



I thank everyone for the warm comments after the Department Meeting on Thursday. There is plenty of work that remains to be done—and Jan Gryko asked how I knew that the sun was rising. I know that the sun is rising because I came in to work on Friday morning and met Kelly Gregg and Stephen Tsikalas heading out to gather bamboo for a research project with Jimmie Triplett. I spoke to Joe Morgan who is working to get an on-line course updated and ready for the June summer term. I had Jan Gryko in my office complaining about the lack of writing skills of one of his students. This was all within the first 30 minutes of arriving at work. To know that people are trying, that they care and they want to make things better and are not happy to accept the *status quo*, or use the phrase “we have never done that at JSU before” clearly indicates that the sun is rising.

--Lou

#### Department News

##### **May 4 Week-Term Important Dates**

May 27 Monday Memorial Day Holiday

May 29 Wednesday Final Exams

May 30 Thursday Grades Due

##### **Lunch at California Baja on Monday**

We will meet for lunch at California Baja on Monday, 20 May at 12:00 noon. Everyone in the Department is invited to attend.

#### College and University News

##### **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.

**Jacksonville Opera Theatre presents a Classic Gilbert and Sullivan, The Mikado**



Jacksonville Opera Theatre of Jacksonville State University (JOT) presents "The Mikado" (operetta by Gilbert and Sullivan) on June 7 & 8 - 7:30pm curtain; and June 8 & 9 - 2:30pm curtain (2 shows on Saturday). Performances will be held at the Wallace Hall of Gadsden State Community College, Gadsden, Alabama. The Cost for students is \$12; and Adults \$20. You can purchase tickets online at [www.jacksonvilleopera.org](http://www.jacksonvilleopera.org) or call for tickets at the Wallace Hall Ticket Center-256-543-ARTS

**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](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](mailto: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](http://www.corepartners.org/pdf/CORE_2013_Summer_Academy_Evite.pdf).

**Contact Details** **Thought for the Day**

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.

I am among those who think that science has great beauty. A scientist in his laboratory is not only a technician: he is also a child placed before natural phenomena which impress him like a fairy tale.

**Marie Curie (1867 - 1934)**