I want to draw your attention to textbooks needed for the Fall semester are due today. Also the upcoming deadline (19 March) for items to include in the Board of Trustees report. I will also note that mid-terms grades, faculty research grants and faculty award nominations also have approaching deadlines.

Otherwise, results of the chili cook-off dominate the rest of news. I want to give my thanks to all who participated.

Finally, I want to acknowledge the great job that Jan Gryko has done with the Department Seminar. Not only do we have the great opportunity to share knowledge, our students have a chance to practice oral presentation skills, but once a week we get free pizza for lunch. What more could you ask for? 😊
-Lou

**Department News**

**Chili Cook-off Results**

Congratulations to all who participated (either by entering a chili or by tasting and judging) in the Chili Cook-off. Not only did everyone have a great time, but we were all fed some fantastic chilies, and more than $450 was raised for the American Cancer Society. A special thanks goes to:

- The organizers - **Tracy Casey**, **Karen Gregg** and **Suiko Roper**
- Official score keeper - **Valene Singleton**
- Dessert contributors - **Ann Poe**, **Amanda Wade** and **Karen Gregg**
- Prizes created and donated by **Steve Loucks**
- Volunteers - a host of students volunteered to helped run the event - thanks to each one!

Of course the winning chili was a special blend of venison and spices smuggled into the country from India by Joe Morgan. Congratulations, Joe. The second place chili went to Tracy Casey. Tracy is nearly always in the winner's circle with her chili. Third place went to Courtney Wester. Courtney graduated with a major in Geography and she is now working on a teaching degree. Congratulations to all the winners. Jonathan Herbert won the drawing for the Steve Loucks ceramic piece. If you are wondering who just "missed" a prize, it was Andy Hug and Jonathan Herbert. They tied for 4th place.
Items for the Board of Trustees Report
Items for the April Board of Trustees Report are due to Lou by noon, Monday, March 19. Please send all your scholarly activities for January, February and March 2012. There has been several conferences in the past couple of months, please send the details to Lou.

Mid-Term Grades Due
Mid-term grades for students with a D or lower are due on 15 March (this coming Thursday).

Congratulations to Holly Park
One more of our students won an award at the 89th Annual meeting of the Alabama Academy of Science. Holly Park won 1st place in oral presentations of social sciences. Her presentation Micro-Stratification: Analysis of urban residential structure using a social stress index derived from U.S. Census block level data - Gadsden Alabama, a case study can be heard on Monday (12 March) at the Departmental Seminar. The award comes with, a certificate, a book and $60.00. Holly is supervised by Joe Morgan. Congratulations.

Textbook Adoption Due Dates
It’s time to submit to Tracy your summer and fall textbook orders. Tracy will forward the orders to the bookstore.
Due date: For Fall 2012 Semester: TODAY! March 9

Call for Faculty Research Grants 2012-2013
Requests for the 2012-13 Faculty Research Grants are to be submitted to the Dean’s office no later than Monday, March 19, 2012 (this is before the University deadline to give the Dean a chance to review the requests). Refer to Faculty Research Grants on the Academic Affairs website for guidelines and proposal submission form.

Faculty Awards Nominations Sought
The Faculty Senate is pleased to announce that nominations are sought for the following faculty awards:
• Faculty Scholar Lecturer Award
• Outstanding Teacher Award
• Ringer Faculty Development Award
• Thomas Award for Outstanding Community Education/Service
• Faculty Research Activity
All full-time faculty members are eligible. Nominations by self, students, colleagues or department heads are encouraged. Please refer to Faculty Awards for guidelines. The recipients will be recognized at the Faculty Awards Reception on May 8, 2012. The Senate has not stated the due-date for the nominations for 2012, but I would guess it will be 23 March (just before Spring Break).
Digital Measures Training
Below is a list of training sessions for Digital Measures. Sessions typically do not last longer than 45 minutes. Lastly, the deadline for inputting your faculty activity (starting with Fall 2008) is May 1, 2012.
- Friday, March 9
  8 a.m. - 9 a.m. in Ayers 361 and 2 p.m. - 3 p.m. in Ayers 361
- Friday, March 16
  8 a.m. - 9 a.m. in Ayers 361 and 12 noon - 1 p.m. in Ayers 361
To sign up, please go to: http://www.doodle.com/e6c3mmetap7xrmbt
Be sure to bring a copy of your curriculum vita with you to training. Any questions please contact Dr. David Thornton, thornton@jsu.edu.

2012 National Outreach Scholarship Conference
I'm on the organizing committee for the 2012 National Outreach Scholarship Conference (NOSC) that UA is hosting this fall, and I want to make sure that you are aware of this excellent opportunity for your institution's faculty and students to participate. UA Graduate School is offering a $100 scholarship to pay the cost of registration for EACH student presenter.

Again, I'm hopeful that you will join us on the UA campus in late September. Please note the April 11 due date for proposals, including poster presentations. Dave Francko dfrancko@ua.edu

http://www.outreachscholarship.org/

Department Seminars

ALL Seminars are on Mondays at 12:30 PM in Room 202 Martin Hall
Everyone is ENCOURAGED to attend. Students are more than welcome. If you want to present, please contact Dr. Jan Gryko.

12 March: Micro-Stratification: Analysis of urban residential structure using a social stress index derived from U.S. Census block level data - Gadsden Alabama, a case study, presented by Holly Park.
and
Azadirachta Indica (Neem): A Catalyst for Green a Economy in India, presented by Joe Morgan.
**Student News**

**Chemistry and Biology Majors**
Avanti Polar Lipids will be in Martin Hall Lobby (9:00 AM until noon) on 15 Mary 2012 to discuss job opportunities in their manufacturing and quality control departments. Recent JSU grads currently working at Avanti Polar Lipids will be here to answer questions. Bring your resume and be certain it lists EXPECTED DATE OF GRADUATION. Avanti Polar is just outside of Birmingham in Alabaster. This is a great opportunity – even if you are not certain about your future plans. Bring your resume and a short list of questions and wear some nicer clothes.

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

**Name the Library Catalog and Win a $100 Gift Card**
As we prepare to move to a new version of the Library online catalog, all students are invited and encouraged to submit a name for that catalog. The deadline for submission is March 23, and a panel will then make the final decision on the best name and award the $100 gift card prize to the person who submitted it. JSU Students should go to http://www.jsu.edu/library/name_contest.html to submit their suggestions.

**University News**

**Pending Travel Alert**
1. University policy has changed during the summer of 2011 (July).
2. Itemized receipts for food must be maintained for one year.
3. Effective today, Tony Bennett will audit all travel for reimbursement.
4. Report for the time being as you have the actual cost on the reimbursement form, but you must have an itemized food receipt to support your claim.
5. Forty ($40) dollars per day remains the same.
6. Tony Bennett gave us a “heads-up” that he would begin checking after his notice today (March 7, 2012).

**Top Ten List**

**Top Ten College Majors**
The Princeton Review’s Top 10 Majors follow. Be forewarned, however, that these are not necessarily the degrees that garner the most demand in the job market.
1. Business Administration and Management/Commerce
2. Psychology
3. Nursing
4. Biology/Biological Sciences
5. Education
6. English Language and Literature
7. Economics
8. Communications Studies/Speech Communication and Rhetoric
9. Political Science and Government
10. Computer and Information Sciences

**Top Ten Major with Highest Unemployment Rates (from the Huffington Post)**
1. Clinical and educational psychology
2. Miscellaneous fine arts
3. U.S. History
4. Library Science
5. Military Technologies
6. Architecture
7. Industrial and Organizational Psychology
8. Linguistics and comparative literature
9. Computer administration management and security
10. Miscellaneous psychology

**Top ten majors with lowest unemployment rate**
* Majors and their unemployment rate according to Yahoo News:
1. Actuarial Science—0 percent
2. Astronomy and Astrophysics—0 percent
3. Educational Administration and Supervision—0 percent
4. Geological and Geophysical Engineering—0 percent
5. Pharmacology—0 percent
6. School Student Counseling—0 percent
7. Agricultural Economics—1.3 percent
8. Medical Technologies Technicians—1.4 percent
9. Atmospheric Sciences and Meteorology—1.6 percent
10. Environmental Engineering, Nursing, and Nuclear Industrial Radiology and Biological Technologies—2.2 percent

**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.