



Today is the Christmas Luncheon. I am looking forward to some good food, good company and a bit of festivities.

Things are winding down. Finals are ending. Grades are due by 1:15 PM on Tuesday 11 December. Graduation is on Friday. So far it looks like I will be one only one attending from our Department. ☹

For those who have not heard, Nouredine was granted 20 months leave for personal reasons. We probably will not see much of Nouridine for a while. I hope that his leave is productive.

--Lou

Department News

Martin Hall Christmas Luncheon -- TODAY

The Annual Martin Hall Christmas Luncheon will be on Friday 7 December. Set up will start at 11:00 am.

Second Saturday Space Safari- Star of Bethlehem

Travel back in time with JSU's Dr. Laura Weinkauff to Bethlehem at the birth of Christ at Second Saturday Space Safari- Star of Bethlehem, Saturday, December 8, at the JSU Planetarium (third floor, Martin Hall). Look at the night sky and consider astronomical events that might have been the Star of Bethlehem, which guided the wise men on their miraculous journey in search of the Christ child.

Shows are at 6 and 7 p.m.

This event is open to all ages, and admission is \$5 per adult, \$2 per child. Please pre-register with the JSU Field School office, 256-782-8010. Pre-registration is required by noon, Friday, December 7.

Also, plan to join us for Larry Cat in Space on January 12, 2013 at 4 p.m. This program is perfect for children ages pre-K through third grade.

Pre-registration Reminder

As a friendly reminder, all departments need to have Faculty Advisor(s) present during pre-registration. Faculty/ Staff return to JSU Tuesday, January 2nd, 2013; therefore, all departments need to have Faculty Advisor(s) available to advise students from January 2nd - January 4th. JSU **will not** extend office/advising hours during pre-registration.

Registration will close, Monday, December 10th and reopen Tuesday, December 18th.

Classes begin, Monday, January 7th and Registration will not close again until the last day to add/drop, which is Monday, January 14. -- Michelle Green, Academic Advisement

December Graduation

Fall Commencement will be divided into two ceremonies at Pete Mathews Coliseum on Friday, December 14, 2012 as follows:

4:30 p.m. - College of Arts & Sciences

College of Commerce & Business Administration

Library faculty

7:00 p.m. - College of Education & Professional

Studies College of Nursing & Health Sciences

"The University encourages faculty, on a voluntary basis, to participate in all commencement ceremonies. The University, however, allows faculty members the privilege of choosing one of the three commencements held each year in which to participate." Please let Tracy know if you plan to attend this graduation. Please contact Cathy Rose at 782-5284 or crose@jsu.edu no later than December 3rd to reserve regalia.

University News

Important Notice Concerning Merging Enrollments on BlackBoard

If you wish to merge enrollments in Blackboard for Spring 2013 courses, please go to the [Blackboard Enrollment Merge](http://www.jsu.edu/distance/bb_enroll_merge.html) (http://www.jsu.edu/distance/bb_enroll_merge.html) page on the Distance Education web site, prior to building any content, for important information regarding new procedures.

Distinguished Professor Promotions

Faculty who are eligible to apply for promotion to Distinguished Professor or Distinguished Lecturer may refer to the [Academic Affairs Website](http://www.jsu.edu/academicaffairs/fac_resources.html)

(http://www.jsu.edu/academicaffairs/fac_resources.html) for guidelines, application and schedule.

Acting Positions

Dr. William Carr retired as Dean of the College of Graduate Studies on June 30. Serving as his replacement as Acting Dean, College of Graduate Studies, is Dr. Joe Delap, Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs. In November 2012, Kelly Osterbind resigned as Registrar to assume a similar position at the University of South Alabama. Serving as her replacement as Acting Registrar is Dr. Tim King, Associate Vice President for Enrollment Management and Student Affairs. Also in November 2012, Dr. Frank King retired as Associate Vice President for Distance Education. Until the vacancy created by his retirement is filled, the Office of Distance Education will report to the Provost and Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs.

Student News

Opportunity for JSU Graduates to Study in Canada

Attention JSU students graduating before August 1, 2013! The Fulbright Canada Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math Award is a new initiative of the Foundation for Educational Exchange between Canada and the United States of America (Fulbright Canada). The STEM award, which is a three-year award valued at \$120,000 (tuition, fees, and an annual stipend of \$20,000), is the counterpart to Fulbright's International Science and Technology award for foreign students coming to the United States. It is open to students in the areas of Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (complete list available on web site). The deadline for applications has been extended to December 17, 2012, and GRE scores must be submitted by December 31, 2012. For full details, please visit this web site: http://www.fulbright.ca/programs/american-students/STEM_program.html
Good luck!

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.