 36 hours at the 300-400 level, they can keep their regulations. Thus, individual programs can exceed the University requirements. This means that no one has to change their regulations. However, it does mean there will probably be fewer double majors and that might hurt our number of majors.

Summer Courses in 2013 - Don't plan on that extra income!

This summer there are many summer courses being offered with fewer than 12 students in the class. The Dean wants us to reduce the number of courses offered next summer so that we have only courses offered where we are certain to reach 12 students. I will have to give him a list of what courses will be offered next summer in the next couple of weeks. I will share that list with the Department before it goes to the Dean. The cuts will not only affect the number of faculty to get summer contracts, but students need to be informed that they probably cannot take certain courses next summer.

Martin Hall AC on the Fritz!

From what I understand, the control panels in the AC units for Martin Hall have stopped working and they are not able to repair them. They are old and identical replacement units are not available. So, Physical Plant is looking into the more "cost effective" way to install new control panels. Until that happens, the AC units in each room will have to be switched into a manual mode of operation. If your office or classroom is not at a comfortable temperature please let Tracy know.

National Research Council Fellowships

The National Research Council of the National Academies sponsors a number of awards for graduate, postdoctoral and senior researchers at [participating federal laboratories and affiliated institutions](#). These awards include generous stipends ranging from \$42,000 - \$75,000 per year for recent Ph.D. recipients, and higher for additional experience. [Graduate](#) entry level stipends begin at \$30,000. These awards provide the opportunity for recipients to do independent research in some of the best-equipped and staffed laboratories in the U.S. Research opportunities are open to U.S. citizens, permanent residents, and for some of the laboratories, foreign nationals.

Detailed program information, including online applications, instructions on [how to apply](#) and a [list of participating laboratories](#), is available on the NRC Research Associateship Programs at: www.nationalacademies.org/rap.

Questions should be directed to the NRC at 202-334-2760 (phone) or rap@nas.edu.

There are four annual review cycles.

Review Cycle: **November**; Opens September 1; Closes November 1

Review Cycle: **February**; Opens December 1; Closes February 1

Review Cycle: **May**; Opens March 1; Closes May 1

Review Cycle: **August**; Opens June 1; Closes August 1

Applicants should contact prospective Adviser(s) at the lab(s) prior to the application deadline to discuss their research interests and funding opportunities.

University News

Digital Measures Updates are Due

The Dean's office wants to remind you to update your Digital Measures for the July Board of Trustee Notes. Dr. Turner's office will be downloading the report on July 9. If you have any questions regarding Digital Measures, they should contact Dr. David Thornton at thornton@jsu.edu (or phone 5359). Please keep your Digital Measures updated regularly.

Top Ten List

Kiplinger's Best Values in Public Colleges

These are ranked by out-of-state costs. Two Alabama schools made the list of the top 100. I included those schools (Univ. of Alabama and Auburn University) on this list as a comparison.

Source:

http://www.kiplinger.com/tools/colleges/index.php?state_code%5B%5D=ALL&id%5B%5D=none&table=public#colleges

Rank (out- of- state)	Name	State	Admit rate	4-yr- grad rate	Total cost per yr. (out-of- state)	Cost after need- based aid (out-of- state)	Avg. debt at graduation
1	The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill	NC	32%	76%	\$37,454	\$26,374	\$16,165
2	State University of New York at Binghamton	NY	40	66	28,136	21,420	21,110
3	State University of New York College at Geneseo	NY	38	62	27,184	22,808	21,200
4	The College of William and Mary, Williamsburg	VA	32	82	45,331	33,776	21,367
5	University of Virginia, Charlottesville	VA	33	85	45,948	29,460	19,384
6	University of California, Los Angeles	CA	23	68	51,052	38,275	16,733

7	University of California, Berkeley	CA	22	69	51,905	36,042	16,056
8	University of Florida, Gainesville	FL	43	59	37,803	30,356	16,013
9	University of Georgia, Athens	GA	59	54	37,468	28,498	15,938
10	University of Maryland, College Park	MD	44	63	36,780	29,821	22,696
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89	The University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa	AL	54	38	31,564	24,884	26,701
90	Auburn University	AL	79	36	34,382	37,649	24,777

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.