



I will be printing a new Department Poster with photos, names and offices. If you want to update your photo, send Tracy a photo that you would like to use or have her snap a new photo. Please keep the photos professional.

The newsletter is full of requests for your time and efforts. There are also the call for travel and self-improvement grants and faculty research grants (your chance to get \$omething back!). I will need a volunteer to organize Spring Preview Days. There are also a couple of sessions on iPads. I heard that JSU has made their purchase of new iPads - I do not know any of the details, but I expect some of the faculty should be getting their iPads fairly soon.

Have a great week! Don't you love this 70° weather in January!
--Lou

Department News

Mock Grant Proposal Development Training Session

Please join The JSU Institute for Research and Collaboration (IRC) for Mock Grant Proposal Development Training session January 15, 2013 from 2:00-4:30 in the Gold Room of Bibb Graves Hall. The IRC will guide faculty and staff through the pre-award, award, and post award phases of a grant. Attendees will participate in developing a response to a Request for Proposal (RFP) and follow the necessary steps to complete the submission process at JSU. Also, faculty and staff will receive expert instruction in the award and post award grant processes to include budget assignment and development, reporting and forms. At the end of the training, faculty and staff will be able to successfully start developing a grant proposal. Please email irc@jsu.edu or call extension 8159 to reserve your seat.

Travel and Self-improvement Grants

The University Travel and Self-improvement Grants program is intended to provide opportunities for faculty self-improvement or renewal. The program guidelines are intentionally broad so that faculty throughout the University can propose innovative and diverse projects in a variety of areas. Presentations of scholarly papers or creative activities at regional, national, or international professional meetings will be supported with these funds. Travel grants are not made for normal course development. Also eligible are faculty who hold

official positions or offices in professional organizations and who are not compensated for expenses associated with attendance at organizational meetings.

Attached please find the application for University Travel and Self-improvement Grants. The guidelines and application are also available at

http://www.jsu.edu/academicaffairs/travel_grant.html.

Applications are due to the Dean's office by February 5, 2013.

Faculty Research Grants

I hope you will apply for the JSU Faculty Research Grants. The deadline for receipt of these in the **Associate Dean's** office (246 Martin Hall) is **Monday, March 18**, to provide time for review prior to the University deadline. Faculty should follow these instructions in preparing an application:

1. Please go to the Academic Affairs website for information on the Guidelines for Research Proposal Format.

http://www.jsu.edu/academicaffairs/research_grant.html

2. Submit the original signed copy of the submission form, using the current form available online at the above address. Please do not use old forms! Also, please do not send multiple copies of the application; our office will get the Dean's signature, make the Faculty Research Committee's requested ten copies, and deliver them to the committee chair, Dr. Jimmy Griffin.

3. Please print the detailed line item budget, in the requested format, on its own page on white paper. Our office will copy this onto the requested colored paper.

4. If you received a faculty research grant in 2012-2013, please attach the progress report for that grant to the back of the 2013-2014 proposal submission. These progress reports are also due to Dr. Griffin by March 1.

5. Please include a current CV for each researcher.

6. Note that a faculty member is limited to the submission of one proposal as a principal investigator per year.

Lisa Williams

iPad News

Apple's Jack Quattlebaum to Conduct iPads in Education Training on Jan. 25

Jack Quattlebaum, Apple Presenter from the Executive Briefing Center in Cupertino, California, will conduct a session for JSU faculty and staff on the use of iPads in education. The session will be on January 25 at 2 p.m. in Room 355, Ayers Hall. If you have an iPad, be sure to bring it so that you can follow along. (An iPad is not required for participation.)

iPad Users Group Meeting

We will have our next iPad Users Group meeting on Wednesday, 22 January at 12:30 -1:30 in 202 Martin Hall. This will be another low-key meeting to answer questions and share ideas. You are most welcome to attend. Bring your iPad. We will demonstrate what AirPlay is on an "older" iPad -- and the capabilities. We will share techniques, discuss using the iPad for PowerPoint and see if we can learn about great apps.

College of Arts and Sciences Student Symposium—REQUEST for HELP

As you know, the Arts and Sciences Student Symposium is scheduled for February 13 and 14, 2013. I hope that you have encouraged your students to participate. Because the students compete for awards, we must have judges to evaluate the students' presentations. If you are willing to serve as a judge this year, please let me know as soon as possible. Judges are usually asked to agree to judge an entire morning or afternoon session on either of the two days. If you can, please let me know which day and time you prefer to help. I look forward to hearing from you and to seeing the great work our students present at this year's symposium. Gena Christopher <genac@jsu.edu>

Spring Preview Days

On **Saturday, February 23 and April 6** JSU will host **Spring Preview Days** to present our academic programs to visiting high school students and junior college students. The **Browse Session**, with departmental and organizational displays, will occur in the Stephenson Hall Gymnasium from **9:30 a.m. until 12:00 a.m.** We are asking faculty/staff, and student representatives to have someone present at the tables/displays this entire period. Please take advantage of the Friday set up from **12:00 - 4:00 p.m. on the Friday** prior to Preview Day.

Help with Rubrics

Finding the mean value or a weighted mean value might make good statistics. Unfortunately it appears that using these time honored techniques to determine student grades are not readily accepted today in the world of education assessment. If you want help to develop rubrics as an different method of finding a student grade please email Lou with "Username", "First Name", "Last Name", and "Email." The username must be six characters. Please respond as soon as possible. I will send the information to Dr. Porter so that you will be enrolled on the website: iRubric. The following statements are from Dr. Porter (Director of Academic Services in College of Arts and Sciences at JSU) regarding rubrics and the website iRubric:

As you know, rubric grading is becoming more and more significant as a means of evaluation, and it is considered highly desirable among accrediting agencies--including SACS--in assessment protocols. Rubric development, however, is challenging for many faculty, and it is certainly time consuming. iRubric has been marketed to institutions as a means of alleviating some of the burden from teaching faculty, and it has been very well received among the teaching faculty in institutions where it has been adopted. Each of our faculty in the College will be given access to the site, and the means to develop rubrics for a wide variety of tasks. We are beginning the process by contacting department chairs for a list of full-time faculty as a first step. In many instances adjunct faculty use the syllabus assigned by the full-time professor. In cases where this is not true, the adjunct faculty can certainly have access to the site. All the syllabi offered will be SACS approved; additionally, any academic discipline that needs to meet the standards of disciplinary accreditation can have rubrics that respond to those standards as well. The project should save many hours of

faculty labor, improve evaluation, and help us meet SACS accreditation standards.

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.