JSU prays for, remembers those hurt in terrorist attacks

By Benjamin Cunningham
The Chanticleer Editor in Chief

JSU joined the nation last week in expressing emotion over the attacks in New York and Washington, D.C. Groups gathered nearly every day after the attack, culminating in the official University observance attended by thousands on Friday.

Several dozen students met in front of Martin Hall on Tuesday, the night of the attacks, at a candlelight vigil prayer vigil sponsored by the Baptist Campus Ministries. Wednesday night, students at the International House met to discuss the attacks, said JSU President Dr. Bill Meehan.

On Thursday night about 200 students gathered in Paul Carpenter Village in front of the Sigma Phi Epsilon house for another candlelight vigil. Meehan spoke to the crowd, saying he was proud of the student body for taking the initiative in organizing the observances. “I appreciate the way you’ve pulled together,” he said, “the way you’ve come together to help out, and to speak as one voice, one caring voice for what has happened in this country.”

Meehan concluded his remarks with thanks for the event and the efforts of its organizers. “It is a great symbol, and for a great purpose,” he said. “And I thank you from the bottom of my heart.”

Students led prayers, read passages from the Bible, and sang patriotic and religious songs. SGA president Miranda Killingsworth described the event as “awesome,” citing the rarity of events planned jointly among the greek community. “They just all came together tonight, and it’s just awesome. You just don’t see things like this.”

SGA senators and executive officers were on hand at the vigil, taking donations for their drive to raise money for the American Red Cross relief efforts. As of Friday the drive had raised $1,196.

Classes were suspended Friday between 11 a.m. and 1:45 p.m. in conjunction with President Bush’s request for a nationwide day of prayer and remembrance for the victims of the attack.

The University held a solemn observance at noon on the lawn in front of Bibb Graves Hall, featuring speakers from campus ministries and other organizations, as well as Jacksonville Mayor Jerry Smith and other community leaders. A crowd estimated by University officials at 2,000 gathered to listen. The Marching Southerners performed religious and patriotic music, and a color guard from JSU’s ROTC detachment presented the colors.

“(The World Trade Center) was a symbol of America’s unsinkable spirit and undying adversity,” said Col. Herschel May, of the ROTC detachment, in his address to the crowd. “We may have lost this battle, but we will win the war.”

Honorata Sulipa, president of the International Student Organization, represented JSU’s foreign students at the observance. “I hope our friends and mentors at JSU realize how we have been saddened,” she told the crowd. “We thank JSU and the Jacksonville community for letting us into your hearts and lives.”

At the conclusion of the ceremony, the chimes in Bibb Graves struck 51 times, which Meehan said represented each of the 50 states and the international community.

Silence fell over the crowd during the several minutes it took for all the chimes to sound. As the crowd dispersed, several emergency vehicles parked in front of the TMB sounded their sirens for 30 seconds in recognition of the efforts and sacrifices of emergency personnel working in New York and Washington.

JSU tuition rises $150, remains below average among state universities

By Stephanie Pendergrass
The Chanticleer New Editor

A college education is an important tool to have in today’s society. As the work force grows, so does the competition involved in finding a job. At many college institutions, the cost of tuition has recently risen. Now, when an education is so vital, expenses have made a degree more difficult to obtain.

Like many colleges, Jacksonville State University has implemented a higher tuition. JSU’s News Wire reported that the University’s Trustees were considering a tuition increase at their July 16 meeting. The wire also noted the proposed increase was “part of the University’s five-year plan to bring the institution up to the regional average.”

The University’s tuition rates have gone up for the 2001-2002 semester by $150. The current price for a full-time, undergraduate student at Jacksonville State University is $1,470.

Even after the increases, JSU’s tuition remains under the average tuition among various four-year college institutions in Alabama and the president plans on keeping it that way. According to the News Wire, Dr. William Meehan, president at Jacksonville State, said, “JSU will remain the best educational bargain in the region.”

On its website, Auburn University reports its tuition and fees for an on-campus resident is $3,380 for the fall semester. The University of Alabama’s website reports the estimated tuition for a full-time, in-state student is $3,927, and Troy State University’s tuition is marked at $1,510 on website.

While JSU’s tuition is higher than last year’s, the money will be beneficial in the future. “It will bring in a significant amount of revenue, probably about $2.4 million dollars,” said Meehan.

Jacksonville State has also seen increases outside of expenses for the fall semester. Meehan recently reported enrollment has gone up 5.9 percent from last year. At the University the student count has risen from 7,922 to 8,478.

As a result of the increased enrollment, tuition rises will definitely bring in more money for the University, which will be valuable in the future. “It will go to a variety of things. We hope to pay for additional costs and salaries, and additional positions in faculty,” said Meehan.

While some have wondered how new campus constructions are being paid for, Meehan commented that tuition and other student expenses do not play a factor in paying for such projects. “We get a lot of our funds (from) bond money,” stated the president. “Jacksonville State University and the state of Alabama issue and guarantee those bonds.”

JSU and Dr. Meehan have worked to keep tuition at a reasonable price. “We’ve limited the bar,” said Meehan. “We’ve said we’re not going to charge anymore than the median amount of the cost of tuition for the state of Alabama (and) we’re going to stay at the median or below at that. We don’t want to be the cheapest school in the state, (but) we certainly don’t want to be the highest. We want to give a good value and an educational experience.”
The Chanticleer • September 20, 2001

ANNOUNCEMENTS

• The Delta Chi Fraternity would like to congratulate Wade Warren as our new Sergeant-at-Arms and Jeremy Sims and Bubba Harmon as Rush Chairmen. Also, our condolences to the victims and families of victims of the recent terrorist attack on our nation. We send our prayers out to you. Contact: Andrew Symonds, bradleyjohn18@hotmail.com

• Alpha Omicron Pi: We love our beautiful new members and are very proud to be doing homecoming with Delta Chi! Congrats to the JSU football team for their victories and wish them good luck in the games to come. We would also like to congratulate the fraternities on an awesome rush!!! Contact: Kristi, 782-6212.

• Sigma Nu Fraternity: Congratulations to our Advisor Award Winners this week: Trey Parish, Florian Macaj and Phillip Root. Also honorably mentioned Andrew Cavington, Michael Campbell, Josh Fuller, Chris Betzler and Stefan Llupo. Also we would like to thank Alpha Xi Delta for their help.

• Alpha Xi Delta: Congratulations to our new members: Brynn Armstrong, Katie Carter, Melissa Criswell, Mabel Dement, Heather Feiman, Julie Freeman, Kaleena Hill, Beth Houk, Jessica Hyde, Katie Lumpkin, Jenn Mince, Jill Patterson, Sandi Rickmon, Jessica Sedettik, Danielle Smith, Ashley Toms, Carrie Taunton, Tiffany Waldrep, Jeany Wentworth, Lorie White, Jennifer Wright, and Chris Yount. Contact: April Whitmarsh, AprilWhitmarsh@aol.com, 782-6156

• Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc.: would like to invite all ladies to our fall 2001 Interest Meeting. It will be held Sept. 23 promptly at 7:20 p.m. in the Alumni House. The attire is semi-formal. Contact: Tiffanie Martin, 782-7799

• JAAEYC: We have invited a very special guest speaker from PBS to our October 11 meeting. Suzanna Martina will be here from 12:30 to 2:30. Seating is limited to fifty. Please sign up in Dr. Engley’s office at 204 RWB or call Dr. Engley at 782-5844. Contact: Diane Hall, 435-3648, MsDianesWorld@cs.com

The Chanticleer announces that due to space constraints, we may not be able to publish every submission. Thank you for your understanding.

CONTACT:

The Chanticleer Managing Editor

JSUPD Deputy Chief Terry Schneider. But the JSUPD is wearing the ribbon in remembrance of all the victims of last week’s tragedy.

The JSUPD is keeping the black bands on through Sept. 22, in following with President Bush’s decision to raise flags from half-staff at federal buildings and military institutions across the country that day, said Schneider.

Correction

The Chanticleer misprinted some information about The Cockpit in last week’s article about the rise in local gasoline prices.

It was printed that all of The Cockpit’s gasoline prices were raised 13 cents at about 4:00 p.m.

In actuality, owner Walter Fritz did not raise the price of unleaded gas until the next morning.

We apologize for any inconvenience or confusion this error may have caused.
McWhorter responded “I just believe in giving back to the community, which is why I gave the $500,000 gift to JSU. It’s an important role for the university to play in the community.”

In addition to the $500,000 gift, McWhorter also donated $100,500 for scholarships, faculty awards, and support for funding in our institutions. He also donated $1,000 to JSU’s scholarships fund, which will be used to support the university’s educational programs.

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WASHINGTON - Scouting that Afghanistan may be more flexible than expected, the Bush administration on Tuesday intensified its diplomatic crusade to capture Osama bin Laden. A burst of classic carrot-and-stick bargaining came amid reports that Afghanistan’s Taliban leaders might be willing to deport the alleged mastermind of last week’s terrorist assault on the United States - if they can be convinced of his guilt.

“Taliban leaders are now showing a shift in their position. They are now willing to hand over bin Laden,” a spokesman for Pakistan’s government told Knight Ridder. “We think it’s best to give diplomacy a chance.”

Meanwhile, in New York, Washington and across the nation, many Americans paused for prayer and reflection Tuesday — the one-week anniversary of the terrorist blitz that leveled the World Trade Center, damaged the Pentagon, polarized four hijacked jetliners and transformed America and the world.

The number of dead and missing stood at 5,873, a tally nearly impossible to fathom. Never before have so many Americans been killed on home soil in a single day.

At 8:48 a.m., the precise moment a week earlier when the first plane speared the trade center’s north tower, President Bush joined 300 members of his White House staff on the South Lawn. New York City rescue crews briefly ceased their work. And radio stations and television networks filled the nation’s airwaves with patriotic songs.

“Out of our tears and sadness, we saw the best of America,” Bush said later during a Rose Garden ceremony honoring rescue workers. “We saw a great country rise up to help.”

As the verso of the World Trade Center, 5,422 people remained missing, with 218 confirmed dead. Police Commissioner Bernard Kerik said the roster of presumed dead rose as foreign embassies received and relayed reports from citizens of their countries.

U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan said the victims include citizens of 62 nations. “This is why no one can remain indifferent,” he said.

A week after the tragedy, Mayor Rudolph Giuliani reluctantly moved toward some extraordinarily solemn conclusions.

“The chances of recovering any living human beings are very, very small now, given the amount of time and the condition of the site,” he said.

Back in Washington, the administration escalated its war of words against bin Laden and those who harbor him and other terrorists.

A renegade Saudi millionaire, bin Laden has been under the protection of the Taliban since 1996, when he was forced to leave Sudan. He is believed responsible for numerous terrorist strikes around the world, including last week’s suicide assaults.

No breakthrough came Tuesday, but hundreds of Afghanistan’s most powerful religious and tribal leaders were gathering near Kabul and were expected to discuss bin Laden’s fate Wednesday, spokesman for Pakistan and the Taliban told Knight Ridder.

Though the outcome of the meeting and even its duration could not be predicted, the Taliban spokesman raised the possibility that it could end with bin Laden’s expulsion to Pakistan or another country.

“Taliban needs tribal approval to turn over bin Laden and there are real indications that they are preparing to do that,” the spokesman said.

In Afghanistan and Pakistan, additional hints emerged of a possible shift in the Taliban’s position.

Previously firm in their refusal to turn over bin Laden, Taliban leaders — including supreme leader Mullah Mohammed Omar — are now showing “flexibility,” according to a report in a Pakistani newspaper.

American officials emphasized that even bin Laden’s capture — as welcome as it might be — would not necessarily block vigorous military action to eliminate other terrorists and their support systems.

“Our adversaries are not one or two terrorist leaders, or even a single terrorist organization or network,” Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld said during a Pentagon news conference. “It’s a broad network of individuals and organizations that are determined to terrorize, and in doing so, to deny us the very essence of what we are — free people.

Terrorist groups do not have conventional militaries or ‘high-value’ targets that the United States can hit, he said.

“But those countries that support them and give sanctuary do have such targets,” he said. “The terrorists do not function in a vacuum. They don’t live in Antarctica. They work, they train and they plan in countries.

“We’ll have to deal with the networks,” Rumsfeld said. “One of the ways to do that is to drain the swamp they live in.”

While Rumsfeld and others were waging the stick at Afghanistan, a spokesman at the Department of State was dangling the carrot of continued and even amplified financial support for Afghan refugees in Pakistan.

Richard Boucher noted that the United States has spent more than $140 million in fiscal 2001 to provide food, water, medical care and other aid to Afghan refugees and citizens.

Then, he reminded Afghan leaders of their responsibilities under international law.

“Bin Laden must be expelled to a country where he can be brought to justice for his crimes,” Boucher said. “That’s what the U.N. resolutions require. And that’s what we would expect to see.”

Those same resolutions require the Taliban (to) end their harboring of terrorist organizations. It’s not just that bin Laden must be brought to justice, but that the whole structure of support for the terrorist organizations has to be dismantled.

On Tuesday, hundreds of Afghans — many of them starving and all of them fearing military action — streamed into Pakistan even as Pakistani border guards fired over their heads.
Terrorism shook the nation on Sept. 11 and seriously affected some people with close connections to JSU. Last year’s SGA president, Elizabeth Webb, was about two miles from the Pentagon when American Airlines Flight 77 was turned into a weapon of destruction. 

She was not physically harmed, but witnessed the reaction of Washington, D.C. first hand.

Elizabeth Webb had happened in New York. Congressman Riley then walked in and told everyone that it was very smoky outside. “So we walked over to the window and we could see the flames and see the smoke,” Webb said. “Oh my goodness,” was the term Webb used to describe how everyone felt.

They then turned back to the news and heard the anchors talking about the Pentagon. “The whole office just looked at each other,” said Webb, “and we were just like ‘oh, dear.’ And then turned around and everybody kind of ran to their phones, started calling people and our phones were out. So then, everybody just kind of panicked, like, we were just, pretty much, nobody knew if we should stay or if we should go.”

Rep. Riley told everyone to leave that and personal safety was more important than anything else. “And so, we did! And as soon as we got outside, it was just so smoky and people were everywhere,” said Webb. “Everybody was just in a big hurry to get out, pretty much. I mean, you could tell that people... they knew that because we were in the Capitol Complex, we did not need to be here.”

As Webb was riding in a car out of the parking garage, she heard a report of a fourth unidentified plane that might be headed for Washington. She heard that “the victims might be from the Capitol or from the White House.”

“The traffic was crazy, so we couldn’t get out. So, we just got as far away as we could from the Capitol.” As she looked around, everyone was on his or her cell phone, yet they still couldn’t get through. “But everybody just had this look — it was like a surreal, somber look on their faces.”

As Webb’s group left the building, a loud explosion was heard. “After everybody got out, it was just like BOOM!” said Webb. “And everybody was just... and the whole world just stopped... we just looked at each other.” Nobody knew where the explosion came from, “but it felt like the whole ground just shook,” said Webb. “And then, we just got on and got out.”

There was no emergency plan for people to follow as they left the building, nor a fallout shelter for all politicians. “Oh no, they pretty much couldn’t have organized anything up here ‘cause everybody was just crazy,” Webb said. “And the strange thing up here is that people don’t want to quit working. I mean, even when there’s, you know, a plane flying into buildings, that people are just so intent on getting their work done and getting their press release out and just kind of had to go around and say, ‘get out of the offices, get out of the offices.’”

When Webb was in Washington D.C. three years ago while interning in Rep. Riley’s office, the Capitol shooting occurred. “It was real strange then, because after the shooting, there were just all these people... running and screaming, and it was like the scariest thing in the world,” said Webb. But Sept. 11 is a day she found hard to describe “unless you were actually here.”

The image that kept flashing in her mind after getting away from the Capitol was of when she rode out the Capitol was of when she rode out from under there, the world,” said Webb. “And that’s just an amazing thing to think about; the fact that, that quickly, everything could have been changed though, like the security measures on Capitol Hill. Instead of Capitol Hill, it’s like Police Hill,” Webb said. “I mean, there’s so many police officers everywhere. You have to show your ID to get into any buildings. If a car wants to drive by any of the congressional buildings, they have to show a congressional ID.”

The major change though, is the hole in the Pentagon. “I rode by the Pentagon yesterday (Sept. 12) on my way home ‘cause I was on the metro,” said Webb, “and I just, I was looking and you just can’t believe it. It looks like a movie, that’s the best way to explain it... like we were in the middle of tapping...”

Webb was contacted again Monday and mentioned that the memorial service in Washington D.C. last Friday was very somber, but also very united and patriotic. “It was kind of cool to get to see everybody that came out,” Webb said. “And pretty much every vigil, or every memorial service that’s been announced up here was just packed with people.”

Webb said that she’s been in touch with the SGAs and is proud of those on JSU’s campus putting a fund together and having vigils for those harmed. “The biggest thing these people need right now,” said Webb, “is hope and faith and prayer.”

She also had a very poignant story to tell about resentment toward Muslims and Arabs. “We have a friend that works up here and his mother and father were both in the World Trade Center, and he hasn’t heard from either one of them. He’s Arab-American,” Webb narrated. “I would urge Americans and Alabamians and Jacksonville State students: Please don’t jump to conclusions. And make sure you know what you’re doing.”

Her friend was received many threats, raised middle fingers and harsh comments. “Every time it happens, he just starts crying,” said Webb. “He says, ‘I’m not even Muslim, I’m a Christian, you know.’ They don’t even know me, and both of my parents were in there.”

Even though Webb was “really, really, really scared” when the Pentagon was hit — to the point of shaking and wanting to go home — she mentioned that after about 15 minutes, she felt safe and decided not to leave the Hill. “I mean, everything was just automatically — if anything had even flown into the airspace up here, it would have been zapped down,” said Webb. “And that’s just an amazing thing to think about; the fact that, that quickly, everything could have been under control.”

Some things in Washington D.C. have changed though, like the security measures on Capitol Hill. “Instead of Capitol Hill, it’s like Police Hill,” Webb said. “I mean, there’s so many police officers everywhere. You have to show your ID to get into any buildings. If a
A plea for tolerance

Every person in this country who is in a position to lead or persuade others has been hammering home one simple point over the past week and a half. That point is about tolerance.

Even though men suspected of hijacking the planes that crashed into New York and Washington last week happen to have been Arabs and claimed to be Muslims, Arabs and Muslims as a whole are not responsible for the attacks.

Seems pretty simple, doesn’t it? And everyone is saying it, from U.S. President George Bush to JSU President Bill Meehan, from the pages of the New York Times all the way down to The Chanticleer.

Some people, however, don’t seem to get the message.

Almost daily, in the same newspapers that beg the public for unity and understanding on the editorial pages, one can read chilling stories about Muslims and Arabs in the U.S. being taunted, attacked, and even killed by Americans looking for revenge for the terrorist attacks.

Those seeking revenge don’t seem to care whether the people they turn on are American citizens themselves, whether they agree with the terrorists or not, or even whether they are actually the Arabs or Muslims they believe they’re targeting.

All one has to do is look like a stereotypical member of one of these very broad, diverse groups to become a target.

On Saturday a gunman shot and killed Balbir Singh Sodhi, the owner of a Mesa, Ariz., gas station, the New York Times reported Tuesday. Sodhi was a Sikh, and was neither Arabic nor a Muslim. Sikhs, whose origins are in the Punjab region of India, far from Arabian deserts, practice a religion wholly unrelated to Islam. This obviously did not matter to the four men suspected arrested in the incident, Frank S. Roque. “I’m a patriot,” he said as he was led away. “I’m a damn detestable, and is likely to foster inaccurate stereotypes of Americans who turn on are American citizens themselves, whether they agree with the terrorists or not, or even whether they are actually the Arabs or Muslims they believe they’re targeting.

I believe a lot of Americans don’t stop to think every day how fortunate they are to have food on their table and a job to go to every day. Many families in other countries struggle in a failing economy to find a job and put food on their table three times a day.

We live in a country that in times of need will cut a check every month to a struggling family until they get on their feet. We live in a country that supports our senior citizens by providing help with health care costs and a social security check (as small as it may be) to help with everyday purchases. We live in a country with a growing economy in which parents can place money in a mutual fund and be confident in it enough to plan to use the money for their child’s college tuition. We live in a country with infinite opportunities for citizens, without major barriers that discriminate against a person based upon their sex, race, creed or religion.

To put it frankly, it makes me sick to think that it took such a horrific tragedy to make Americans become patriotic and want to support their country. When America first stood on its wobbly legs, the average colonial citizen was willing to die for freedom from their mother country. Nowadays, people leave the fighting to the few men and women who join the military and hardly say a word of support for those brave enough to join.

All of the sudden, the majority of Americans are calling for war, placing American flags on car antennas and wearing red, white and blue ribbons on their collars, but do you see anyone running down to the military recruiters’ offices?

As the fiancé of a member of the military, I wear the red, white and blue on my heart in support of my future husband and whatever action he takes to support America. Wearing a red, white and blue ribbon on my collar isn’t going to help out the cause now. Americans should not only be showing support -- even during peacetime -- for our military, but also our firefighters, police officers, politicians and any other government officer who works for the future freedom and safety of our citizens.

Why must such a terrible tragedy that will surely scar our country forever occur before Americans realize their “inner patriot” and fly the flag with pride?

I’m sure by the time peace and order is restored, people will put their American flags back in the closet and hang the decorative seasonal flag they had on the pole before this tragedy occurred.

It’s inevitable. In times of peace, people take for granted the basic freedoms given to them, and the moment something earth-shattering occurs, their whole perspective is changed.

I can only hope that this earth-shattering event will forever change the once apathetic American’s perspective to realize that we should all wear the red, white and blue on our hearts every day.
By David M. Kennedy
Knight Ridder Newspapers (KRT)

President John F. Kennedy once described the Cold War as “a long twilight struggle.”

Tuesday’s horrific events may well prove to be no singularity, but rather the opening rounds of a siege that will test us as no other challenge has. The grim prospect now looms that the battle against catastrophic terrorism will be still longer and darker than the Cold War that cast its shadow over two generations.

This struggle will be fought in the gloom beyond twilight, in the nocturnal regions where nightmares abound. It will breed growing insecurities and suspicions, and will tempt us to corrupt the very values of liberty and tolerance that have defined us as a people.

President Bush has declared that last Tuesday’s attacks on New York and the Pentagon “were more than acts of terror. They were acts of war.” That statement reflects an understandable effort to comprehend the enormity of last week’s horrors, and to summon the American people to battle stations.

But taken literally, the president’s words offer a fundamentally misinterpreted analysis of what has happened. They also imply a highly misleading picture of what the future might hold. Put simply, “war” is an utterly inadequate term to describe the unprecedented crisis that has been thrust upon us. What is more, the tactics, arms and attitudes of all past wars will prove largely irrelevant in the face of the altogether new threat that confronts us.

The renowned Prussian general and military theorist Karl von Clausewitz famously defined war as “the continuation of politics by other means.” More precisely, in his classic treatise, “On War,” Clausewitz argued that “war is an instrument of policy; it must necessarily bear the character of policy; it must measure with policy’s measure. The conduct of war, in its great outlines, is, therefore, politics itself, which takes up the sword in place of the pen, but does not on that account cease to think according to its own laws.” That justly celebrated insight captures the essence of virtually all military conflicts on record.

War was for Clausewitz a necessarily bloody and destructive business, but it had a logic, however perverse, of its own. At its core were rational calculations about the present and future relationship between the combatants, about objectives and strategies, about ends and means, about the unavoidable nego-

Letters to the Editor:

Rememberances should be more inclusive

Dear Editor,

In the last week, we’ve had the privilege of seeing the best that our species has to offer. I have seen our nation and our world unify in an outpouring of love, courage and hope that honestly floors me.

JSU has been doing its best to unify the student body and support the American people as well. Yet, with all of this love and unity, I and others of the student body feel excluded.

Those of us who practice the “weird” religions or practice no religion at all cannot help but feel on the outside when we go to gatherings where we are told the importance of having Christ in our lives right now. We don’t understand when this has been described as an “attack on Christianity.” Wasn’t this an attack on America? And aren’t we all American citizens despite our differences of faith?

Please realize that I am not calling for the Christian students of JSU to give up their beliefs or cease to find comfort in their faith. I am merely reminding the campus community that there are other faiths and points of view out there and we have suffered in this as well.

We have lost people dear to us. We have lost our innocence and feelings of security. We are just as frightened and outraged by the events of Tuesday as any person in this great country of ours.

One of the things that makes America such a unique and wonderful country is our acceptance of people who are different and our amazing cultural and spiritual plurality. Let’s show that we have strength and openness to celebrate that diversity, and may the Divine, by whatever name you call Him, Her or It, bless and protect America.

Respectfully yours,
Sharon Cooper
Workers begin installing library’s new face, should finish by next year

By Benjamin Cunningham
The Chanticleer Editor in chief

Houston Cole Library is finally getting its new skin. Construction work to perform the facelift is going smoothly, according to library personnel, and University administrators said contractors are on track to finish by next fall.

Sonja McAbee, head of Library Services, said the work going on at the library has had little impact on the daily activities of students or staff. “They’ve been conscious of trying to stay out of our way,” she said. “We’re still conducting our classes. Our orientations are going on. We’re fine.”

There are actually two construction projects running concurrently at the library, McAbee said. One is to replace the white marble of the library’s exterior, and the other is to put a roof over the open-air porch area on the library’s 12th floor.

The marble is being removed because the thinly-cut slabs are sagging dangerously under their own weight, said Don Thacker, the University’s vice president for academic and business affairs. “It could fracture and turn loose,” Thacker said. “And that’s the reason we’re replacing it, strictly for safety concerns.”

Some of the new granite slabs are already in place on the north side of the building. The new exterior is dramatically altering the appearance of the library, McAbee said. “It’s brown, kind of a blood-red,” she said. “I do think it’s going to be beautiful.”

Thacker said the roof is being added to the 12th floor to cope with leaking rainwater. The smaller, already-enclosed area of the 12th floor; “was made of aluminum. It was a storefront design,” he said. “And the wind up there and the rain caused leakage in the building. We had had problems since the beginning. So we went and put a roof on the building to try to make it watertight.”

McAbee said the closing of the 12th floor, used in the past as a study lounge, is the one complaint students have had about the ongoing work. “We do a user-satisfaction survey every year and we’ve heard it as well in the elevators,” she said. “The students are pretty upset that they can’t get to the twelfth floor to study. I didn’t realize that it was used that much, but apparently it was — more than I thought it was. They really like to go up there and study, because it’s quiet. So they want that back.”

Thacker said the construction will take about a year to finish. “Approximately by fall next year I think it will be complete,” he said. “Maybe we can gain a little bit on the schedule for that, but it’s a time-consuming process.”

As work progresses on the library’s exterior, the building’s interior and furnishings may be somewhat neglected. “The furniture needs to be reupholstered,” McAbee said. “It’s a little worn.” But she added that furniture on the ninth and tenth floors has been reupholstered within the past few years. She also said that some carpet underneath the library’s massive bookshelves may need replacing. “That is in our plan, it’s just that the money is not always available for that.”

Thacker said that while updates to the library’s interior are a constant work in progress, not all needs are always met. “Every year we do some carpeting. Every year we do some kind of maintenance,” he said. “The problem you get is revenues and proration. That’s where proration hits. That’s the first thing that goes. You just get another year or two out of the chairs, another year or two out of the carpet. As long as we stay in this ... funding crisis, you’re going to see more and more of that stuff.”

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Claeren, Whitton debut “Mr. Shakespeare” next week

By Danni Lusk
The Chanticleer Features Editor

What once confused students and left them puzzling over the meaning of Shakespearean language, is now explained in the JSU drama department’s latest production. Originally just a novel, “The Late Mr. Shakespeare” by Robert Nye was adapted for the stage by drama professor Dr. Wayne Claeren and English professor Dr. Steven Whitton. “I think it’s a very funny play, which means not only funny in a light sense, but in a deeper sense,” said Claeren. “Comedy in the theater not only makes us laugh, but makes us think and the play will do that.”

The play is based upon a “straightforward kind of storytelling by an actor named Pickleherring who, if we believe him, originated all of the women’s roles in Shakespeare’s plays,” said Whitton.

In the one-man play, Pickleherring, played by Claeren, has written a book about William Shakespeare and some people (the audience) have come to visit him to hear his stories, according to Whitton. “What happens during the two and a half hours of the play is Pickleherring talks about himself, he rambles a bit and he plays everybody, from Shakespeare’s father to Queen Elizabeth.”

Although the story is mainly about Pickleherring’s experiences in life, the audience will get glimpses of Shakespeare’s life as well. “Some of the outrageous ... stories that are told in the play may very well have happened, we just don’t know it,” said Claeren. “But on the other hand, we can’t prove it and that’s why it is essentially a work of fiction even though it’s talking about a real person.”

The set, designed by Diana Cadwellader from the JSU art department, depicts Pickleherring’s home during the London Fire of 1666 and is furnished with minimal props. Every prop serves a purpose, including a scarf that is used to slip Pickleherring in and out of different characters. “We wanted everyone to be able to hear the words,” said Whitton. “We decided that what needed to be done was that which has to do with the storytelling needed to pull the audience in to use its imagination.”

“The Late Mr. Shakespeare” could be of interest to college students not only because of its colorful humor, but also because it explains some of the mysteries of Shakespeare’s writing. “Whether you’re that kind of student who is really into Shakespeare or whether you’re somebody who knows personally nothing about him, the play is good on both levels,” said Claeren. “If you don’t know much about Shakespeare, it’s a good way to get an introduction to his work because it doesn’t presuppose knowledge.”

The language used in the play is not the typical Shakespearean language. The play does rely on Shakespeare’s use of imagery and his poetry, but “it does so in such a way that it’s very accessible to modern audiences,” said Claeren. “It’s an interesting combination of the flavor of Shakespeare but the modern entity of language as it’s spoken today.”

The world premiere is on Thursday Sept. 27 at 7 p.m. on the Stone Center main stage. Shows will continue through the 29th at 7 each night and then on Sunday Sept. 30 at 2 p.m. Students will receive a discount if tickets are bought in advance. For more information contact the box office at 782-5648.

Claeren hopes to be able to take the production to other stages in the future. “We would like our production to be done some other places and not only for our own interest, but hopefully it would be good publicity for Jacksonville State and for our departments,” he said. “We want to see how the show goes here and what the audience response is and then decide if we want to make any changes, or any re-evaluation of certain parts of the production and then we do plan to offer it for theaters in other places.”

Eight bands to play 92J Benefit this weekend at Brother’s Bar

By Abbey Herrin
The Chanticleer Staff Writer

Jacksonville music fans are guaranteed two nights of peace, love and music this Friday and Saturday night at Brother’s Bar. Brother’s has collaborated with campus radio station 92J to hold a 92J Benefit Weekend, a two-night gala.

Something 5 negotiated the event with Brother’s, according to 92J assistant program director Nathan Weaver. The money received at the door will buy much-needed equipment for the station, as well as pay the bands. Donations will also be taken on behalf of the American Red Cross, in lieu of last Tuesday’s terrible onslaught of terrorist attacks, said 92J program director Jordan Brewer.

Eight bands are on this weekend’s roster, along with the possibility of a few others, according to Weaver. Friday night’s lineup includes a wide array of musical styles sure to please every ear. Velvet Jonz, a funky jam band that is no stranger to the Jacksonville crowd, is scheduled to play. They have dazzled audiences at Brother’s before; they brought down the house last month with a soulful cover of Bill Withers’ old-school hit “Use Me Up.” Also scheduled for Friday night is Catalytic, a rock band with humorous, catchy originals, according to assistant music director Jess Mager. Six, a band out of Birmingham, are slated as well.

Also performing Friday will be The College, an up-and-coming cover band who has been compared to the likes of Creed, as stated by Martha Lea, a fan and patron of Brother’s.

Saturday night shouldn’t be too shabby either, with four solid bands on the itinerary. Lithp is scheduled to play, a band that is widely known, recollected Mager, for its use of puppets onstage. Also playing Saturday will be Needleye and S.M.O. The night will be closed out by none other than Something 5. Their zany brand of rock, which sometimes includes a cover of Carl Douglas’ 70s classic “Kung Fu Fighting,” will be a finale to a wonderful showcase of talent.

In addition to this massive influx of music, 92J will have merchandise to give away, another great incentive to attend, said Weaver. “It’s going to be the most rockin’ thing to hit Jacksonville since ... the last rockin’ thing to hit Jacksonville.”

“I’m really excited about meeting some listeners, having a good time, and listening to some great music,” added Mager.

Admission will be a symbolic $4.92 each night. There are few opportunities to see so many live acts for such a low price in Jacksonville. A large turnout is expected, so fans should arrive early to claim a barstool. “I’ll be there, partying like a rock star,” said JSU junior Garrett Smith.
Mercury Rev

**All is Dream**

**1/2**

Review by Axel R. Borrero
The Chanticleer Staff Writer

The raging battles between dreams and reality on the grounds of love and fate have been captured by Mercury Rev’s highly anticipated first post-indie record release, “All is Dream.” Mercury Rev has just recently moved to V2 Records.

The music most closely mirrors that of Granddaddy and Belle & Sebastian. The lyrics progressively paint pictures of fate and the many sides of love, and then are coated with post-hypnotic spiritually passionate music that awakens the senses.

“The Dark Is Rising,” the first track on the album, begins with a heart clenching instrumental that leads you into the world that is Mercury Rev. “Tides Of The Moon,” “Chains,” “Nite and Fog” and “Spiders and Flies” are filled with powerful lyrical strokes of imagery.

Even one who isn’t a pop/rock fan may find oneself liking this record. Keep in mind that the record is not perfect either. The lead vocals at points seem weak, the howling wind on the song “Lincoln’s Eyes” gets very annoying and understanding the record does not come easy; it takes a lot of listening. One must surpass the state of first impression. To fully appreciate this album one must listen to it three or four times. The music is not the kind one would take to pump the stereo up while driving down the road to impress people; it is also not a party album of any kind. All is Dream both tightens and loosens the mind. It causes an ethereal drive; it’s not a physical energizer. Mercury Rev brings more of a personal sound which one may or may not relate with.

Mercury Rev’s album All is Dream is a very powerful compilation of numerous essences that capture the innermost core of the avid listener, and the strong song structure should be evident to everyone. Overall it is a must have for the Mercury Rev fan. I recommend this album to those who are in search of a spirit moving, real, non-sell-out-pop/rock band sound instead of the usual dominating mainstream metal and boy band scoria.

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**Not your average cheerleader movie ... honest**

Review by Danni Lusk
The Chanticleer Features Editor

When 17-year-old Megan (Natasha Lyonne of “American Pie”), a “sweet and innocent” cheerleader, starts to eat tofu and hang Melissa Etheridge posters on her wall, her parents come to the conclusion that she is a lesbian.

They then send Megan to a homosexual deprogramming camp called “True Directions” where she meets a charismatic counselor named Graham (Clea DuVall also seen in “Girl, Interrupted”) who befriends her. Megan soon finds herself stumbling through a program of steps similar to some drug rehabilitation programs meant to teach individuals how to be “straight.” All while learning to be “straight,” Megan discovers she just may actually prefer the fairer sex.

If homosexuals were to watch this movie, they might find themselves thoroughly offended. The stereotypical jokes and close-minded views of Megan’s mom (Mink Stole who also starred in “Hairspray”) and other characters are sure to ruffle a few feathers, but even still, they would probably find themselves laughing.

But despite the offensive factor, this hilarious comedy has the potential to gather a cult following similar to movies like “Monty Python and the Holy Grail” and “Clerks” because of the film’s off-color jokes and comical content. With catchy characters like former homosexual Mike (RuPaul), a “True Directions” counselor who keeps backsliding throughout the movie by drooling over a hunky guy that keeps appearing at camp events, movie-watchers are sure to get a laugh or two out of the story.

Along with the backsliding RuPaul, the female campers’ counselor Mary (Cathy Moriarity of “Crazy In Alabama”) over the idea of forcing the girls to be “straight,” despite her own troubles of not being able to make her son drop his feminine ways.

If a true homosexual Mike (RuPaul), who actually prefers the fairer sex, were to watch this movie, they might find themselves thoroughly offended. The semi-graphic sexual orientation teaching is subjected to a humorous “pot shots” taken at stereotypes and ideal gender roles, this movie is sure to capture the interest of any college student looking for a good laugh at society.

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5. What object is most-often choked on by Americans?

6. Ten percent of frequent flyers say they don’t do what?

7. What keeps people awake in the morning better than caffeine?

8. How many other people do you share your birthday with?

9. What was the first song sung in space?

10. How many different languages are spoken in New York?

**Useless Answers**

**Horoscopes**

By Lasha Seniuk
Knight Ridder Tribune News Service (KRT)

**September 24-30, 2001**

**Aries** (March 21-April 20). Plan employment and social events carefully. Subtle romantic messages and small workplace duties may evolve into important opportunities. Although group projects may be delayed, individual gains will be strong.

**Taurus** (April 21-May 20). Intimate relationships may require special attention. Expect a lover or close friend to express new anxieties concerning recent family changes. Avoid complex emotional dramas.

**Gemini** (May 21-June 21). Love affairs and new friendships will bring positive rewards. Optimism, romantic sensitivity and social honesty will soon be the prime focus of loved ones. Find a way to make peace with the past.

**Cancer** (June 22-July 22). Vague social promises or unproductive work methods may require delicate intervention. Review past workplace events and key social decisions. The daily attitude or romantic ethics of someone close may need to be addressed.

**Leo** (July 23-Aug. 22). Social and romantic relationships will enter a new phase of shared goals, group activities and invitations. This is an excellent time to expand your circle of friends or ask for added support from loved ones.

**Virgo** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Emotional clarity and bold social statements are important. Watch for a romantic triangle or a unique social mistake to become prime topics of conversation. Find a way to avoid offering opinions.

**Libra** (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). A friend or close colleague may soon be distracted by strong emotion or focused on workplace ethics. Stay well back from all such speculation. At present, others may need to resolve their fears or social insecurities.

**Scorpio** (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Flashes of wisdom or social intuition will captivate your attention. Key issues may involve arguments between friends or emotional debts from the past. Some Scorpios may also experience powerful dream revelations, don’t offer an opinion.

**Sagittarius** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Financial adjustments or new employment goals may be necessary. Rare money proposals, unique promotions or revised daily roles will bring fast results. Pay close attention to team objectives or assigned duties.

**Capricorn** (Dec. 22-Jan. 20). Subtle social politics or hidden disagreements between friends may increase group tensions. Although private information has previously been revealed, don’t offer an opinion.

**Aquarius** (Jan. 21-Feb. 19). Quiet romantic reflection is accented. Expect a wave of inward messages and small workplace duties may evolve into important opportunities. Although group projects may be delayed, individual gains will be strong.

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McNeese State game postponed

By Anthony Hill
The Chanticleer Sports Editor

Paul Snow was as quiet as a home on Christmas Eve night last Saturday. No band playing, no tailgating, no fans or "Cocky."

The Gamecock football team stayed home for the the weekend due to the cancellation of their game.

Last Saturday’s scheduled football game between Jacksonville State and McNeese State was postponed late last Thursday night by league and school officials; just hours after the NCAA announced that all division 1-A games were postponed due to the tragic events of the previous week.

Southland Conference administrators were faced with the ethical dilemma of whether or not to play the athletic events. League athletic directors talked repeatedly via conference calls last Thursday afternoon and decided all athletic events through Sunday should be postponed.

“It was an unanimous decision by members of the Southland Football League not to play any games last week,” said JSU Athletic Director Tom Seitz. “We have not set a make-up date for the game yet, but we will continue to work with the SFL and McNeese State on getting a date that fits both our schedules.”

McNeese State secured three buses for its trip to Jax State after the attacks. Northern Iowa did the same for its game at Stephen F. Austin. Now, college teams all over the county have to find ways to either reschedule or go on without the postponed games.

“That is a small price to pay compared to what some people are experiencing,” said Southwest Texas head football coach Bob DeBesse.

“While all Americans have been affected by the events earlier in the week, everybody associated with the Southland Conference and Southland Football League would like to extend condolences to those directly touched by the devastating acts,” said SFL Commissioner Greg Sankey. “In respect of the National Day of Prayer and Remembrance, the Southland has elected to follow the national trend of the cancellation of all athletic events. Respect and sensitivity for the situation at hand and transportation challenges for teams and officials were the deciding factors in the announcement.”

“The important thing for us was to make the most appropriate decision,” said Sankey. “Through all the thinking that’s been into this, my desire has been to make the right decision. There’s not a lot of right or wrong decision that was made last week compared to what happened last Tuesday.”

The Gamecock football team will return to its regular schedule this week, while league and school officials work on rescheduling the McNeese State game. They will travel to Jonesboro, Ark. to face Arkansas State on Saturday. Kick-off is set for 6 p.m.

Samford soccer edges Lady Gamecocks, 1 - 0

By Anthony Hill
The Chanticleer Sports Editor

JSU head soccer coach Lisa Howe and the Lady Gamecocks (1-3, 0-1) went on with business as usual last Wednesday, a day after the tragic incidents of last week.

The JSU soccer squad was the first University team to get back into the swing of things.

University President Dr. William Meehan said that the best way to get through these hard times is to try to live life as normal as possible. So, that is what the soccer team did.

The Lady Gamecocks weren’t the only team ready to get back into action as the Samford Bulldogs (2-2, 1-0) paid a visit to University Field and slipped by JSU, 1-0, behind some tough goalay play.

Bulldog goalie Carrie Ollom was solid as a wall throughout the second half as she blocked shot after shot to hand the Lady Gamecocks their first Atlantic Sun Conference loss of the season.

“Coach told us coming into this game that it’s hard to score on our goalie,” said junior forward Angela Tribble. “She was like a wall. She’s probably the best keeper we’ve faced since I’ve been here.”

Both teams hammered shot after shot at each other’s goal throughout the opening half, but they would remain scoreless at the half.

Samford struck first when Linsay Sanks scampered down the field like a rocket, split two defenders and scored the first point of the game to give the Bulldogs a 1-0 lead. The point was made in the 48th minute of the second half.

The Lady Gamecocks would try to answer with 15:03 left in the game when Mindy Jones delivered a pinpoint pass to Tribble. Ollom made a diving save to keep the Bulldogs atop. Ollom also stopped a bullet of a shot from Ashley Martin about five feet away from the nets, while Tribble punched the ball over the goal.

“I was grateful to get a hand on that ball (by Martin),” said Ollom. “I’m a pretty short keeper, so getting that high ball was adrenaline.”

“Thier goalkeeper absolutely kept them in it,” said Howe. “She robbed us, for sure.”

Ollom was not finished, as she would later make a sliding save on Jones with 9:33 left. Samford simply ran out the final minute-and-a-half of the game to secure the victory.

“We were proud of the way we fought at the end,” said Howe. “With our depth, you can’t play that way for 90 minutes, so we have to be patient. We also have to take advantage of opportunities early.”

The Lady Gamecocks will host the Mississippi State Bulldogs tomorrow. The game is set to start at 7 p.m.

Laguerre, Archuleta pace Gamecocks in Georgia State Invitational

From Staff Reports

The Gamecock cross country team traveled to Atlanta to compete in the Georgia State Invitational meet last Saturday. Both the men’s and women’s squads put in good performances, but were unable to come away with the victory as a team.

The men were led by junior runner Ronnie Laguerre and finished sixth out of eight Division I teams. The host team, Georgia State, ran away with first place honors in the men’s meet.


“Ronnie looked really strong in the way he ran,” said head coach Aimee Dawson. “He started out conservative, then really went after it. He finished ahead of Troy State’s and Mercer’s entire teams.”

Frances Archuleta led the charge for the JSU women with a time of 20:41. She was followed by Addie Ferguson’s time of 22:22.

The women finished eighth overall out of nine teams. Host Georgia State also captured the meet on the women’s side.

“We did pretty well today on both sides. Overall, I’m very pleased,” continued Dawson. “We’re showing improvement every weekend. This was definitely an improvement over last year’s showing.”

The Gamecocks get back on the track Saturday when they travel to Nashville, Tenn. to take part in the Vanderbilt University Invitational.
America deserved a “time out”

By Anthony Hill
The Chanticleer Sports Editor

Barry Bonds hit his 61st, 62nd and 63rd home run last week. Reggie Stancil was honored as the SFL player-of-the-week and Michael Jordan has basically confirmed that he is going to make a return to basketball. All of those things took place, but they were very distant from most of our minds as we watched, heard and felt the tragic incidents of last week.

The shattering images of the twin towers of the World Trade Center crumbling, gray ash billowing and runs of a portion of the Pentagon still smoking rammed home to all of us just how trivial sports really are.

The McNees State game of a week ago quickly became a distant memory as we watched two jets smash into the twin towers. It was a good decision to wait a while before we went back to our games. It was only appropriate and decent to wait while thousands of Americans were lost in rubble. Countless people lost their lives last Tuesday and millions were stripped of their innocent and foolish sense of security.

Sports is a shared delusion; that delusion being that the games are meaningful. There is a time to indulge ourselves in that delusion. The time will come again, and sooner rather than later, but the wait was good. Our priorities were altered in a span of 18 minutes as we watched the horror on television, this time it was for real. No team lost. No player was traded and no one was hurt seriously in a car accident. Television displayed the tragic realities of life on Sept. 11, 2001.

Why on earth does it take a tragedy of this dimension for us to realize that one New York firefighter picking through the rubble for signs of life is infinitely more heroic than someone who can run the 40-yard dash in 4.1 seconds and catch touchdown passes?

Maybe, through the sheer enormity of this tragedy, we’ll finally be able to come to grips with that. This tragedy, this warning, has taught us to tell our parents we love them more than once a month or year. It has taught parents to tell their children they love them and appreciate every second of life. No one cares about Michael Jordan’s possible comeback or that Barry Bonds is smashing pitches out of the park at a record pace.

To some people the stoppage was only right, only humane, only civilized. Others argued that at the moment, people’s spirits needed to be lifted, their attention diverted from the grim replays witnessed constantly over the past couple of days. I can understand both patterns of thought. Too many of us, sports is a way of life. Conflict on the field, in the ring, on the track, has enormous personal impact. It affects our lives for days, provides us with our highs and lows.

As horrible as the past weeks actions were, they could’ve really helped us out as a nation or could eventually do so. We’d grown complacent, smug. We thought that the ultimate courage and survival was watching Tiger demolish the field at the Ryder’s Cup or U.S. Open. We were too concerned about things that didn’t matter.

Our games are part of who we are. And there was a good and strong argument to play last week. To show our enemies that we will not cower in a corner, that this country is one of people whose bravery should never be questioned.

We could’ve played the games and been inspiring doing it. But, we chose to stand in public and pray; give blood and embrace love ones. Some of us even put flags up and sang “The Star-Spangled Banner” and listened to the words for once, knowing that, yes, that flag is still there.

The Gamecock women’s golf team isn’t the only good group of golf players representing the University. The men’s team posted a three-round total of 851, just one stroke behind tournament champion Southern Mississippi, to claim a second place finish out of 13 teams to open its fall season last Monday. It took a five-foot putt by Southern Mississippi’s Tim Yelverton on the final hole to hold off Jacksonville State. The Gamecocks had three players finish in the top 10, and two others in the top 20 to make a run at the tournament championship.

Leading the charge for JSU was Jose Camprá, who finished tied for 5th after posting a three-round total of 212. Campra shot 69 in the final-round, his best round total of the tournament. Campra finished just six strokes behind tournament champion Yelverton on the final hole to claim a second-place finish in the top 10, and two others in the top 20 to make a run at the tournament championship.

The Gamecock men’s golf team will tee off again on Sept. 23-25 when they travel to Florence, S.C. to take part in the Carolina First Intercollegiate hosted by the Country Club of South Carolina.

JSU men’s golf finish second in Raisin’ Cane Classic

From Staff Reports

The Gamecock women’s golf team isn’t the only good group of golf players representing the University. The men’s team posted a three-round total of 851, just one stroke behind tournament champion Southern Mississippi, to claim a second-place finish out of 13 teams to open its fall season last Monday. It took a five-foot putt by Southern Mississippi’s Tim Yelverton on the final hole to hold off Jacksonville State. The Gamecocks had three players finish in the top 10, and two others in the top 20 to make a run at the tournament championship.

Leading the charge for JSU was Jose Camprá, who finished tied for 5th after posting a three-round total of 212. Campra shot 69 in the final-round, his best round total of the tournament. Campra finished just six strokes behind tournament champion Yelverton, who shot a total score of 206.

Two Gamecocks Angel Monguzzi and Nick Mackay each finished tied for 7th position. Both posted a three-round total of 214. Monguzzi fired a final-round 69 while Mackay finished with a third-round 68.

Mattias Anselmo, a newcomer to the team this season, finished the tournament in a tie for 13th. He posted a 216 following rounds of 72, 74 and 70. Steven Mackie finished tied for 17th after firing a three-round total of 218.

The Gamecock men’s golf team will tee off again on Sept. 23-25 when they travel to Florence, S.C. to take part in the Carolina First Intercollegiate hosted by the Country Club of South Carolina.

JSU men’s golf finish second in Raisin’ Cane Classic

From Staff Reports

The Gamecock women’s golf team isn’t the only good group of golf players representing the University. The men’s team posted a three-round total of 851, just one stroke behind tournament champion Southern Mississippi, to claim a second place finish out of 13 teams to open its fall season last Monday. It took a five-foot putt by Southern Mississippi’s Tim Yelverton on the final hole to hold off Jacksonville State. The Gamecocks had three players finish in the top 10, and two others in the top 20 to make a run at the tournament championship.

Leading the charge for JSU was Jose Camprá, who finished tied for 5th after posting a three-round total of 212. Campra shot 69 in the final-round, his best round total of the tournament. Campra finished just six strokes behind tournament champion Yelverton, who shot a total score of 206.

Fellow Gamecocks Angel Monguzzi and Nick Mackay each finished tied for 7th position. Both posted a three-round total of 214. Monguzzi fired a final-round 69 while Mackay finished with a third-round 68.

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Head volleyball coach Jose Rivera is more than just a coach. He’s like a friend to many of the women on the JSU volleyball team. Just take a look at him while he’s at practice. He doesn’t just give orders and talk strategy all day. He gets on the court with the ladies and scrimmages with them. Rivera has another side as well. He’s the Bobby Knight of college volleyball. Jose has been known to throw chairs and various temper tantrums during games. Overall, he’s a really good guy and a great motivator.

Thrill: How’s everything going, coach?
Jose: Fine. How are you?
Thrill: I’m good. Thanks.

Thrill: How do you feel as a coach, after all that has happened in our nation? Does that change the way you coach, recruit, and travel?
Jose: I feel sad about the situation that we’ve gotten into with the terrorists. I feel for the people who lost relatives in the tragedies. But, losing is a part of sports.

Thrill: How well do you envision the volleyball team being this season? We lost some key players due to graduation.
Jose: Well, this week we’re going to do fine. These young ladies are giving everything that they have. They’re practicing hard and doing everything that we’re asking them to do. They just make young player mistakes. We’re going to be fine.

Thrill: Is there a single leader on this year’s squad? Jennifer Breneman and Theresa Lynch seem to be leading the team with their exceptional play.
Jose: No. I could mention several players. Some of the players are vocal leaders and some are leaders by action. I can’t single out one specific player. They’re all doing a pretty good job.

Thrill: What was a goal that you set for yourself when you began coaching here before the 1997 season?
Jose: The 1997 season was really a Cinderella story. I just wanted to bring this program to a level that was respectable and we just happened to go 25-13. I wasn’t expecting that. Now, the expectations are still high. My initial goal was to survive.

Thrill: What type of relationship do you have with your players?
Jose: I’d like to say that I’m like a brother or a father figure to most of the girls. I like for our players to be relaxed and happy. I feel that when a player is having fun, they usually play better. They may confide certain things in me they may not tell any other guys. Who knows? That’s only speculation. When I’m playing with the girls, besides being their coach, I’m another teammate demanding and applauding what they do.

Thrill: You were a baseball player in college. How did you end up coaching women’s volleyball?
Jose: A woman. (Both laugh) I fell in love with a woman and she was a volleyball player. From there, I got involved with the game.

Thrill: You were an assistant volleyball and softball coach at Emporia State University where you helped lead the teams to the playoffs. You’ve gotta think about coaching some softball every now and then. Do you?
Jose: Not really. I lost the desire to coach softball on an early spring day in Missouri. It was cold and I didn’t like that. Who knows? Maybe one day I’ll coach little league or something.

Thrill: We host the Wingate Invitational this weekend. Does that tournament play a large role in the way the team’s going to play this season? Every year it seems as if it sets the tone for the season.
Jose: Pretty much. It’s kind of late in the preseason and it should show where we are as a team.

Thrill: What do you like to do when you’re not coaching volleyball?
Jose: I like to scuba dive and play golf. I also like to cook.

Thrill: What do you like to cook?
Jose: Different stuff, mainly desserts. Stuff like brownies, cake and things like that. But, I like to cook a lot.

Thrill: You are from Caguas, Puerto Rico. What is it like to grow up in Caguas?
Jose: It was fun. It was a medium size town and it was a lot of fun. Back there, you could go to the beach or be in the mountains. I had a lot of great friends over there that I miss. I wonder what they’re doing now.

Thrill: Do you have a player that you simply can’t figure out?
Jose: I think that I have everyone figured out. Maybe every once and a while someone may have me confused, but I know them all well.

Thrill: What music groups have you been listening to?
Jose: I am listening to a lot of Hispanic groups. Not any specific one, just a lot of them.

Thrill: You seem to have the best conversations with the officials of volleyball games. Do you really get as mad as you seem to get?
Jose: (Pause) Uh, sometimes it’s
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