



I am ready for Spring Break! We completed our campus interviews for the next Head of the Department of Biology. I chaired the selection committee. There are three great candidates and the Dean will decide which of the three will lead Biology over the next years. I also had the Leadership group from the Calhoun County Chamber of Commerce visit the collaborative classroom this week. And we are about to send over nominations for Professor Kelly Gregg for the Ringer Award and Associate Professor Nixon Mwebi for the Thomas Award. I thank everyone who has helped these nominations with letters of recommendation. Both candidates clearly deserve the awards.

A heads up for your calendars after Spring Break: We will have a Department meeting on Monday, 8 April at 12:30 in 202 Martin Hall. Have a great Spring Break. See you on April Fool's Day.

--Lou

#### Department News

##### **Board of Trustees Report Due 1 April**

The Board of Trustees Report on Scholarly activity of the faculty members will be generated from Digital Measures. I am asking each and every faculty member in our Department to carefully think about any items that you might have sent to me to put into one of the traditional BOT reports and then log on to Digital Measures and make certain that those activities are logged-in to Digital Measures. Please do this by 1 April. The report will be generated very soon after 1 April. Your help is appreciated. ***Also, all secretaries have been assigned the role making certain the reports are correct. If Tracy contacts you and asks you to fill in missing dates or something else, please do so. Let's help her out as much as possible.***

For new Faculty members: The Board of Trustees report contains scholarly activities over the past three months. In other words, it lists all your publications, presentations, grants, reviews or awards received for the past three months (Jan, Feb, and March, 2013). You might not have anything to report or your might have several items. The objective of this report is to let the Board of Trustees know that we do more than teach classes and those other activities are important.

**Dateline: Birmingham, Samford University - Two JSU Geographers present research at the Annual Alabama Academy of Science Conference - From Local Crime to Global Economic Segregation.**

Abigail Jacobs and Richard Adam Smart, two outstanding students of Geography, in the Department of Physical and Earth Sciences represented Jacksonville State University offering presentations on research in which they have been involved this year. Both seniors presented their research in the Social Sciences Section of the Alabama Academy of Science hosted by Samford University in Birmingham this week. Ms Jacobs work, "Social Stress as an Indicator of Crime: Correlating Crime and Social Stress at the Census Block Level" is the culmination of research and collaboration with Piedmont Police Department in Calhoun County. She has laid the groundwork for an ongoing project with Piedmont Police in an effort to understand the spatial distribution of crime and crime types within the Piedmont Area. Mr. Smart's research, "Gated Communities in India: Implications of an Emerging Middle Class" is looking into the growth and development of an economic middle class in the country of India. Mr. Smart is noting more specifically that there is a movement away from the conventional Caste System to more of an economic class based system - manifest in new living arrangements and higher durable goods consumption by certain segments of the population. The long term impacts will be a continued focus for Mr. Smart.



Stock Photo - Ms. Abigail Jacobs (right) and Mr. Adam Smart (left) Seniors at JSU

**Model Arab League - Geography**

The Model Arab League Delegates were off to Spartanburg, SC for the annual completion at Converse College this past week. Our organizations fielded 10 delegates representing Lebanon this year. Through participation in the National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations' Model Arab League (MAL) program students learn about the politics and history of the Arab world, and the arts of diplomacy and public speech. MAL helps prepare students to be knowledgeable, well-trained, and effective citizens as well as civic and public affairs leaders. JSU's Geography delegates were able to author and pass 3 resolutions in the various committees and were signatories on various other pieces of legislation. Our representatives in the Political Affairs Committee, Adam Smart and Anna Dorsey took top honors - the Chairman's Award for outstanding delegation while Ruebin Kennedy and Evan Lay from the on the Palestinian Affairs Committee brought home an honorable mention. Payten Samuels, a new delegate this year, was selected as the Vice Chair of the Defense Council. This is a major responsibility and an

honor, even for a seasoned veteran. Congratulations to the group for a very successful year.



Delegates from left to right: Corey Nabors, Adam Smart, Mathieu Hopper, Logan Byars, Payten Samuels, Anna Dorsey, Evan Lay, Cecy Ouyed, Russell Lloyd, and Rubein Kennedy

#### HR to host benefits and health fair Apr. 4

The annual employee benefits and health fair will be held on Thurs., Apr. 4, 2013, in the TMB Auditorium from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. Various local vendors will be set up displaying information about their products, product samples, coupons, items for purchase, etc... and possibly FREE promotional giveaways. Also, Healthwise/Alabama Department of Public Health Wellness will be on hand again this year conducting health screenings. Appointments are not necessary. Employees, dependents (insured and 18 or over) and retirees that are insured by PEEHIP health, optional (dental, vision, cancer &

hospital indemnity) or the supplemental coverage are eligible for the FREE health screenings. You will be required to present your insurance card to receive services. Allow 15-20 minutes for testing. Contact Human Resources at ext. 8893 if you have questions.



#### College and University News

##### Student art sale in Hammond Hall

Come by the student gallery in Hammond Hall and support your student artists! The event is hosted by the Art Alliance and will take place on Fri., Mar. 22, from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

### **Houston Cole Library Offering Curbside Service During Storm Cleanup**

With the Library building closed to the public due to storm damage, beginning Wednesday, 20 March, the Library will offer curbside service to deliver circulating items to students, faculty, and staff. Patrons may pick up requested items at the covered Gamecock Shuttle stop located between the Library and Martin Hall. Curbside delivery will be offered 7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. until Friday, 22 March. The service will be evaluated after Spring Break, and may be discontinued depending on the progress of construction at the Library.

Students, faculty, and staff wishing to use the Library's curbside delivery service may call any [reference librarian](#) or contact the circulation desk at (256) 782-5758. Please note this service is offered only for **\*circulating\*** items; reference and other non-circulating items are excluded. When making their requests, patrons will need to provide Library staff with:

- A list of the items being requested
- A time the items will be picked up
- Contact information (the patron's name, student number, and an email/phone number)

Patrons will be **\*required\*** to show a photo ID at the pick-up site in order to receive their requested items.

Please note that the book drop (located in the Library parking lot) is open, and patrons may use it at any time to return their materials.

The Library apologizes for any inconvenience occasioned by construction efforts. Further information regarding Library operations will be forthcoming after Spring Break.

### 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.