



Well, this is the last newsletter for the year. I want to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year. I hope that you all have too much to eat, too much time with your family, and too many presents. For those who are traveling, I hope that your travels are safe and all the travel connections work well. I look forward to seeing everyone in January, 2013.

As I look back over 2012, I think we had a year that brought change and growth in our Department. We are moving forward on many different fronts. Nearly everyone had to contribute, or we could not have moved forward. So, I want to say, thanks to everyone - to each of you for your contribution and help.

I did put a notice in about a Board of Trustees report that is due when we come back in January. Please send me an email in your spare time so that I can put together a reasonable report for the Department.

I would like to end the year with special words of thanks to both Tracy and Bernice. They both work very hard to keep this moving and to make all of our lives easier. A special thanks to both of them from all of us. I cannot imagine how we would survive without them. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

--Lou

Department News

JSU Geography at the South Eastern Division of the American Association of Geographers in Asheville, NC.

A handsome group (pictured below) for the South Eastern Association of American Geographers Conference in Asheville NC this year. Jacksonville State University and the Geography Group (Physical and Earth Sciences) were well represented. We had two papers and two posters accepted and presented by students at the conference. **Adam Smart** presented *The development and social implications of gated communities in the Democracy of India: The trappings of a newly developing middle class*. **Abigail Jacobs** and **Holly Park** (now at Auburn University - working on her masters in Geography), presented *Social Stress as an Indicator of*

Crime: Correlating Crime and Social Stress at the Census Block Level. **Corey Nabors** presented a poster entitled *Historic Tornado Outbreaks*, and **Kimberly Holmes** presented her poster in the graduate session on *Annual and Seasonal Tornado Risk Analysis*



Congratulations to the group and the Faculty Sponsors are well in order and deserved. Everyone did a great job and the work was all well research and well received at the conference. Keep up the good research and who know, maybe we will be seeing at the conference when you are out there working on your masters and PhD research.

Welcome Donna Perygin

I would like to introduce Dr. Donna Perygin, a new organic chemist in our Department with her degree from University of Memphis. Donna is moving down to Jacksonville over Christmas break (she currently lives outside of Memphis, TN). We will have a Department meeting early in January, so everyone can meet Donna. Donna will be in the office between Nixon Mwebi and Jan Gryko. She will probably be in her office the first week of January preparing for organic chemistry class. If you see her, please stop by and welcome her to the Department and to Jacksonville.

Board of Trustees Report

Please send a list of your scholarly accomplishment to Lou by Monday (7 January) for the Board of Trustees Report. Thanks for your help.

University News

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."

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.