



The Spring 2013 schedule of classes was finalized on Thursday. Thanks to all who suggested changes and improvements. We have a busy spring for teaching.

Saturday is Preview Day. It is very important to have all the subjects represented at Preview Days. If it has been a while since you attended, put it on your calendar for tomorrow morning. It starts at 9:30, so you don't have to even get up early for it!

There are various notices below. Have a great week-end.
-- Lou

Department News

Meeting with the Chemists

I will meet with the chemists at 8:00 AM on Monday morning in 202 Martin Hall.

Preview Day, 29 September

Announcing the September 29th Preview Day. The browse session will be in Stephenson Gym from 9:30 - 12:00. Bottled water will be provided at your table but refreshments will not be available. Please let Joe Morgan know if you are willing to help.

JSU Graduate Studies to Host September 29 Open House

The Graduate Studies Open House is on Saturday, September 29, 2012 from 9 a.m. till noon in Room 213 Stephenson Hall. Students will have the opportunity to speak to graduate faculty members about each of the graduate programs Jacksonville State University has to offer at the open house. JSU's College of Graduate Studies offers nine different degrees with thirty majors at the master's level, the post-master's Educational Specialist degree and a doctoral degree in emergency management.

University Travel and Self-Improvement Grants

A call for University Travel and Self-Improvement Grants was posted this week. Please encourage eligible faculty to apply for these grants. To give the Dean's staff time to database the grants and to allow Dr. Wade time to review and sign, we need the original grant applications in the Associate Dean's office, 107 Martin Hall, by ***Monday, October 8***. We will make the additional seven copies of each grant requested by Dr. Delap and will deliver the

completed packets to his office by the University deadline. **Please note that the College deadline is earlier than the University deadline.**

Here are some highlights to remember as you review and sign your faculty members' applications:

1. Only full-time, regular faculty holding the rank of assistant professor, associate professor, or professor are eligible for this funding.
 2. Evaluation criteria include: (a) faculty tenure and/or promotion status - faculty working toward tenure and/or promotion will be given top priority; (b) conference type - national and international conferences will be considered over regional conferences; (c) presentation type - presentations, including posters, will take precedence over panel membership, officer involvement, or other conference duties; (d) strength of the application - justification and explanation of the contribution to the field (discipline), authorship ranking, presentation topic, originality, and other merits of the application.
 3. Documentation of acceptance or official participation must be included. This can be a letter, email, or program page. The committee will not fund the application if no documentation is included. The Department Head should check for documentation prior to sending the application to the Associate Dean.
 4. Documentation of the registration costs for the conference must also be included.
 5. The guidelines and necessary form are available at http://www.jsu.edu/academicaffairs/travel_grant.html. This page has all the information on the grants, plus a link to the Adobe application into which the faculty can enter data.
- Please let me know if you need further information.

Department Promotion and Tenure

Starting on Monday, 1 October, there will be two applications in Tracy's office. All tenured faculty are invited to read through the application packets and to write comments in the form of a letter and to give the letter to Tracy. Tracy will confidentially hold the letters and put them into the packets when she takes the packets to the Dean. The applications are from L. Joe Morgan who is applying for promotion from Assistant Professor to Associate Professor, and Lou Reinisch who is applying for tenure.

Student Opportunities

Student Travel Grants

We have funding from Sam Kinsaul to support student travel to present research work at conferences. Applications are due by 30 September 2012. See **Lou** or **Tracy** if you need an application. Requests up to \$500 can be made.

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.