Communication Week brings professionals and students together

By Jessica Summe
The Chanticleer Editor-in-Chief

The department of communication is hosting their sixth annual Communication Week where local and national industry heavyweights come in and speak with communication students.

The theme of Communication Week is "Media Helping You Make Decisions That Affect Your Life." These decisions can run from the mundane (selecting a brand of shampoo) to the significant (choosing a career).

The week started Monday, April 9 (Broadcast Day), when the CEO of WJXS TV 24, Tom Williams, spoke to around 65 students about broadcasting and his experience with establishing a local news station. After outlining some of his early struggles in TV, Williams commented "Life is like a bicycle...you have to keep moving forward or else you'll lose your balance." Williams also spoke upon the value of JSU students interning at TV24 and being able to move forward in their careers because of their time spent at the station.

Print Journalism Day was Tuesday, April 10, and the speaker was Anthony Cook, managing editor of The Anniston Star. Instead of a typical lecture, Cook told the students right academics.

Relating to the theme of Communication Week, Cook presented an example of a recent story that ran in the Star about tainted dog food.

“We may not realize it, but that's the kind of story that helps people make decisions," said Cook. "Then we ran a follow up story about making your own pet food. That's the kind of story we should be writing.”

Communication Week continued Wednesday, Public Relations Day, with the Public Relations Association of Alabama (PRAA). A talk was given about the industry and the role that PR plays in making organizations successful.

The next day, Thursday, April 11, the campus took a different approach to the theme of Communication Week. The focus was on the concept of "Communication Week" itself as a campaign for JSU's students, faculty, and staff. The idea was to communicate the importance of communication in all aspects of life, from personal interactions to professional settings.

Dr. Richard Kitson, one of three candidates for Associate Vice President for Enrollment Management and Student Affairs, had an open presentation and question-and-answer session on April 10, on the 11th floor of the Houston Cole Library.

Kitson's presentation outlined his vision for the future of JSU's enrollment management and student affairs. He emphasized the importance of clear communication in creating a positive campus culture.

"It sounds simple, but it is a complex situation," said Kitson. "Some of Kitson's ideas for solving this complicated problem were to emphasize student life and student support services throughout campus.

Kitson also pointed out that his philosophy would fit well with JSU's Strategic Plan.

"Everything we do must be tied back to the Strategic Plan, for that is the blueprint," said Kitson. "Putting all of that together, that is how we move forward.”

When asked about marketing JSU to prospective students, Kitson replied that by putting forward such JSU success stories such as Mike Rogers, Jim Folsom and Heather Whitestone, the campus would be perceived in a positive light.

Kitson also emphasized building a better relationship with the K-12 schools in Alabama.

"We must be convincing of our prospective students that we are an environment where you can be successful, you can grow, and you can thrive," said Kitson. "We cannot talk about it, we need to be about it.

The next candidate to interview for the position will be Dr. John T. Fletcher, on Wednesday, April 18th.

Dr. Timothy Bates King will be the last candidate interviewed on Friday, April 20.

All presentations are open to JSU students, faculty, and staff.

Students and faculty enthusiasm.

First AVPEMSA candidate speaks to JSU staff
It was like Woodstock...but nice

By Nick Lehwald
The Chanticleer Senior Reporter

Peacefest happened on the front lawn of the TMB last Thursday. Organized by senior Shannon Dawson and Jennifer Hey of the All Faiths Student Alliance (AFSA), the festival was a resounding success. With a crowd of over 100 people stocked with Frisbees and hackeysacks, the whole yard danced and grooved to the sounds of local music such as the Hogedodge Orchestra, the Ben Nelson Band, Derk and Elvis and Judson Leonard.

"It was an afternoon of music and fun. It's been fabulous," said organizer Shannon Dawson.

Despite the cold weather, many students who stopped by to see what the fuss was about ended up staying to listen to the many live bands. With badminton and Frisbees, no one was in a hurry to leave.

For its second year, Peacefest brought a litany of its own supporters such as Amnesia International, the All Faiths Alliance, Hogs, Hogs and Hogs (HHH), along with local poets and writers who got on stage and read their latest works.

The headliner of the day was Jacksonville State's own Hogedodge Orchestra, who led the day with their smooth sounds. Spinning through their set with toe-tapping tunes, the Orchestra had the crowd dancing like hippies at Woodstock.

The day ended on a high note with the Ben Nelson band, hailing from Birmingham, Ala., who kept the fans up on their feet the whole set.

All in all, Peacefest raised a total of $900, which the organizers plan to donate to various charities.

"It was a pleasant, peaceful day filled with talented local folk," said Hogedodge bass player Joe Skaggs.

From top: Bass player from Hogedodge; Jeff Fuller performing an open mic piece; WISE's Clothesline Project preview; two Marine recruiters that stopped by; Hogedodge Orchestra on stage.

All photos courtesy Shannon Dawson

Students and faculty gather in Montgomery

By Kevin Brant
Edited by Brandon Hollingsworth and Jessica Sunne

On April 5, some 2,000 students, faculty and administrators representing at least ten Alabama universities gathered in Montgomery for the annual Higher Education Day Rally. Over 200 attendees were from JSU.

The theme for this year's rally was "Equitable Funding: Open Doors of Opportunity." This rally had one overall main request to the Alabama Legislature, to "return the universities to full funding."

Some of the key messages of the conference focused on the role Alabama's universities play in shaping the state's economy, and that no part of the education system should be treated unfairly.

According to measurements computed by the Alabama Commission on Higher Education, the state's universities are at 70 percent of the standard required to be competitive, whereas two-year vocational and trade schools are at 147 percent.

JSU students in attendance had many things to say, but one popular slogan for signs held up during the rally was "Use Common Cents."

A rally would not be a rally without musical entertainment and speakers. The JSU Hardcore group, including the Go-Gos, performed. The Alabama State University marching band and Troy University show choir provided musical entertainment. Speakers included Governor Bob Riley and Ashley Hayes, president of the Student Government Association at the University of Alabama.

The governor mentioned that he would like to see higher education allotment increase by 11 percent. One student shouted back, "How about 60 percent?" to the laughter of the crowd. Riley then responded that he would do what he could to get the necessary funding.

All of the speakers shared the same vision of increasing current funding for all the universities in the state of Alabama.

A festive atmosphere pervaded the state capital complex, and many participants expressed optimism about the future of higher education.

"I thought there was a great turnout with a variety of students from all over the state," said Christina Duerster from Decatur, Ala. "I like the fact that elected officials took part in this event."

Funding for higher education is provided by the State Education Trust Fund. The Education Trust Fund, according to the state Executive Budget Office, is the largest operating budget in the state. Colleges and universities must share the fund with K-12 schools, which leads to conflict over how the money will be spent. If higher education receives a larger share, more scholarships will be available, the state can afford more grants and it will help keep tuition costs within reach for students. Higher funding could also mean more job opportunities for students after graduation because schools could provide more career counseling and assistance.

"I thought the rally really sent a message to the Alabama Legislature that equitable funding is the key to Alabama's future," said SGA President-Elect David Jennings.

"The rally was more energetic than I expected but it was great to see all of the leaders of this state that took part in this event," said Landen Vickery from Alabaster, Ala.
Something smells good in Ramona Wood

By Tashara Childs
The Chanticleer Staff Reporter

Delicious desserts covered two tables in Ramona Wood Hall on Thursday, April 5, from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. The bake sale was organized by LeAnna Highfield, President of the Student Council for Exceptional Children, under the advisement of Dr. Gardener.

The tables consisted of desserts such as cookies, brownies, and cakes, just to name a few. Each treat was priced at fifty cents. Drinks such as coffee, Milo’s sweet tea, Coke, and Pepsi products were also available for fifty cents.

Most of the desserts were homemade, but some were store-bought goods.

This is only the third bake sale held by the CEC.

“The staff really likes it. We plan to continue to have one each semester,” said Highfield. A few of the favorite goodies were chocolate chip cookies, snickerdoodles, and cinnamon rolls.

Considering the unexpected cold weather, coffee was one of the highest selling drinks.

When asked her favorite dessert, Highfield said, “The peanut butter chocolate chip bars I made. They’re simple to make yet really good.”

(After sampling a few desserts myself, this reporter couldn’t find anything that did not satisfy my sweet tooth.)

Along with the bake sale there was also a table that served as a silent auction. This table consisted of whole desserts.

For example, because the Easter holiday was only a few days away there was a cake shaped as an Easter bunny up for grabs.

A sign up sheet was on the table for individuals who decided to participate in the auction. In order to participate each person was asked to give their name, number, and bidding price. The first bidder was allowed to set the starting price. The bids continued to increase until the winner was announced at 5 p.m. The auction and the sale was to help raise money for children with disabilities.

While some people might not have enjoyed the desserts as much as others, most people walking by purchased something or gave a donation to help.

Ten tips to test taking success

It’s almost time for exams to be upon us. However, you do not have to fear those tests. For we at The Chanticleer would like to offer you some tips on making your exams just a little easier. Thanks to Todd Prater in Counseling for helping The Chanticleer with his Overcoming Test Anxiety workshop.

2. Stay relaxed and confident—you know the things you have studied.
3. Be comfortable, but alert—grab a candy bar and soda on the way in, it stimulates the mind.
4. Preview the entire test before answering—know the parts of the test.
5. Answer questions in a strategic order—answer what you know first.
6. Know when to guess—if it’s multiple choice you’ve at least got a shot.
7. Think before you write if it’s an essay exam.
8. Get to the point on essays—don’t elongate answers to seem as though you know more.
9. Reserve at least 10% of time to review—look at other questions to see if they answer another!
10. Analyze your test results—see where you may have gone wrong and correct it.
April 9
Nkem Okoli reported theft of property at Logan Hall.

Edisha Brown reported theft of property at the running track.

April 10
James Ebert was arrested for public intoxication and public lewdness at Rudy Abbott Field.

Information in the Campus Crime column is obtained from incident and arrest reports at the JSU Police Department in Salls Hall. These records are public documents which any individual has the right to examine under Alabama state law. If you believe this information to be in error, please call 782-5701, or contact JSUPD at 782-5950.

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18 Thursday

JSU Community Orchestra concert

19 Friday

Jazz I concert

20 Saturday

JSU Chamber Winds concert

21 Sunday

JSU Accapella Choir and Calhoun County Civic Chorale concert

22 Monday

Trustee Meeting
SGA Banquet/Officer Induction

23 Tuesday

Presentation and Q&A for AVPEMSA Candidate Dr. John Fletcher

24 Wednesday

25 Thursday
The man behind the drawings

By Jessica Summe
The Chanticleer Editor in Chief

The Chanticleer's resident uber-talented (and "all-around badness") cartoonist, Dave Dillon, has been an inspiration to JSU students and faculty alike. His work offers a quick glimpse into the eccentric and unique mind of this quirky individual.

A history major and minor, Dillon became a cartoonist when he started drawing Ronald Reagan in funny poses while still in junior high.

"I drew during lunch and Bible study," said Dillon. ("That's right!")

Editor Chris Yow. "Bible study was for nothing but goofing off!"

"When I was in high school, I got into writing stories and illustrating them, then illustrating became more fun because more people looked at my illustrations than my stories.

Dillon began drawing for the Chanty when a previous Editor-in-Chief, J. Wilson Guthrie, hung out with Dillon when he had a radio show on 92J. One day, he asked Dillon (who was in the art department) if he knew anyone who could do a political cartoon.

"And I told him I could probably find someone, and he told me the job paid, and I told him I'd do it," said Dillon. "And that year, he left it up to me, but he would change some of my captions because I didn't lean so far to the left, and he did, and some cartoons that I really liked they didn't put in there at all."

The next year, Dillon decided he wanted to do more school-relevant cartoons and began meeting with the editorial staff to collaborate, often doing cartoons to go along with specific articles written for the paper. This new approach brought about Dillon's nomination this past school year for Best Political Cartoon as awarded by The Society of Professional Journalists for Region 3 (Southeast).

As graduation looms before Dillon, he has several thoughts he would like to share with JSU students and staff. First, he would like everyone to know that there is such a thing as cartoonist's block, that it's very difficult to be funny on the spot, and at Books-A-Million, where Dillon works, you're not encouraged to "read, be on your cell phone, or draw political cartoons."

Dillon would also like the campus to know that he is "dynamic and sexually charged." There's a reason we love this man.

A speech rambler - the person who "thinks" he or she is prepared to give JSU students and faculty alike a quick glimpse into the eccentric and unique mind of this quirky individual.

Oh no, how dare we expect them to take advantage of the allotted time between the assignment date and the due date of the speech? Instead, the speech rambler has to be sure to attend all of the major sports events, get out of their seat as the teacher calls their name. Then they slide their papers (which should have been a stack of note cards) off their desk as if it weighed the equivalent of a baby elephant. Next comes the dragging of the feet, which always gets under my skin. My grandmother always said, "Never drag your feet. When you get old, you will look as miserable as a snail."

As soon as the rambler arrives at the front of the classroom, the teacher tries to interrupt as they try to make it to the five minute mark to get a passing grade. By now no one, including the teacher, is even remotely interested in what the rambler is speaking about. They have used so many "ums" and "uhhs" that it is now clear that this person is absolutely, unbelievably unprepared.

The tone is so low even that little man sitting on the speaker's shoulder cannot hear what the speech is about.

The rambler continues, hoping not to be interrupted as they try to make it to the five minute mark to get a passing grade. By now no one, including the teacher, is even remotely interested in what the rambler is speaking about. They have used so many "ums" and "uhhs" that it is now clear that this person is absolutely, unbelievable unprepared.

stating "the end." Now, if you will notice, they by no means will sit down in the same manner they took their throne. Heavens no! They now race back to their seat, almost knocking the desk into the person sitting next to them.

Finally, it is all over. They slump down in their desk, take a deep breath and wish upon a star that someone, anyone, can take from them the shameful, heavy crown of the Speech Rambler.
Sound Off: The war on TERROR

Right now in the United States, we are fully engaged in a war on terror. Nothing wrong with that, of course, terror, as we all know, is a terrible thing. It should be stopped worldwide. The problem is, we do not know exactly what terror is. Who exactly are these terrorists that we seek to destroy? Who is our enemy? It is important to know who our enemy is exactly, or we may end up thinking about the wrong people. However, this does not seem to be a concern of the American people. It seems that anyone with a "towel" on their head is a target.

To prevent terribly dangerous misconceptions, I will take this time to define our enemy: the terrorist. This is not an easy thing; there are so many different definitions for a terrorist, according to Walter Laqueur of the Center for Strategic and National Studies, "the general characteristic of terrorism" generally agreed upon is that terrorism involves violence and the threat of violence." Gee, that doesn't help out at all. We could still shoot down any disgruntled Middle Eastern farmer we felt led to destroy, especially if there was an oil field under his sheep farm.

Terrorism has been around for millennia. The problem is that the definition morphs and changes around whatever purpose the person saying it intends. We have heard politicians and officials speaking about terrorists and a majority of people come to accept these parameters, but the simple fact is violence maintained in any way or anywhere could be considered terrorism. Does it not seem when America drops a bomb on a military target, that the innocent people caught up in the "war" would consider us terrorists? Does it not seem when America destroys a town because we think it is a threat to our freedom? That is the argument behind the old saying "one man's terrorist is another man's freedom fighter."

The problem with this loosely defined enemy is that something as large and destructive as the American military can now be pointed at anyone that is being made a terrorist by our commander and chief as a "terrorist." Given political action groups and the current environment of unilateral movements, this could lead to our targeting system coming under the control of special interest organizations. This would be a terrible thing! We could possibly be pulled into a costly, dangerous, and fruitless war. Our troops, who so valiantly make themselves prepared to protect the freedom of this country, will always be promised, would at that point be deceived and possibly be put into the terrible situation of not believing in what they are fighting for. Also, people around the world would be aghast at the reckless, domineering attempt to become world police, therefore assuring the creation of many more enemies.

This is a scary thought. Especially since our government has been notoriously anti-Muslim for many years and has changed little in the recent past. This could easily build a strong distrust and hatred of America from any Muslim group. The best way to handle this would be to reverse the previous diplomacy maintained with countries made up of a majority of Muslims. The opposite of helpful would be to create a target stereotype that is in fact a Muslim and to make America scared of such a person.

If one were inclined to define the word "terrorist" properly as it is used in America today, they should go back a few years in American history to the last time a term was demonized and used by our government to categorize the "greatest threat to the American way." That is the word "communist."

Unfortunately, this word was just as arbitrary and just as useful in allowing the American Government to choose its enemies based on its own special interest. So remember the atrocities committed under this guise, and next time someone says terrorist, you should say, "What's that?"

Thank you,

Jeffrey Fuller
JSU Senior

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The Chanticleer

Serving Jacksonville and the University community since 1974.

Editor in Chief: Jessica Surine
Features Editor: Tony Wenas
Sports Editor: Chris Lundy
Copy Editor: Summer Hunt
Web Editor: Chris Yow
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Letters Policy:
The Chanticleer welcomes letters to the editor. Letters for publication must be limited to 300 words and must be typed. Letters may be hand-delivered or sent through campus mail to our offices in Room 110, Self Hall, or to the mailing address at left. Letters may also be e-mailed to chantnews@jsums.edu.

The Chanticleer will not print letters which are libelous, defamatory, or submitted anonymously. Letters may be added for style, brevity, or clarity. The Chanticleer reserves the right to refuse publication of any submission. Letters must be received by noon on the Monday prior to desired publication date. There will be at least two weeks between publication of letters from the same person. Reprints will be published no later than two weeks after publication of the original article in question.
Goodbye, farewell and amen

Compiled by Toni Merriss
The Chanticleer Features Editor

Throughout the school year, The Chanticleer staff has been working hard almost every Tuesday night and usually well into Wednesday mornings putting the paper together. Since this is our last issue, we had a few farewells that we wanted to share of the things we will miss and maybe some that we won’t.

Deshunn Johnson
The Chanticleer Assistant Advertising Director

Farewell to my soul sista Toni and Summer’s wacky stories.

Chris Yow
The Chanticleer Web Editor

Farewell to extension 8191, three-week old coffee, and the three computers that don’t work. Farewell to the Chanty samurai, my desktop calendar- (at least I finally got one) and two semester old sugar. Goodbye to the filing cabinet. Farewell to College Publisher 2.0, Angela’s 2005 Spanish project and old yearbooks. Farewell to the picture of Mike Patris circa 1990, I found in my desk. And finally – farewell to Macs!

Chris Lundy
The Chanticleer Sports Editor

Farewell to mixing Tuesday and Wednesday together. Farewell to being asleep in English class (sorry, Dr. Bond Collins). Farewell to the news office with no internet. Farewell to the second Mac computer on the back row. Farewell to stealing Toni’s CDs to write ghost reviews. Farewell in my attempts to give STAT Club a free plug (Ha! I did it!). Farewell to the only Mac that allows us to get on Myspace and Facebook at 3:27 a.m. Last but not least, farewell to stolen headlines!!

Toni Merriss
The Chanticleer Features Editor

Farewell to the one working computer in the news office, the random people who wonder into the office on layout night and the quote board. Farewell to the 1970s globe in the corner, upsetting Jessica by picking up the mail, and being crabby on Wednesdays from lack of sleep. Farewell to my nice chicks! Farewell to people not doing their job (thank God!). Farewell to our collection of Taco Bell sauce packets and my 1 a.m. cinnamon twists fix. Farewell to expecting Lundy to write a review for a stolen CD. And lastly, farewell to my sassy dressing girl, Deshunn and my Houdini with words, Summer!

Summer Hunt
The Chanticleer Copy Editor

Farewell to the coffee pot at Grub Mart who became my faithful companion. Farewell to my post-it reminders, mornings spent glued to my stylebook, and my constantly saying, “Mr. Stedham? I have a question…” Goodbye to misplaced commas, reporters who don’t know when to say “no” to capitalization, and taking hours to edit six pages of copy. So long to Toni’s little “mom” gifts on every holiday, and lastly to the last minute coming in at a different hour every week.

Jessica Summe
The Chanticleer Editor in Chief

Farewell to 1:30 a.m. Taco Bell runs, Toni’s ever-loving sarcasm, and Lundy’s random golf swings. Farewell to Yow’s marriage proposals, Summer’s headlines, random people’s dogs visiting the office, and beating the faculty to work. Farewell to early morning chats with Brandon and violently hating and loving Tuesdays at the same time.

The shocking Truth

By Chris Lundy
The Chanticleer Sports Editor

To be considered a “super producer” in the music industry, you have to know the business inside and out. A lot of artists come and go, and very few remain in elite company. For Timbaland, his transition has been a smooth one, and his recent album, Shock Value is another example.

From Jay-Z’s “Big Pimpin” to Aaliyah’s “One in a Million”, Timbaland has always been a hot commodity. An album isn’t an album unless Timbaland blesses it with a track. Shock Value has the

Toni Merriss
Features Editor

“I swear I’ll eat my tennis shoe if he turns out to be the next Jesus.”

Dre, Missy Elliot, himself, and Justin Timberlake, followed by Dr. Dre’s label mates 50 Cent and Tony Yayo. The album continues to display several mix ups, especially one of Timbaland’s artist Keri Hilson and Nicole Scherzinger of the Pussycat Dolls.

The last four tracks are by far the strongest on the album. Featuring the likes of She Wants Revenge, Fall Out Boy, One Republic and Elton John, the last four songs keep you intrigued and pressing the repeat button. Fall Out Boy’s “One and Only” is another timbaland classic.
Nose to the grindstone

By Kevin Jeffers
The Chanticleer Senior Reporter

Insanity would be a good word to start with in describing Grindhouse, the new joint-collaboration of Robert Rodriguez and Quentin Tarantino.

The two madmen of violence and mayhem (who last collaborated in 2005's Sin City) dubbed this new project as a "double feature," an homage upon homage of the exploitation films they grew up with. Everything stupid and cheesy about this 1970's era of film is made even stupider and cheesier. The end product is one of the most entertaining films in years.

First on the bill is Rodriguez' Planet Terror, a take on the living dead gore-fests of the era. Rose McGowan, in all of her pale and curvaceous glory, plays Cherry, a down-on-her luck ex-stripper turned wannabe standup comedian (which becomes oh-so ironic a little ways in). She has to be saved with the rest of survivors in the Texas town from some outbreak of some noxious gas which for some reason turns people into brain-eating zombies. And Freddy Rodriguez plays the just the man for the job, with a legend that precedes for odd enough neglected in Kill Bill. Disposition is the last thing Tarantino wants to accomplish, especially with this latest endeavor. He wants more than ever for the viewer to know that he knows you're watching. And it's as well-played as any storyteller can pull off. There is no parallel with which to compare Tarantino to as a filmmaker. He is as he wants to be: an amalgamation of the films and the filmmakers he grew up watching and loving.

Kurt Russell is dead-on as Stuntman Mike, the guy driving down the mowing down of zombies by an ensemble of castaways. The narrative is vague, and beautifully so. If you watch the early attempts at sci-fi monster movies of which Rodriguez is playing, you'll have a tougher time understanding the plot than you will stomaching the gore. The gore and the vagueness are pitch-perfect.

Even better is the second feature, Tarantino's Death Proof. The director is obviously having fun here in this amusing take on the heady death films of the B-movie era.

Look over the fact that he has his typical bit parts in both features, during which times you know "Hey, that's the director!(something he oddly enough neglected in Kill Bill). Disposition is the last thing Tarantino wants to accomplish, especially with this latest endeavor. He wants more than ever for the viewer to know that he knows you're watching. And it's as well-played as any storyteller can pull off. There is no parallel with which to compare Tarantino to as a filmmaker. He is as he wants to be: an amalgamation of the films and the filmmakers he grew up watching and loving.

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By Chris Yow
The Chanticleer Web Editor

The Wesley Foundation at Jacksonville State is a Methodist denomination-based faith group on campus. And just as most religious denominations, they enjoy missions around the campus and community.

Their missions are different from other groups, however. Rather than raise money to fund mission trips, the Wesley Foundation's mission is to help feed the students here.

Wesley Night is every Thursday night at the Wesley Foundation's building just between the Waffle House and Theron Montgomery Building on State Hwy. 21.

Wesley leader Jay Robinson says that Wesley Night is, "Something we like to do for the students here...this is our mission."

Robinson says that the only thing that he wants to do is let people know that there is free food, and would like to invite anyone and everyone to come enjoy the food and fellowship with them.

Wesley Foundation frequent Bart Tapp says that he found out about the Wesley Foundation through Wesley Night and likes the people he met. "The people here are nice and they made me want to come back," says Tapp.

Free food and fun are not hard to come by at the Wesley Foundation, the facility, people have been nothing short of the friendliest people that I have met.

When attending Wesley Night, one can never know what to expect. Anything from pizza being ordered to Wesley members cooking chicken potpie is on the menu.

Local churches even provide food at times.

However, Wesley Night is not the only way the foundation provides services to the community.

On Easter, Wesley hosted an Easter egg hunt for local children and the students filled over 400 Easter eggs with candy.

The Foundation does not only want students to come to Wesley Night, but to come enjoy the big screen television with a satellite receiver. Come enjoy the company of the members of the foundation.

"It's just a way to give back to the community," says Robinson.

By Summer Hunt
The Chanticleer Copy Editor

Music is a unifying element that brings people together, drawing a common bond between those that might not have anything else in common.

However, in the latest effort from the drama department, Piano, the musical instrument named in the title not only destroys a marriage but also threatens to tear a family apart.

Piano is a result of a call issued to southern playwrights who write about southern experience. Committees comprised of members from the English and drama departments at JSU sifted through piles and piles of scripts before selecting Piano by David Hall as the 2006 winner of the Southern Playwrights Competition.

The play is centered on a mother and her two children, Hardy and Jim. Hardy, the eldest boy, is in his mid-twenties and still living at home. He comes and goes as he pleases, drinking and gallivanting about town and coming in at all hours of the night, much to the chagrin of his younger brother, Jim.

"I think that the character of Hardy is a victim of circumstance," said Coty Cockrell, who brings the troubled young man to life onstage. "He's dealing with this traumatic experience he had as a child by running and playing and pretending."

Hardy puts up a confident façade as he struggles inside to find something that he can control. He turns to the piano as a way to manipulate situations and even communicate how he himself is feeling during times of turmoil.

"When he's playing piano, he has this whole musical world that he can play and control," said Cockrell, also an accomplished pianist. "In short, I feel as if the piano and his mischievous ways are means by which he can escape from his tragic existence."

Jarrod Cuthrell plays the role of Jim, the younger and apparently smarter brother who dreams of going to college and someday escaping his simple farming life. He loves his mother very much, and while he may get frustrated with her at times, he can't bring himself to betray her.

"He's very smart, or book smart, but he's not very wise in the ways of the world," said Cuthrell. "He's very loyal."

In the center of all this conflict is the mother, played by Shelly Hall. She is obviously haunted by some deep, dark secret that compels her to turn to a blind eye to all of Hardy's antics and refuse all of Jim's attempts to kick him out of the house.

"I think that all is resolved by the end of the play," said Hall. "Hardy goes through a lot and finally comes to the realization that he needs his mom, at least that's my take."

The fourth and arguably most important character in the play is the piano itself. Given to the mother from her late father, the piano plays a huge role in the play and in the lives of each of the characters.

"When I first received the script, the author wrote me and was very clear that the piano is a main character," said director and JSU faculty member Susan McCain.

This is absolutely true, and the piano serves of the past decisions kept hidden away that could potentially rip the already-broken family apart.

"The whole theme of the play is liberation," said McCain. "It takes two acts, but hopefully, in the end, everyone feels liberated."

It's not an easy road, though. Each character must face down personal demons on the path to self-discovery.

"The truth must come out," she said. "There are always hidden secrets. When they stay tucked away, they just lie there and fester and get worse."

There are also underlying ideas of honesty and loyalty that harmonize with the theme of liberation in the play.

"I think that the overall picture is what can happen when people bottle up their feelings and carry it with them and don't deal with life situations," said Hall. "It's just an example of what can happen when we choose not to face the truth."

With a small cast made up of Cockrell, Cuthrell and Hall, it was easy to achieve a level of intimacy that is sometimes difficult to attain with a larger cast.

As a child, the mother took lessons in effort to learn to play the piano but failed in her attempts to pick up the craft. Her son, Hardy, plays beautifully and hopes to gain a job working in a piano bar off the interstate — or so he says. His music strikes a chord within his mother's heart, taking her to a different place and time.

Jim is later coerced by Hardy to try and sell the piano for money that Hardy tells Jim he can use for college. The mother is very adamant about not selling her last remaining memory of her father and a time that is long gone. She fears that once the piano goes, her memories will leave with it.

However, the piano serves as the proverbial elephant in the room and is a painful reminder to learn and such, we were really more able to get a feel for how our characters interacted."

McCain certainly encourages interaction among cast members. After Tuesday night's dress rehearsal, she sits in tight circle with cast members and stage manager Jacob Phillips, giving out notes and suggestions while also inviting the actors to share their own input.

"Ms. McCain is very good about connecting with her actors and comfortably bringing out the their comfort zones," said Cockrell. "She allows us time to prepare and goes with our intuition which makes the show more natural, and that's what it works."

Phillips, who is not stranger to stage but makes his debut backstage with Piano, agrees with Cockrell.

"I love the show, and I think that Susan has done a great job," he said. "So have all the characters. It was a really easy show when you have three great actors who learn their lines by the second week."

While the cast has spent several weeks perfecting every blocking move, every line and every look, McCain feels as if the show is a progressive that effort that will only get better.

"I definitely think that we accomplished what we set out to do," she said. "It's like it's never going to be finished, and it's really a process that's going to go all the way through closing."

The actors write their own symphony in Piano, with the actors serving as the instruments and using the script as their sheet music.

"I think that this play, as is with all plays, starts out as just words on a page," said Hall. "This play in particular is an example of how a page of words that can be taken and given life by the people that are involved giving life to those words through their own connections and emotions with themselves and each other. It's just words on a page until you put it on stage with actors. It breathes; it has life."

There is definitely a lot of life in Piano, and the play promises to resonate with audience members long after the last note fades away.

Piano opens tonight at 7 p.m. in Ernest Stone Center for the Performing Arts. It also runs Friday and Saturday at 7 p.m. and Sunday afternoon at 2 p.m. For ticket information, you can call the box office at 782-5648.
Gamecocks get game one, fall hard in game two against Nicholls State

By Chris Lundy
The Chanticleer Sports Editor

The JSU softball team fought hard to hold on against Nicholls State, but ended up splitting the series on Tuesday evening.

After taking an early 1-0 lead, the Gamecocks (22-15) fell behind in the fourth inning. After a double by Colonels' (20-17) designated player Any Thibodeaux, catcher Jacqueline Pacheco hit a two-run homerun to take the lead. The Gamecocks threatened in the bottom of the fourth, but were unable to capitalize.

Nicholls State added another run in the top of the fifth inning when third baseman Leah Peterson hit a double, scoring teammate Danielle Clayton who hit a single and reached second on a fielding error. Peterson's homerun would be the first of many to come for the Colonels.

In the bottom of the second, JSU would rally to get a run in. After Whitney Elder reached on an error, should have later reached third base on a fielding error. She crossed the plate on a wild pitch, bringing the score to 2-1. The Gamecocks tried to rally, but only got the one run in the inning.

The third inning for the Colonels was a productive round. After giving up a single, pitcher Kelly McGregor (1-2) was relieved by pitcher Kelly Raw. Trying to earn her spot on the roster, Raw went out and attempted to get Peterson's runner on a wild pitch. Her plans were ruined when she crossed the plate on a wild pitch, bringing the score to 2-1. The Gamecocks tried to rally, but only got the one run in the inning.

In the sixth inning, JSU stepped up and shut the Colonels. The flood gates opened up for the Gamecocks, beginning with Ciara Wesco, who hit a single. Shortstop Mary Beth Ledbetter advanced Wesco with a sacrifice bunt, which brought up Rachel Fleming. In her at bat, she singled and moved Wesco to third base. Centerfielder Chrissy O'Neal hit a sacrifice fly ball to score Wesco. In the next at bat, rightfielder Daniela Pappano hit a shot to centerfield, which passed Colonels' centerfielder Kodi Butler and garnered Pappano a triple and a RBI, and tying the game for JSU. The game would not be tied for long when first baseman Nikki Prier stepped up and blasted a two-run homerun to put JSU ahead 5-3.

The Gamecocks fought hard in the sixth to gain the lead, and they were not about to let it go. With Karla Pittman on the mound, the JSU defense rallied behind her to earn Pittman her third save of the season, and increasing Melissa's Dowling record to 7-5 on the season.

The second game would be an entirely different story. With a Butler walk, Peterson opened up the game with a two-run homerun. Peterson's homerun would be the first of many to come for the Colonels.

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Gamecocks sweep Redhawks over weekend

By Chad Hoffman
The Chanticleer Senior Reporter

Over this past weekend, the Jacksonville State Gamecocks went all out and got their first series sweep of the season.

The three wins came against OVC foe Southeast Missouri State and helped the ladies improve to 8-5 in conference play.

On Friday, the red and white took both games with a 6-3 victory in game one and a 9-4 win in game two. The Gamecocks remain undefeated against the Redhawks and hold a 14-0 advantage.

Junior Whitney Elder and freshman Mary Beth Ledbetter exploded in game one with a home run each that helped JSU to a five-run fourth inning.

SEMO scored two runs in the top of the second inning from a Stephanie Mata homer; however, JSU would not be beaten at home and added some runs in their own way in the home half of the fourth.

Pappano drew a leadoff walk and was followed by a single from freshman Nikki Prier. Elder wanted to add to the lead and put the ball out of reach for the fielder as the ball reached its peak at the fence.

Ledbetter then followed it with a single from Jackie Jarman with a homerun of her own that fell just inside the foul pole in left field.

Karla Pittman earned the win. That was her 16th complete game in 19 starts.

In game two, the Redhawks drew first blood with two runs in the top of the first.

But there isn't much any team can do when the opposing team scores in every inning but one, just as JSU did.

An RBI single from Pappano cut SEMO's lead to 2-1 in the bottom of the first before an error by SEMO second baseman Jennifer Vasquez allowed two runs to score and JSU to claim the lead that it would not give up.

Junior Rachel Fleming added one in the fourth on an RBI double and freshman Ciara Wesen plated a pair on a double of her own in the fifth.

SEMO tried to claw its way back into contention by cutting JSU's lead to 6-4; however, Hicks blasted one over the fence for three RBI's. That was the fourth home run in her last seven games.

Sophomore Melissa Dowling allowed four runs on seven hits in five and one-thirds innings to get the win, while Pittman finished the game to pick up the save.

On Saturday, the weekend had to be special somehow and the Bolton, Ontario, native Pappano made it just that.

With her two home run performance helping lead the Gamecocks to a 11-3 win, she is now the only JSU player in school history to hit 50 home runs in a career.

She went 3-for-3 on the day, with two home runs, a double and three RBI's.

Her second home run in the bottom of the sixth tied the school record for homers in a game. It was the ninth time in school history a player has homered twice in a game. Pappano has achieved the feat five times, including three so far this season.

Hicks drove in four runs in the game, thanks to a grand slam in the seven-run second inning.

SEMO would pull to within five before a three-run sixth gave JSU the win via the mercy rule.

Freshman Nikki Prier was 3-for-4 in the game with an RBI, while

After splitting with Nicholls State, the Gamecocks will host in-state rival Samford in a doubleheader on Wednesday. They return to University Field on April 21 and 22, when they compete against conference foe Austin Peay. JSU currently sits third in the OVC standings behind EKU and Tennessee Tech.

The Robinsons: not related, but remembered

By Chris Lundy
The Chanticleer Sports Editor

First of all, I want to say “Thank you” to Jackie Robinson and Eddie Robinson. Without them, I wouldn't be serving as sports editor in an integrated school. And without them, most of our minority athletes on campus wouldn't be wearing red and white.

As Eddie Robinson's career began, so did the institution of what is now known as Grambling State University. With segregation at its peak, black players were not able to attend the likes of University of Alabama, University of Georgia, or any other prominent university at the time. The safest bet for most players was Grambling State, and Eddie made sure his players were ready to compete. With those players understanding the nature of that era and Eddie staring down adversity, he managed to compose a 408-165-15 lifetime record. For 56 seasons, Eddie was the captain of the football ship at Grambling, and in the hearts of many, he still is the motivation behind the Tigers’ athletic programs.

Thirteen days before Eddie was born, Jack Roosevelt Robinson came into the world on Jan. 31, 1919. His legacy started when he left Georgia and headed to California. Staring in the junior college ranks, Jackie opted to stay close to his mother and attend UCLA. No other athlete has ever participated in four sports in their college career simultaneously and been successful at it. His efforts as a long jumper, halfback, shortstop and basketball player (where he lead the team in scoring two years straight) are talents that couldn't be mastered by anyone today. It's difficult to find a two-sport athlete who actually enjoys both of their sports.

Now, let’s imagine for a second, that Eddie Robinson didn’t put Grambling State at the forefront of college football. Let’s imagine that Jackie Robinson decided not to play sports anymore after his career at UCLA. Let’s imagine Eddie Robinson didn’t win or share 17 Southwestern Athletic Conference titles. Lastly, let’s imagine Jackie Robinson didn’t win Rookie of the Year in 1947 and then follow it up with a Most Valuable Player award in 1949.

“I don’t know what I would be doing right now,” said Allen Rose, first baseman for the JSU baseball team. “Jackie Robinson gives me a sense of pride, and he enabled me to be in the position I’m in today. I feel like it’s a responsibility to perform well everyday.”

No matter what sport you play, the color of your skin or your nationality, you cannot go on your respective playing surface without showing some appreciation to and Eddie and Jackie. Both of them broke down barriers and created milestones no one will ever touch, and with those in mind, today's minority athletes owe much more than just a thank you to them. They owe it to Eddie, Jackie and themselves to practice as hard as they can, play even harder, and prove to spectators they have to skills necessary to compete at the next level.

Gambling State University honored Robinson by naming their football facility Eddie Robinson Stadium.
G2K: GET 2 KNOW
Alana Hicks, Softball Catcher

By Chad Hoffman
The Chanticleer Senior Reporter

As of late, there has been someone of the Gamecock softball team that have come alive and stepped into her role. Who may this person be? That would be the Murfreesboro, Tenn. native Alana Hicks. She has tied senior Daniela Pappano with nine home runs this season so far and looks to put more RBI's across the plate for the red and white. After the games on Tuesday night, I sat down with Alana and got to know her a little bit better.

Chad Hoffman: What kind of music do you like?
Alana Hicks: All kinds.

CH: Any specific types?
AH: Whatever is on my iPod.

CH: What is in your CD player right now?
AH: A mixed CD of rap and country.

CH: What is your favorite color?
AH: Blue.

CH: What is your most embarrassing moment on the field?
AH: This season, I was running to second base for a double and did a belly flop trying to slide and it knocked the breath out of me.

CH: What is an unusual fact about you that everyone may or may not know?
AH: I have lupus.

CH: Do you enjoy other JSU Athletic events?
AH: Yes.

CH: Which ones?
AH: I mostly enjoy basketball, soccer and volleyball.

CH: What brought you to JSU besides softball?
AH: I wanted to go somewhere where I did not know anyone.

CH: How have you improved as a player?
AH: I am more disciplined at the plate. I was in chemotherapy last year and was not hitting well. I have practice hard and it is paying off. I have come into my role to score RBI's and I am more focused.

CH: Who is your favorite actress and actor?
AH: Charlize Theron and Heath Ledger.

CH: Where is a place you would like to visit for vacation?
AH: I would love to go to the mountains.

CH: What do you do to relax after a game?
AH: I shower and then just chill with friends and teammates.

CH: What is your favorite sport to play besides softball?
AH: Basketball.

CH: What are a few of your favorite hobbies?
AH: I like to play Guitar Hero II and put together puzzles.

CH: What sets you apart from your fellow teammates?
AH: I am the tallest on the team and I have lupus. I am also kind of weird and shy at the same time.

Junior Catcher Alana Hicks earned Player of the Week honors from the Ohio Valley Conference headquarters.

The junior catcher has been named OVC softball player of the week for this week and has continued to swing the bat effectively. She scored 12 of the Gamecocks 28 RBI's over the weekend and has homered five times in her last ten games. Hicks will continue to help the Gamecocks to a successful season where they hope to regain the OVC Championship trophy and advance to

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