SGA to expand campus phone book this fall

by Benjamin Cunningham
Chanticleer Editor in chief

JSU students will have a new way to keep in touch this fall. The SGA has taken over publication of the student phone directory and plans to expand it to better serve the University.

Matt Crandon, SGA First Vice President, says that the new directory will contain home and school addresses, as well as home and school telephone numbers for all students. Also included will be the numbers of academic departments and other important on-campus numbers. The previous versions contained only campus phone numbers for departments and offices and for students living in University housing.

Crandon, who got the project started, says there are two main reasons for the expanded edition. “We wanted to give students more comprehensive information than they got from the older, outdated versions.”

Crandon says the other main reason is the use he gets out of a similar publication he got from another school. “That book is about four or five years old, and I still use it to keep in touch with friends.”

Students who don’t want their information published, or those who want to update their information, should contact the Office of Admissions and Records by September 15, Crandon says.

According to Crandon, the SGA hopes to print enough copies for every student. The phone books will be available Oct. 1. Students can pick them up at the SGA offices on the 4th floor of the TMB.

Budget cuts force mergers, tuition increase

by Mai Martinez
Chanticleer News editor

This semester, students will notice some changes at JSU. The university merged several programs, consolidated some positions, eliminated others, and once again, raised tuition.

These changes come in response to recent budget cuts and loss in state appropriation, which forced the university to reevaluate some programs and administrative positions. “We absorbed $2.4 million in reductions in the budget. That’s the second year in a row that has happened to us. When that occurs, you either got to reduce spending and/or see Cutbacks page.”

New IDs to link students to bank accounts

University, AmSouth, and campus vendors cooperate for new conveniences

by Mai Martinez
Chanticleer News editor

A new student identification system which should be in place no later than the Spring semester may make life much easier for some students.

“We think it’s something that will be a big convenience for the students,” said Don Thacker, acting vice president for Administrative Business Affairs.

The new IDs will act as multipurpose debit cards. Students will be able to use the card at both on-campus and off-campus locations to pay for anything from tuition to a vending machine candy bar.

According to Joe Whitmore, Director of Institutional Analysis, the project is being funded by the vendors involved and AmSouth Bank, and will not require any additional money from the university or students.

The new card will carry the AmSouth logo and can be used at ATM machines if the cardholder has an account with the bank. Students are not, however, required to have an account with AmSouth in order to use the card. Machines will be set up where students can deposit money and have the amount encoded on the card. The students can then draw against the balance on the card.

“Our plan was to have the new ID up and running with the fall semester.”

-Joe Whitmore

The university is working in conjunction with the vendors and AmSouth Bank to get the new system in place as soon as possible. “Our plan was to have the ID up and running with the fall semester, but it’s going to be delayed for a little while. We had some printing problems and some logistical problems with the card,” said Whitmore.

According to Whitmore, the university has been interested in upgrading the current ID system for about a year, but wanted to be sure that everything was ready for the new card system.

Several universities around the country already have similar systems in place. “We looked at a lot of other institutions’ cards. We visited campuses to see what their applications were. What we did was pick and choose the things we liked.”

Whitmore and Thacker hope the combination of applications that worked well at different universities will provide JSU students with a card that is one step ahead of those found at other institutions.

In addition to its traditional applications, students can use the new ID in the same way they use other debit cards. Several business and restaurants already have the equipment in place to accept the new IDs, which will work much like the “swipe-out” systems use in Food World stores. The new ID, however, will become accepted in some places that do not presently accept debit cards, including Subway, McDonald’s, and vending machines on campus.

Another benefit of the new IDs is parents can now deposit money directly into their student’s account. This eliminates all the time spent mailing checks and the trouble students often encounter cashing the checks.

The new JSU ID is unique to this university, and has room for expansion should it become necessary or desired. One future application currently being considered is use of the new ID to improve security at residence halls.

Students would have to swipe their ID at the door, and if they are not registered at that hall, would not gain access.

There are numerous other possible applications of the new ID, and both Thacker and Whitmore encourage students to respond. “We want to do what the students want and we would like for them to give us some feedback.”
Congress, Clinton, pass minimum wage increase

by College Press Service

WASHINGTON—Expect a slightly fatter paycheck from that mail job, thanks to passage of the first minimum-wage increase in five years.

Effective Oct. 1, workers taking home $4.25 an hour will make $4.75. That rate will jump to $5.15 an hour on Sept. 1, 1997.

The bill, passed by President Clinton on Aug. 20, is the first minimum-wage increase in five years. Lawmakers say the minimum wage had dropped to a 40-year low when adjusted for inflation.

“At its heart, this bill does reaffirm our most profoundly American values—offering opportunity to all, demanding responsibility from all, and coming together as a community,” Clinton said as he signed the bill at an outdoor White House ceremony.

About 10 million Americans, typically unskilled workers in small businesses or restaurants, earn minimum wage. According to U.S. Department of Labor statistics, nearly 70 percent are adults age 20 or over.

However, waiters and waitresses take note: The minimum-wage measure partly excludes workers who receive tips. Their employers will have to pay them by the new rate of $2.13 an hour, the same as before.

Employers provide more only if employees don’t collect enough tips to earn the new minimum rate.

Also, workers under 20 may receive a “training wage.” That holds the hourly rate at $4.25 an hour during the first 90 days on the job.

The legislation, officially called the “Small Business Jobs Protection Act,” included roughly $22 billion worth of tax cuts over 10 years, aimed mostly at small businesses.

Political experts agreed that the tax breaks helped lead to the bill’s passage in the Republican-controlled houses of Congress.

Conservatives had argued that raising the minimum wage could cut jobs, hurt small businesses and eventually raise consumer prices.

Republicans approve education platform

by College Press Service

The following is an excerpt from a final draft of the 1996 Republican Party platform on improving education.

“Our formula is as simple as it is sweeping: the federal government has no constitutional authority to be involved in school curricula or to control jobs in the work place. That is why we will abolish the Department of Education, end federal meddling in our schools, and promote family choice at all levels of learning. We therefore call for prompt repeal of the Goals 2000 program and the School-To-Work Act of 1994, which put new federal controls, as well as unfunded mandates, on the States. We further urge that federal attempts to impose outcome or performance-based education on local schools be ended.”

“The nation’s colleges and universities against intolerance, we will work with independent educators to create alternatives to ideological accrediting bodies. We believe meeting the higher education needs of America will require new, public and private institutions that are flexible, able to apply new technologies, willing to provide access to all those who need it, cost-effective and that place no burden on the American taxpayer.

“As a first step in reforming government, we support elimination of the Departments of Commerce, Housing and Urban Development, Education, and Energy, and the elimination, defunding or privatization of agencies which are obsolete, redundant, of limited value, or too regional in focus.

“Examples of agencies we seek to defund or to privatize are the National Endowment for the Arts, the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, and the Legal Services Corporation...”

San Diego grad student kills professors

by College Press Service

San Diego- A San Diego State University engineering student is accused of fatally shooting three professors as they waited to hear the defense of his master’s thesis.

Fred Martin Davidson, 36, walked into an Aug. 15 meeting with the professors, pulled out a semi-automatic weapon and fired 20 rounds, stopping once to reload, police and witnesses said. All three professors were shot multiple times and pronounced dead on the scene, police said.

Campus police arrived at the Engineering Building after gunshots were heard and said they found Davidson in the hallway with a handgun.

Killed were Chen Liang, 32, assistant professor of mechanical engineering; D. Preston Lowery, 44, associate professor of mechanical engineering; and Constantinos Lyrintzis, 36, associate professor of aerospace engineering.

San Diego State president Stephen L. Weber called the professors “three of our brightest and most promising teachers. Our fallen colleagues...devoted their all-too-short lives to the noble work of education.”
Cutbacks, from page 1

increase tuition," said JSU President Harold McGee.
McGee added that the mergers and consolidations were also necessary to ensure employee pay raises in October. “In the 90’s, we have had payroll freezes for our employees for four of the six years. What happens with that is you start losing people. Your good employees who are skilled people, leave their jobs”.

McGee said the University had a large number of retirements over the summer. According to Dr. Aman, dean of the College of Education and Professional Studies, many professors and administrators took advantage of retirement incentives offered by the State Retirement System for Educators which had a window of opportunity that expired at the end of the summer.
The University was able to take advantage of vacancies left by the retirements by not refilling them immediately. In many cases, the responsibilities were transferred to remaining faculty and administrators. JSU also eliminated other positions, including Vice President of Student Affairs, Dean of Students, and Gadsden Director.

According to a university statement, no one lost a job in the reorganization.
The decisions on which positions and programs to either merge or eliminate were reached after the university completed a thorough program review. The review was initiated in the summer of 1994 to find money in the budget that could be redistributed, but became available to handle the recent budget cuts.

McGee said although students will notice a “slow-down” in responses and services, priority was given to enrollment and student services. “We made a genuine effort to protect their (the students) interests. All we did was to merge administrative structures. Everything else stays the same. We kept all the student support services in place.”

At this point, no majors or departments have been eliminated. However, several colleges and departments have been merged. The mergers combined smaller departments and colleges with larger ones, with one department head or dean instead of two.

“We’ve done all the adjusting you can do without causing major pain, but if they cut us again, we’ll start seeing program cuts,” said McGee.
Vandals strike former athletic dorm as football team moves out

by Mai Martinez
Chanticleer News editor

More than three months have passed since the vandalism of Salls Hall was first brought to the attention of the University Police Department, but still, no charges have been filed.

When contacted by The Chanticleer about the investigation, Sgt. Rick Tubbs of UPD said, “We are not ready at this point to release any information.”

He added that UPD is currently interviewing former residents and that the incident was still under investigation. Tubbs said he would not comment on an ongoing investigation.

He did say the vandalism was first noticed on May 31, which was the last day the student athletes had to move out of the residence hall. Sgt. Tubbs also said there had been prior reports of minor vandalism at the residence hall.

Earlier this summer, the Anniston Star reported that the vandals left no room untouched, and damage included “fire alarm and exit signs ripped from ceilings and walls, fire extinguishers stolen, holes kicked in walls, and profane messages written on the walls to college officials.”

According to the Star, “one theory held by (Jerry) Cole (JSU Athletic Director) and other JSU officials is that the damage was in response to a new nation-wide NCAA rule disbanding athletic dorms at the beginning of the 1996-97 school year.”

Salls Hall, formerly the home of the JSU football team, now houses the campus police. The building was vandalized this summer after the football team moved out.
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New year brings new things to the Chanticleer, but some traditions remain

Welcome back to Jacksonville State, and welcome to the first issue of this edition of The Chanticleer.

This year should prove to be a little different at the student newspaper. A few interesting changes have shaken a thing or two up around here.

For starters, two of our senior staff members from last year, managing editor Tim Lockette and editor in chief Emily Wester are spending a semester in China, through JSU’s exchange program with Wuhan University. As of last report, despite losing their luggage in Shanghai, they were doing just fine.

Their absence, however, has left us with some holes to fill on the editorial board, since Tim had been selected to take over as editor in chief this fall. Instead that position has fallen to me for the moment, and it’s been up to me to locate people to fill the emptied editorial desks around here. I’ve put together what I think will turn out to be a super staff, and I hope you’ll agree with me.

More and more these days the world is turning to the Internet for news and information. Jacksonville State will soon have that luxury, as The Chanticleer will begin online publication at our very own Web site within the next couple of weeks. You’ll be able to find the same content on the Web that you see in our news, views, features, and sports sections, as well as e-mail letters to the editor, and a host of other technological advantages.

Despite all these changes, a few things will remain the same. We will attempt to provide the University with the same balanced, fair, and accurate coverage that has been a tradition at this newspaper for years.

As always The Chanticleer is listening. If you have a concern you feel needs to be addressed, please feel free to write a letter to the editor to make your voice heard. You can send your letters free of charge through campus mail to The Chanticleer, 180 Self Hall, or e-mail us at newspaper@student-mail.jsu.edu.

And as always, we’re in need of help. If you’d like to volunteer your time to help produce stories, photography or artwork please come by one of our staff meetings. They’re held in The Chanticleer offices, 180 Self Hall, on Thursdays at 6:00 pm.
A welcome from the SGA President

Dear Chanticleer Editor,

As President of the Student Government Association I would like to welcome the entire student body back to campus. It has been an exciting and eventful summer not only for the SGA, but for our University.

We have been working hard to plan activities and events for students as well as remain the outspoken liaison between the student body and the university administration. Our primary mission is to help build a better life for the students of JSU. We want your input not only from student leaders, but faculty members and administrators.

From the Student Senate meetings every Monday night at 6 p.m. in the TMB auditorium to Tuesday night movies sponsored by the Student Activities Council, there is something for everyone. It’s all right here on our campus and it’s up to you to speak up and get involved in the decisions that directly affect you as a student. Go Gamecocks!

Bob Boyle
SGA President

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Forum is our readers’ column. Our policy for letters to the editor should be kept in mind when working on submissions.

- The Chanticleer will not print letters which are longer than 300 words.
- The Chanticleer will not print letters which are libelous and/or defamatory.
- The Chanticleer reserves the right to edit letters for space and grammar as well as style.
- There will be at least two weeks between publication of letters from the same person and will publish rebuttals no later than two weeks after the publication of the article, editorial or letter in question.
- The Chanticleer reserves the right to refuse publication of any submission.
- Deadline for submissions is noon Monday before the preferred publication date.
- Submissions may be brought to the Chanticleer office, sent through campus mail to 180 Self Hall, or e-mailed to newspaper@student-mail.jsu.edu. All submissions must include a name, phone number, and student number for JSU students.

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Do you think JSU is the friendliest campus in the South? Why or why not?

— compiled by Janna Waller

"Yes, because they have friendly people and great faculty workers and since I decided to go here that makes it all good."

-Kareem Williams
Junior

"I don't know about the rest of the South, but the way I was welcomed here at JSU being a foreigner is simply flattering, and turned the accusation of Americans being prejudiced into a lie."

-Yula Hildman
Sophomore

"JSU is the friendliest campus in the South because I came from a community in Germany, where the people could care less if they who you are, but the people at JSU welcome you with a smile."

-Latorya Gilmore
Sophomore

"I think JSU is very friendly because the teachers have an interest in the students' well being, and it is also very easy to make new friends."

-Aleasia Ward
Senior
Story by Bill King
Photos by Janna Waller

Yet another summer has come and gone. This of course means that after having close to four months of freedom (unless you took a class or two in May, Summer I, and/or Summer II) it is once again time to head back to school for another semester. Now the majority of us who have been attending college for the past few semesters or longer pretty much know the whole routine by heart. We also have a pretty basic idea as to what to expect from the months ahead.

However, a new semester also means new students, new students who have most likely just graduated high school and have in most cases very little, if any, idea of what to expect and what is to be expected of them. Many new students may base their opinions of college life solely on what is portrayed on the silver screen, which is as follows: parties, beer, parties, sex and parties. Now don’t get me wrong, I didn’t say that there aren’t also plenty of people who do have an idea of what to expect, but for the most part unless they have a relative in college or young adults base their opinions on parents with professor friends, most young adults base their opinions on what is spoonfed to them in the movies.

Chances are that a big eye opener to new students will have been the seemingly unnecessary, super tedious tasks they had to perform just to register for classes. These students will also quickly learn that even though college offers new freedoms very often unheard of in high school, it requires a great deal of responsibility and hard work. Far too many of us know from experience how very easy it is to fail to show up to class, especially one that doesn’t have an attendance policy. Many of us also know that once a habit of class cutting is formed many important notes and discussions as well as tests may be missed. This will most assuredly result in those ever so popular “D’s” and “F’s.”

New students will also learn that much more is expected out of them as college students than was when they were in high school. These fresh, young minds are now being treated as adults and are expected to act as such. Each one of these students are now entirely responsible for his or her own actions, and if they fail to do such tasks as their homework or attend class, then they can’t expect to seem as though they are showing an honest effort in attempting to pass. As a result, rather than a phone call to the parents, or send a nice little note home, the instructor will simply fail to show any real effort in attempting to pass. But on the other hand they will also find out that if they do try to put in a little extra effort and take the time to come to class, as well as study, that the instructor will be more than happy to help them in any possible way he or she can.

These students will come to understand that even though a handful of them aren’t very good at it, for the most part the instructors are doing the absolute best that they can in order to make the material they are teaching more interesting. Not only that, but they also for the most part treat the students as equals and respect their opinions, very much unlike high school and grade “B” movies. Some students will be surprised to find themselves actually enjoying a lecture as well as becoming friends with the instructor and even looking forward to showing up to class. The student will learn that this can be achieved by perfecting the delicate art of choosing the right instructor for each course. When the students finally become aware of how to use this technique correctly they will literally be able to choose their own path to graduation.

Hopefully within a few semesters the students will ultimately go through a kind of metamorphosis while learning a good deal about themselves. This would also hopefully result in their realization of the greater goal, which isn’t to have the supreme social life, but to become successful individuals who have what it takes to make it in the fabled “real world.” After realizing their goal they can then strive to become those successful people who are ready to take on the world and show it what they’ve got to offer.

Don’t forget to check your campus mail box… Of course you’ll need to remember that combination. Don’t loose it!

Far too many of us know how very easy it is to fail to show up for class.
Evil mothers serenade the Masquerade

by Bill King
Chanticleer Features editor

I arrived at the Masquerade somewhere around 10:15 Georgia time just in time to catch the last 30 seconds of the opening band, '6 Volt. About half an hour later, Bile crept onto the stage and though I hadn't liked much of what I heard from them previously, I enjoyed their set. They came across looking as though they had either just survived a horrible plane crash or escaped from the depths of Hell. The whole thing reminded me of being in a spook house on Halloween, complete with blacklights to reveal the iridescent goo covering the band and their equipment, fake fog, and to top it all off, three T.V. screens full of horror movie clips and subliminal messages. Their sound was a strange mix of industrial synth-core and death metal and surprisingly enough they pulled it off rather well.

Finally after another 30 minute set change, the band everyone was waiting for took the stage: the infamous Evil Mothers. Screaming accusations, calling names, and pointing his finger, lead singer Curse Mackey went straight for the jugular. Curse and the boys tore through songs about a world full of pimps, prostitutes, junkies, killers, religious satire and bizarre sex. They played favorites from their first two albums, "Crossdresser" and "Pitchfoks and Pervers" as well as some new stuff from their latest release "I Love Fur."

About three-quarters of the way through the set, the bass player brought out two huge steel barrels and a bunch of sticks as the members of 16 Volt and Bile filed out from backstage. The bands then all joined together in a superb percussion-only song that lasted a good eight to ten minutes. By the end of the song the crowd was in a frenzy. They played a few more songs including a nifty Pigface cover and then sadly, it was over. I was so impressed that I spent the next two weeks looking for their latest effort, but for some reason no one carries it. So, if you ever get the chance, do yourself a favor and try not to miss them again.

Warning: The Student Government Association is preparing a complete PHONE DIRECTORY including each student's address and phone number. If you wish to be excluded from this directory or update your records, please contact Admissions and Records, or follow the instructions in your Student Handbook. Deadline is September 15.
Meal Plans Still On Sale

Frankly, school's tough enough without adding to the load. Which is why the campus meal plan makes so much sense. We do all the work. And you get to enjoy great tasting, wholesome meals prepared fresh daily.

There are a number of flexible meal plans to choose from, designed for off campus as well as resident students. So sign up soon. Because it's silly to do any more homework than you have to...Stop by the food service office in Hopper Dining Hall to purchase your campus meal plan. We have a meal plan designed just for you!

**THE CAMPUS MEAL PLAN**

**RESIDENT STUDENTS**

<table>
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**COMMUTER/UPPERCLASS**

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For more information about the plans call Marriott Dining Services at 205-782-7242

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J.W.'s Market in Luttrell Hall is now open. J.W.'s is a mini convenience store offering a selection of groceries, bakery items, snack foods, milk, ice cream, frozen dinners, gum, candy, sodas and a variety of pre-packaged foods. J.W.'s also carries health and beauty aids, along with cleaning supplies, soaps and detergents.

J.W.'s accepts cash, flex dollars or I.D. bonus dollars for all purchases.

For the first 10 days of school J.W.'s will be open 8 am - 4 pm and 8 pm - Midnight, Monday through Sunday. Your purchases the first 10 days will establish the hours and days of operation. Make your purchase and let your opinion about service hours be heard. After the 10 day trial regular hours will be established and published.

For more information call 782-7242.
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"Here, I rigged this up to help with your poison ivy."

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"SMACK!"

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**SPORTS**

**Lady Gamecocks take TAAC title**

by Rebecca Matanic
Chanticleer Sports editor

Competing in just their first season at the NCAA Division I level, the Jacksonville Lady Gamecock softball team not only captured the Trans America Athletic Conference crown, but also earned a berth in the NCAA tournament. The Gamecocks finished second in their Division I campaign. Their quest for a NCAA national championship ended with a 2-0 loss to the number one-ranked University of Washington and an 8-0 defeat against Indiana University.

"When we met last fall, Coach (Jana) McGinnis set the team goal of making the conference tournament," said returning pitcher and third baseman Rachel Riddell. "Once we won the Western Division of the TAAC, our goal was to win the conference tournament."

see Softball page 14

**Gamecocks to attack by air this season**

by Rebecca Matanic
Chanticleer Sports editor

Head Football Coach Bill Burgess led the Gamecocks to an impressive 7-4 record in his first season coaching at the NCAA Division I-AA level. Entering the 1996 season the Gamecocks hope to improve upon last year's success. However, the road will be tough as the Gamecocks will face their toughest schedule ever, including three Southland Football League games.

Optimism resounds as the Gamecocks return 16 starters to this year's squad. Experience will be helpful as offensive coordinator Charles Kelly installs the formation into the Gamecock offensive attack. The formation should lead to a stronger passing attack from sophomore quarterback Montressa Kirby. If Kirby falters the Gamecocks have depth at quarterback with redshirt freshman Brooks Barron or sophomore Jared Isaac to call upon.

The JSU running game will once again fall into the capable hands of junior tailback Amel Jackson, 5' 7", 180 lbs. Jackson led the Gamecocks with 657 yards rushing, 153 carries and scoring last season. The JSU rushing attack has lost Jason Reynolds to graduation and Ashton West and Lewis Battle to academic problems. However, the Gamecocks will still have depth at running back thanks to junior fullback's Monaleto Iby and Gabe Walton. Junior halfback Demetri克斯 Thomas is also expected to lead the rushing charge.

The JSU receivers cause the most concern to the coaching staff offensively. Although the Gamecocks feel they can count on sophomore Patrick Plott to make big plays, coach Kelly realizes the team needs some younger players to step up for the passing game to be successful.

Coach Kelly believes that the offensive line is the strength of the JSU attack. With experience and 6' 4", 297-pound guard Jason Haas anchoring the line the Gamecocks should have the blocks to spring the running game and the protection to give Kirby time to throw downfield.

Defensively, coordinator Roland Houston has reason for optimism as the Gamecocks return 9 of 11 starters to a squad that transitioned to a 4-3 defensive scheme. The 4-3 alignment was successful for the Gamecocks as they allowed 1,000 fewer passing yards and grabbed 17 interceptions.

Senior David Mahaffey, 6' 1" 270-

see Football page 14

**Gamecock baseball wins division, bows out early in TAAC tourney**

by Rebecca Matanic
Chanticleer Sports editor

The Jacksonville State University Gamecock baseball team finished a promising season with two in the May 1996 Trans America Athletic Conference Tournament. The Gamecocks won the regular season TAAC western division crown, but were unable to take advantage of their number two seed in the TAAC Tournament dropping consecutive games to lower seeds Florida Atlantic University, 11-7 and Florida International University, 10-8.

The Gamecocks concluded the 1996 campaign with a 33-18 mark. The Gamecocks led the TAAC in batting average, pitching percentage and fielding percentage. JSU also led the TAAC offensively averaging .394 runs per game. Although Gamecock pitchers ranked eighth in the conference in earned run average, pitcher Bryan Williamson's 2.39 ERA placed him 19th nationally. First baseman Mike Garner of the Gamecocks led the TAAC in doubles with 22 and finished second in the conference with a .626 slugging percentage. Garner was

**Cross country teams pin hopes on freshmen, transfers**

Head coach Dick Bell's men's and women's cross country teams began their second season Saturday at the University of Tennessee-Chattanooga Invitational.

Last season Bell's teams finished near the bottom of the Trans America Athletic Conference. However, Bell is optimistic that recruits will strengthen this year's teams and move them as low as the middle of the TAAC Conference standings.

Of the 17 men on the cross country roster, only 5' 8" runner Daniel Dean is a senior. Emily Wester is the lone senior on the women's squad.

Bell is hopeful that 5' 4" sophomore Leslie Gardner, who competed as a freshman in the NAIA Nationals as atransfer at the University of Mobile last year and 5' 9" junior Tracy Clifton from Gadsden Community College will elevate the women's team.

For the men, Bell is relying on University of Mobile transfer Dana Cronin, a sophomore, to lead the team. Expectations are also high for 6' 0" freshman Shawn Griffin, also from Mobile. Griffin was named All-State in cross country all four years of high school.

The cross country team's first home meet is homecoming day, October 5, when they host the JSU Invitational.

The Lady Gamecock volleyball team started their 96 season by winning three of four matches in University of Alabama-Birmingham Invitational, August 30 and 31 at the UAB Arena in Birmingham.

Despite only dropping a five game match to South Alabama, 16-14, 9-15, 13-15, 16-14, 11-15 the Lady Gamecocks finished third in the four team tournament. A tie breaking formula determined the order of finish of the top three teams in the invitational, each of which lost just one match. South Alabama took top honors, while UAB was second and Sanford fourth.

JSU's senior, outside hitter, Amanda Sandlin was selected to the All-Tournament Team. Sandlin led the Gamecock offensive attack with 48 kills in the four matches. She also contributed 31 digs and four blocks on defense.

Junior, Kim Carney 5-8 outside hitter was second in kills with 46. Defensively, Carney had 47 digs and six blocks. Freshman Kelly Rhinehart led the Gamecock defense with 57 digs.
Lady Gamecocks topple opponents, take title

Softball from page 13

Riddell, a community college transfer from Illinois, said she was initially nervous about joining JSU’s softball team.

“When I first got here, I was just concerned about surviving the practices,” she said. Once she settled in, Riddell realized that not only was she ready to make the transition from community college softball to Division I, but so were the Lady Gamecocks.

“Last season was a dream come true for everybody, especially for coach (Mc Ginnis),” Riddell said.

Although the Lady Gamecocks opened their ’96 season in February with 10 consecutive wins, Riddell said that she feels a road trip to Louisiana and Florida in which the team won 11 games is a turning point of the season.

“We beat Southeastern Louisiana and Centenary on their home fields. That is tough to do. After we went to Florida for the Orlando Rebel Spring Games,” she said. “We went undefeated in Florida. I think that’s where things really came together for us.”

The Lady Gamecock’s success last season was not only due to talent and dedication, but also team chemistry. Riddell said the team had great chemistry.

“I really felt my teammates were like sisters last year,” she said.

Besides their conference crown and NCAA Tournament appearance, the Lady Gamecocks also were able to meet softball Olympic gold medalists Dot Richardson and Lisa Fernandez after a doubleheader split with the University of Tennessee-Chattanooga.

“I think it is long overdue for fast pitch softball to get recognition,” she said referring to the enthusiasm and support the U.S. women’s team received at the Olympics.

Riddell hopes some of that same enthusiasm will spill over to the Lady Gamecocks in their 1997 season. However, the Gamecocks have a big pitching void to fill with the loss of 1.96 ERA in 1996, junior Ann Shelton. Shelton led the pitching staff with a 2.88 ERA and 71% ERA, while also earning academic All-District honors with a 3.59 grade point average in her Special Education major.

Although Shelton’s loss will be felt, the Lady Gamecocks will rely on Riddell, 1-3, with a 1.96 ERA in 1996, junior Julie Kish and sophomore Renee LeGrande to fill Shelton’s void. The Lady Gamecocks will also have the pitching arm of Jamie Miller, a junior college transfer from Illinois to bolster their rotation.

“I hope we can shoulder the load of losing Ann,” Riddell said. “The battery (pitcher and catcher) has to work together. I feel lucky to have such great defenders behind us,” she said.

Along with solid defensive play from returning infielders and outfielders, the Lady Gamecocks have some of their leading hitters returning for the 1997 season. Senior Jennifer Russo, batted .345 last season with 32 RBI’s while splitting time between first base and catcher. Riddell hit at a .321 clip while driving in 21 runs. Center fielder Rionda Freeman contributed 20 RBIs with a .256 batting average.

“I think there are high expectations because of what we did last year,” Riddell said. “I think everybody in the conference will be looking out for us. They’re going to want to take the TAAC crown back from us.”

The Lady Gamecock’s success in the 1996 season not only leads to higher expectations for their second year at the Division I level, but also pressure. While Riddell said that the team was happy to earn a berth in the NCAA Tournament they were not content to simply make an appearance against Washington and Indiana.

“It was a real emotional year,” she said. “We were sad to lose them, but we knew that this season was going to be a lot tougher.”

Football from page 13

pounds and an All-American candidate and NFL prospect will once again lead the defensive line and the Gamecock pass rush. Juniors DeRamus Houston and Warren Riddell should also make life difficult for opposing quarterbacks.

Senior Sidney Tyus will anchor an experienced linebacker corps. The secondary might just be the Gamecock’s strongest defensive unit as three of four starters are returning including cornerbacks Tony Gordon and Chris Stewart.

The Gamecocks kick off their 1996 season at home against West Georgia, Saturday at 7 p.m. JSU defeated the West Georgia Braves 25-22 last season.
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