



Welcome back! Please note the request for Board of Trustees Report information and the Department meeting at 12:30 on Monday.

The suite of offices by Room 234 (primarily the offices of the chemists) were painted and had the carpet replaced by vinyl tile. The rooms are now much cleaner. I thank everyone who helped to allow this to happen.

I hope that everyone has a great semester, that all our students study hard, and we teach them to critically think about things in the world.

--Lou

#### Department News

##### **Department Meeting**

We will have a Department meeting at 12:30 PM on Monday (7 January) in the joint conference room. I would like to introduce the three new members of our Department. We can also discuss any current issues that you wish to bring up.

##### **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.

##### **Welcome Stephen Tsikalas**

I would like to introduce Dr. Stephen Tsikalas, a new geographer in our Department with his degree from Texas State University in San Marcos. Stephen has recently moved up to Jacksonville from the much warmer climate in Texas. His office will be next to Bernice's office. You can meet Stephen at the Department Meeting on Monday.

##### **Welcome Doug White**

To complete the introductions of new faculty members, I would like to introduce Dr. Doug White, a new adjunct physicist in the Department. Doug earned his Ph.D. from UAB and has spent a year as a post-doc at the NASA Ames Research Center in California. Doug is helping to fill in with teaching physics. I think that Doug has probably set a record for speed in a cross-country move.

## University News

### **New Mileage Rate in Effect**

Jacksonville State University follows IRS regulations when reimbursing employees for the use of privately-owned vehicles during the course of conducting University business. Effective January 1, 2013, the mileage reimbursement rate will increase to \$0.565 per mile. This represents an increase of one cent per mile over the 2012 rate.

## 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.