



As everyone seems to have noticed, Tracy took the past week off. She is down at the beach, relaxing. She should be back on Monday for all those who need something done that is beyond the capabilities of the Department Head.

There are various news items below. I do draw your attention to the Retirement Reception for Dr. Carr. I will also point out that there is a Board of Trustees meeting on Monday - and I did not have to request items from each of you to put into a progress report. The items were automatically taken from Digital Measures. Please keep Digital Measures up-to-date, adding items as they occur. That way, Dr. Turner can pull off reports without having to send out requests to all Dept. Heads and then wait for information to come back.

Other news in the building includes Pete Conroy and EPIC moving down to Ft. McClellan. Lisa Williams and Judy will move with Valene up into the space vacated by Pete and EPIC. Dr. Blair is also the acting head of Biology.

Enjoy the coming week-end. The summer term has just over 1 week remaining.  
-- Lou

### Department News

#### **Chemistry is FULL!**

CY 105 and CY 107, first semester chemistry is full for Fall 2012. It would be very hard to add another section of CY 105. We currently offer two sections of CY 105, each with a capacity of 90 students. The real problem is CY 107 (the co-requisite lab course). We currently have 8 sections of CY 107 (each with 24 students, max.). If we open another section of CY 105, we will have to open another section of CY 107, and that is impossible.

We have one laboratory for all our chemistry 100 level labs. We have CY 107 labs, CY 108 labs and CY 115 labs are scheduled for the same room. There are 14 lab sections scheduled for the Fall, each 3 hours long every week in the same room. That is (3 x 14) 42 hours of class time in the one laboratory. That is 8.4 hours a day of class. In addition, we need time between labs to clean up the room and time to take out equipment 107 equipment and set up for the 108 labs and then take out the 108 equipment and set up for the 115 labs, etc. We have labs scheduled from 8:00 AM until 9:00 PM in this room. We cannot add another lab.

### **New Shredding Bin**

In the photocopy room, under the mini-fridge is a bin from Cintas. There is a slot opening on the bin. Please put any of your trash white paper into the bin. The paper will be shredded and recycled. Even if the white paper does not have sensitive information on it, you can put it into the bin and it will get recycled! It will take a bit of time to figure out how often the bin needs to be emptied. So, we will keep the old shredder around for instances when the bin is full and you have paper that needs to be shredded.

## **University News**

### **Retirement Reception Planned for Dr. William Carr on July 23**

The College of Graduate Studies and Continuing Education cordially invites you to a retirement reception honoring Dr. William D. Carr. The reception will be held at the Houston Cole Library, 12th floor, on July 23, from 3 - 5 p.m. Dr. Carr has served as the Dean of the College of Graduate Studies and Continuing Education since joining Jacksonville State University in 1982. Prior to Jacksonville State University, Dr. Carr held the position of the Associate Executive Director for Academic Affairs with the Alabama Commission on Higher Education in Montgomery, Alabama, from 1977 - 1982. Dr. Carr holds degrees from the University of Oklahoma (B.A. in Political Science), the University of Texas at Austin (M.B.A. in Business Administration, and Florida State University (Ph.D. in Higher Education).

### **Jacksonville State University Board of Trustees to Meet July 23**

The Jacksonville State University Board of Trustees will meet on Monday, July 23 at 10 a.m. on the eleventh floor of Houston Cole Library. This will be the first quarterly board meeting for new trustees Clarence Daugette III, State Senator Vivian Davis Figures and Gail Saxon Main.

### **2012-2013 University Holiday Schedule Set**

Dr. William A. Meehan, President, has authorized the following official holidays for the 2012-2013 school year:

- September 3, 2012 (Monday) Labor Day 1 Day
- November 21-23, 2012 (Wednesday-Friday) Thanksgiving 3 Days
- Dec. 24, 2012 - Jan. 1, 2013 Christmas and New Year's Day 7 Days (Return to work Wednesday, January 2, 2013)
- January 21, 2013 (Monday) Martin Luther King Day 1 Day
- March 25-March 29, 2013 (Monday - Friday) Spring Holidays 5 Days
- May 27, 2013 (Monday) Memorial Day 1 Day
- July 4, 2013 (Thursday) Independence Day 1 Day

## **Top Ten List**

### **The Top 10 Tech Trends for 2012**

Source: <http://www.cnn.com/2011/12/19/tech/innovation/top-tech-trends-2012/index.html>

By Peter Cashmore (*Pete Cashmore is founder and CEO of [Mashable](#), a popular blog about tech*)

*news and digital culture. He writes regular columns about social media and tech for CNN.com.)*

### **1. Touch computing**

New input methods will be the dominant trend of 2012. Tablet computers such as the iPad might seem like a nice alternative to desktop and laptop computers, but I believe they're more than that: They're replacements. Just as the command line (remember that?) gave way to graphical user interfaces, so the mouse will be superseded by touchscreens.

### **2. Social gestures**

In the social media realm, social gestures appear to be the leading trend of 2012. Launched by Facebook in September, this so-called "frictionless sharing" functionality removes the need to click a button to share media with your friends. Instead, everything you listen to, read or watch is automatically posted to your profile once you approve the relevant app. There's a big problem, however: Users may be "creeped out" by all this automated sharing of their Web activity and grow suspicious of the apps using it.

### **3. NFC and mobile payments**

Google Wallet, Google's mobile-payment system, may become more widespread in 2012 (say good bye to cash and credit cards). 2012 is the year of NFC. What's that, you ask? Near Field Communication essentially lets you replace your credit cards with your phone: Wave an NFC-enabled phone near the credit card reader in a store (or taxi cab), and the money is deducted from your account. By 2013, 1 in 5 cellphones are expected to be NFC-equipped. Early contenders include Google Wallet, Visa Wallet, Serve (by American Express) and ISIS.

### **4. Beyond the iPad**

If touch computing is the future, then the iPad is surely king. And yet the iPad came up against serious competition in the latter part of 2011: As I wrote previously, I expect the new Amazon Kindle Fire to outsell the iPad in 2012. Why? Simply put, the iPad costs \$499 while the Fire costs \$199. Of course, users might rebel that Kindles not only reports when you finished reading any book—it also logs how long you spent on each page and your reading habits.

### **5. TV Everywhere**

So you thought you'd be able to watch all your favorite shows online and get rid of your cable subscription for good? Not so fast! The cable companies have a cunning plan: They'll let you watch live TV, plus on-demand movies and TV shows, on your connected devices if you keep your cable subscription. Dish Network, Time Warner and Comcast are among those offering the service. TV Everywhere has been buzzed about since 2010, of course, and could be a dud - - but the rise of tablet devices would seem to create increased demand for a "TV in your hands."

### **6. Voice control**

Here's another trend that's got a moderate chance of taking off in 2012: Voice control. Siri, the voice-control feature in the iPhone 4S, may spread to other devices. The novelty of Siri on the iPhone 4S -- which allows you to send texts, create reminders, search the Web and much more using just your voice -- may be the start of a new trend in voice controlled devices. Surely voice control has been around for years? Yes, but it wasn't very accurate. Siri and its ilk define a new era in which we talk, and our devices understand -- often on the first attempt. Other device makers will likely follow suit. What's more, Apple may use voice control to replace the TV remote.

### **7. Spatial gestures**

Other input methods are gaining traction too: Microsoft's Kinect, for instance, has given rise to interfaces that use spatial gestures. Just like in "Minority Report," your devices can be controlled simply by waving your hands in the air. Thanks to the many innovators who have hacked Kinect to work with other platforms, we may see more devices using this input method next year.

#### **8. Second-screen experiences**

"Second-screen experiences" is a buzz-phase among TV and movie execs these days. It refers to apps (mainly on the iPad) that listen to the audio output of your TV and display content related to the show or movie you're watching. The chances are that you already use your tablet computer or phone while watching TV, so there's ample opportunity to make the viewing experience a more interactive one. Disney already has second-screen apps for movies such as "The Lion King" and "Bambi," while multiple TV networks have similar offerings: We can expect many, many more to be released in 2012.

#### **9. Flexible screens**

Personally, I just can't wait for flexible screens: These awesome new bendable interfaces will let you zoom in, zoom out and scroll around a page simply by twisting your phone or tablet. Nokia and Samsung have both hinted they may release phones with bendable displays in 2012. The really exciting stuff, however -- like paper-thin devices that roll up to fit in your pocket -- is still years away.

#### **10. HTML5**

Can I squeeze in one more trend? It's HTML5 -- the fifth iteration of the HTML standard -- and it lets developers create richer, more interactive applications than ever. Why does this matter? As developers tire of building applications for every operating system out there -- from Android to iOS to Windows Phone and beyond -- HTML5 offers the opportunity to build an app once and have it work everywhere. The rise of HTML5 is bound to be accelerated by a recent revelation: Adobe is killing off Flash for mobile devices, meaning one of the primary methods of serving videos and rich applications on mobile phones is about to disappear. HTML5 will fill that gap. For us as consumers, that means richer applications and experiences on all our devices.

In short, 2012 is all about new ways to interact with our devices through touch and voice control, new lightweight ways to share content, a revolution in mobile payments and a plethora of rich Web applications -- not to mention the hundreds of new innovations that we've yet to dream up. I can't wait.

#### **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.