



Well, we have started the May terms. Enrollments seem to be similar to last year. That is good! It means that most of you will continue to have summer income. The increased number of contact hours for the 100 and 200 level chemistry and physics courses during the summer terms is actually a benefit for the students. It might be worthwhile to have a Departmental discussion about contact hours versus credit hours vis-à-vis student learning.

Please remember to have Student Learning Outcomes listed on all syllabi and to document that your students met their Learning Outcomes.

See the information below about all the activities and deadlines that are approaching. Enjoy the week-end.

--Lou

Department News

Faculty Annual Review Timeline

Your FAR packets are due by Friday 10 May. Meetings with the Department Head will be scheduled for 12-15 May. You are encouraged to use Digital Measures the print out your accomplishments for the last academic year. If you go into Digital Measures and from the menu on the left, select "Run an Ad Hoc Report" and for #2 give the dates 1 May 2012 to 30 April 2013 and for #5 ask for one report per individual, it should build a report. If the report is not correct (out of date material is displayed or material is missing), you can go into Digital Measures and correct the dates or add the missing information. After making the corrections, you can run a new report.

College and University News

Faculty Awards Ceremony on 14 May

Starting at 5:00 PM in room 1103 of Houston Cole Library. Hors d'oeuvres will be served on the 12th floor following the presentations. I have heard that Jimmy Triplet will be playing the fiddle on the 12th floor. This is one of the few remaining social events that is across the college and across the university. I strongly urge everyone to attend. It is important to maintain a sense of community.

JSU Drama to Present Noel Coward's 'Blithe Spirit' May 15-19

Blithe Spirit by Noel Coward will be presented at the Ernest Stone Performing Arts Center, on May 15-19, 2013 - Wed-Sat at 7 p.m., Sun at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$10 (Adult), \$8 (Senior Citizen/JSU Personnel), \$5 (Student/Child/Military)

Blithe Spirit, one of the longest-running comedies in theatrical history. Novelist Charles Condomine invites eccentric medium Madame Arcati to his house to conduct a séance and learn more about the occult, and gets more than he bargained for when she conjures the ghost of his late wife. Fast-paced comedy ensues as worldly and un-worldly personalities clash and Charles tries to control not one, but two "blithe spirits" throwing his orderly home into chaos.

Opportunities from the Office of Planning and Research

IDEA Workshop

The Office of Planning and Research and the JSU Assessment Sub-Committee will sponsor a one day workshop - "Getting the Greatest Benefit from the IDEA Instrument and Reports" on Thursday, May 23, 2013. The workshop, led by Shelly Chapman, Ph.D., a Senior Education Consultant from The IDEA Center, will be held from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm on the 11th floor of Houston Cole Library. The workshop schedule can be viewed at

http://www.jsu.edu/oira/assessment_files/20IDEAWorkshopschedule.pdf

You are invited to attend. To help better prepare for this event, we ask that you go to

<https://jsuweb.wufoo.com/forms/z7m1q9/>

and register by May 10, 2013. If you have any questions or need more information, please contact Tienhan Ma via email thma@jsu.edu or at (256) 782-5109.

CORE Academy

Please make plans to join us on the campus of Jacksonville State University, June 4-6, 2013 for the inaugural *CORE Academy*. Sessions will focus on using and incorporating technology into the K-12 classroom. Keynote speaker, Dr. Mark Milliron, formerly of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation will address attendees. Visit <http://www.corepartners.org/registration.asp> to register for this exciting professional development opportunity. The schedule can be viewed at: http://www.corepartners.org/pdf/CORE_2013_Summer_Academy_Evite.pdf.

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.

Thought for the day is from FaceBook:

Thought for the Day

