



Last Saturday we had a good turn-out at Preview Day. Thanks to everyone who attended. A special word of thanks to Joe Morgan for organizing everything. After Preview Day, I spent the next eight hours finishing adding our assessment reports to the new version of PRISM (Compliant Assist). Compliant Assist is NOT very compliant. With a bit of modification, I did get everything entered.

Since there is not a lot of pressing issues facing us this week, I would like to quote the last paragraph of an essay on "Why I Teach" from the *Chronicles of Higher Education*, written by Alice Reich, a Professor of Anthropology:

I teach because it is my job, and I feel privileged to have a job that is very nearly synonymous with my work. I teach because it puts me in a place in society where competing ideas are encouraged, not feared, where we cherish the contest between ideas more than the victory of our own. I teach because it is one of the quickest ways of finding out what I don't know; it makes me alert to possibilities. And I teach to create new possibilities.

I hope that each of you have the opportunity to create new possibilities.  
Have a great week-end.  
-- Lou

## Department News

### **Department Meeting**

We will have a Department Meeting on Monday 15 October (ten days from now) at 12:30 in the Joint Conference Room. You can bring your lunch. I hope to keep the meeting short.

### **Spring Semester Textbook Forms**

Are due to TRACY (not the bookstore) by Thursday, 11 October. Please turn in a form for your course, even if there is no required text or it is the same text and used the previous semester.

### **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.

### **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](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.

### **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.