



This will probably be my last newsletter. Anyone wanting to take up the job as editor, see Tracy. She has MS Word versions of previous newsletters that could be used to craft future newsletters.

It has been a great five years and I appreciate the Department of Physical and Earth Sciences--DOPEs as Kelly Gregg told me when I interviewed ☺. Despite the name, it is a great department with tremendous strength in its faculty and staff. During my time at JSU, I have spoken to 96 chemistry and geography majors graduating from JSU. These students have spoken of being inspired, educated and provoked to think by a wide array of faculty members in our Department. In our recent Departmental review, the outside reviewers from chemistry and geography at the University of Alabama both said one of their best graduate students in their respective Departments was a JSU graduate from the Department of Physical and Earth Sciences. Bernice and Tracy are both outstanding and provide solid support and maintenance to keep the Department running. The new members of our Department, Joe Morgan, Stephen Tsikalas and Donna Perygin bring new energy and creative ideas that will ensure that the Department continues to improve and thrive. I will miss working with you and I thank you, very sincerely, for the opportunity to be a part of the JSU Department of Physical and Earth Sciences. Keep in touch.

--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

Outstanding Faculty Recognized at Annual Awards Program

Jacksonville State University recognized Outstanding Faculty Awards winners, faculty research award, tenure and promotion recipients as well as retirees and scholars at the annual Faculty Awards Program on May 14 on the



eleventh floor of the Houston Cole Library. A reception followed on the twelfth floor. The **Cleo & Carla Thomas Award for Outstanding Community Education/Service** went to Dr.



Nixon Mwebi, Associate Professor, Department of Physical and Earth Sciences. Congratulations Nixon!

Yshua Rodriguez Wins ACS Undergraduate Student Award in Environmental Chemistry

Yshua Rodriguez, working with Dr. Nixon Mwebi, presented her independent research at the American Chemical Society (ACS) Meeting in New Orleans. The Division of Environmental Chemistry of the ACS selected Yshua for the award. We congratulate Yshua for the great accomplishment.

College and University News

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 or call for tickets at the Wallace Hall Ticket Center-256-543-ARTS

Opportunities from the Office of Planning and Research

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

Education is for improving the lives of others and for leaving your community and world better than you found it.

Marian Wright Edelman