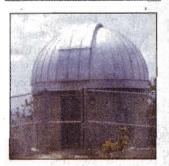
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An observatory and art annex are both still under construction as classes resume. Story on 3A

ENTERTAINMENT

Bioshock emerges as one of the best games of the year. Review on 5A

Jennifer Gentle album "delivers the goods." Review and WLJS's Top Ten Records on 5A

OUESTION of the WEEK

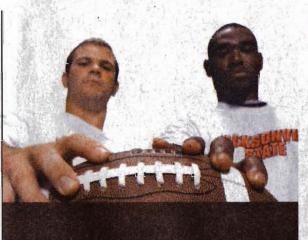
As a reader, what changes would you like to see in The Chanticleer? Student newspaper of Jacksonville State University since 1934

August 30, 2007

THE COUNTDOWN BEGINS... Volleyball has already gotten started. What do the other fall sports teams have in store for 2007?

See Section B for our annual FALL SPORTS PREVEW

That they art blasmin Should not be thy de Should shander's mark the For civer yet the



Uhanticleer

Quarterbacks Matt Hardin (left) and Cedric Johnson (right).

Meehan greets faculty, staff

President addresses plagiarism, other issues at annual meeting

By Brandon Hollingsworth News Editor

President Meehan addressed the recent plagiarism situation and outlined university goals and accomplishments on Monday, Aug. 27 at the JSU annual faculty meeting.

Meehan again took responsibility for instances of plagiarism in some of his "Town and Gown" columns in the Jacksonville The News. columns were ghostwritten by news former director bureau Al Harris, but



MEELIG

appeared under Meehan's byline. The allegations were first reported in the Anniston Star and the Birmingham

See "Faculty meeting," 3A

Questions about Banner remain

How a university deals with a problem that started at the top...

PLAGIARISM

Photo by Matt McRae/The Chanticleer, Illustration by Kevin Jeffers

The Chanticleer?



Better sports coverage 23%
 Better content 16%
 More student life stories 16%
 More hard-hitting news 15%
 More and better pictures 11%
 New design/layout 10%
 Improvements to Web site 7%



"I like a lot of sports and politics." -Brett Lloyd Junior

Next week's question: Have you ever knowingly plagiarized on an assignment? ONLINE @

thechanticleeronline.com

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Photo by Matt McHae/The Chanticleer, Illustration by Kevin Jeffers

By Kevin Jeffers Managing Editor

Through the first few days of classes, teachers across campus will be reading their students the usual stuff.

Don't do this, don't do that. Don't miss X-number of days or you'll fail. 90 points is an A, 80 a B, and so on.

You know - that kind of stuff.

Then comes the part in the syllabus on plagiarism: the Riot Act, to be exact. Teachers are going to have to take an extra second or two on this part this year.

And it's because they know there are moré questions surrounding the issue of plagiarism this time around. Their boss – our school's president – has just as many questions surrounding him regarding the topic.

"I heard [Dr. Meehan] didn't write that stuff that was printed," as one incoming freshman put it. This particular student didn't exactly have all the facts straight.

"I heard he had a ghostwriter who turned out to be crazy and he wrote it. And he stole it from the Internet," as that freshman's freshman friend put it. This freshman had it a little closer.

Both students had at least heard about the issue, neither fully understood it.

Both wanted to remain anonymous as well. If nothing else, there is confusion.

What exactly happened?

It's tough to blame these students for being uninformed, or really any new students with so much on their minds as school begins again.

But, it's not for lack of media coverage that the confusion is there. This story has been all over every major paper in the state.

The nuts and bolts of it are simple enough.

Dr. Bill Meehan, president of Jacksonville State University, has a recurring column in *The Jacksonville News* called "Town and Gown."

Al Harris, a retired employee of the university's news bureau, was Meehan's ghostwriter for the articles.

On three documented occasions, materials printed in the column were found to be pulled directly – and sometimes word-for-word – from Web sites.

Harris took full responsibility for the plagiarized material, citing health issues and various medications that impeded his ability to think clearly.

"Town and Gown" continues to print with Meehan's name attached to it, although Harris is no longer employed by the university or associated with the

See "COVER STORY," 3A

By Chris Pittman Web Editor

JSU's Banner system has been in place since early March, and so far is being met with mixed reactions.

The JSU financial aid department has witnessed first-hand the ups and downs of dealing with the new system. Banner has allowed financial aid to do some innovative things for the fall semester.

Students who did their financial aid over the summer were able to accept their award letter online for the first time.

"The Banner system has made things better for both faculty and students," financial aid representative Stephanie Miller said.

The amount of student queries about financial aid has remained constant with past years, but the content of those questions has changed.

"Many of the questions we get can be easily answered with a little searching online," Miller said. "Banner allows the student to view many more

See "Banner," 2A

BACK TO SCHOOL





Classes started back on Wednesday, Aug. 30. As some students were still moving their stuff back into their dorms or apartments (like this guy on the left), sorority members (like the ladies of Zeta Tau Alpha above), welcomed their new members. Rush was held Friday, Aug. 24 through Tuesday, Aug. 28.

Photos by Matthew McRae and Toni Merriss / The Chanticleer

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ON CAMPUS

The Chanticleer

Announcements

If your club or organization wishes to publish an announcement in The Chanticleer, e-mail them to chantyeditor@gmail.com.

The Chanticleer Announcements Policy: Any ISU student organization or University office may submit items for the Announcements column. Submissions must to typed and limited to 50 words. Submissions must also include contact information. This information does not count toward the 50word total. Submissions must arrive at *The Chauteleer* office in Room 180, Self Hall, or e-mailed to chantyeditor@gmail.com, by acon on the Tuesday prior to the desired publication date.

The Charaticleer reserves the right to refuse publication of any submission for any reason. We also reserve the right to edit for brevity, clarity and style.

Campus Crime

Thursday, August 23

Amanda D. Terry reported theft of property at Curtiss Hall. The theft occurred between 8:00 a.m. and 4: 30 p.m. The stolen items were debit cards. Brett O. Socha reported theft of property at Highway 21 and 204, between the hours of 1:00 a.m. and 8:24 a.m.

Friday, August 24

Jameka L. Minor reported harassing communications at the Penn House Apartments on Mountain Street, between the hours of 11:35 a.m. and 11:50 a.m., James J. Stevens was arrested for a DUI on Old Gadsden Highway at Pennsylvania Avenue. Arrest occurred at 1:46 a.m.

Saturday, August 25

Matthew L. Ohara was arrested for marjuana possession at Patterson Hall. Arrest occurred at 1:29 a.m.

Sunday, August 26

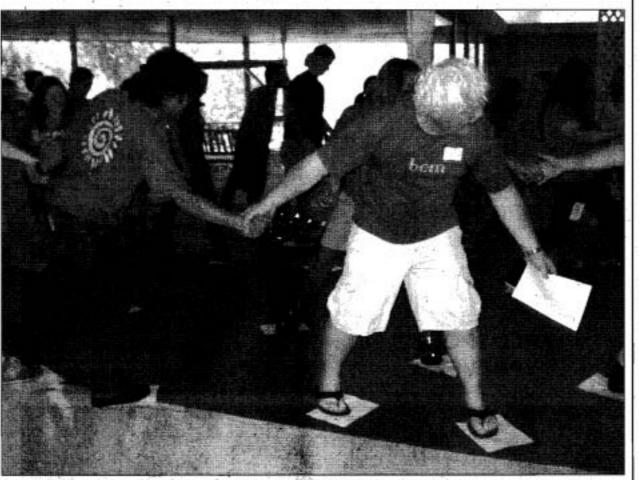
Joi M. Watts reported criminalmischief at the Pete Mathews Coliseum. She reported damage to the tires, hood and fender of her car. It occurred between the hours of 4:30 p.m. on August 23 and 1:00 p.m. on August 24.

Tuesday, August 28

David R. Ramsey was arrested for a DUI on Mountain Street at Pelham Road. Arrest occurred at 2:57 a.m.

Information in the campus crime column is obtained from incident and arrest reports at th JSU Police Department in Salls Hall. These records are public documents which

Survival of the fittest



Veteran BCM'ers Sachio Arai and Geoffrey Lockhart grasp hands for balance while playing Island Hop at Baptist Campus Ministry's Survival on Monday, Aug. 27. Survival is an annual BCM event that aims to acquaint freshmen and transfer students with both the BCM and JSU's campus. Approximately 40 new students attended this year's meet-and-greet. Photo by Bethany Harbison/ The Chanticleer

Vending, meal plan prices rise

By Bethany Harbison Copy Editor

The search for the elusive fifth quarter has begun. As students and faculty returned to the campus of Jacksonville State University, they were met with a price increase at the vending machines.

The price of a 20 oz. drink surged from \$1.00 to \$1.25, and the price of a 12 oz canned drink

were not going to agree to go over the prices of our local

d The recent increase is the first in four years y for JSU.

e "When we were forced to raise prices then, our sales figures were not impacted."



CAMPUS BRIEFS

 The Tom Roberson Gym at Stephenson Hall closed for floor replacement on Aug.
 21. If the work proceeds on schedule, the gym should reopen on Sept. 1. While the renovation continues, other areas of Stephenson Hall remain open.

 Jennifer Swafford is the new Assistant Director of Continuing Education. The announcement was made by Director Belinda Blackburn.
 Swafford is a graduate of Leadership Calhoun County and serves on the Chamber of Commerce Education Committee. Before coming to JSU, Swafford worked with the U.S. Trade and Development Agency in Washington, D.C.

 Biology student T.J. Hollingsworth was accepted to the Ph. D. program from vision sciences at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. Hollingsworth was a Biology major with a concentration in Cellular and Molecular Biology. Hollingsworth graduated from JSU in April 2007, and began his studies at UAB this semester.

 A new class under the minor in coaching program kicked off this semester. HPE 330, Seminar in Coaching Track and Field, meets on Tuesdays and Thursdays beginning Oct.
 Other courses offered as part of the Minor in Coaching program this fall include HPE 405 - Scientific Principles of Conditioning, and HPE 391
 Methods and Principles of Coaching.

· Gov. Bob Riley urges

bee records are public documents which ing individual has the right to examine rades Alatama state law II you believe his informaticle to be in error, please call 782-4704, or contact JSUPD at 782-5050

The Week in Events

August 30

Interfraternity Council Meeting at TMB, room 302, 2:30 - 3:30 pm

All Sports Pep Rally at Paul Snow Stadium, 8:00-10:00 pm

August 31

Gamecock Spirit Day, 8 am - 10 pm

NPHC General Council Meeting at Stephenson Hall, room 220, 3 - 4 pm *Members are required to bring student ID*

JSU Volleyball, Knoxville, Tenn. Appalachian State, 10:00 am. Belmont, 5:00 pm

JSU Soccer vs.Wright State, Dayton, Ohio. 6:30 pm. -

September 1

JSU Football at Alabama State, Montgomery, Ala. 7:00 pm.

JSU Volleybail vs. Indiana, Knoxville, Tenn. 12:00 pm.

JSU Cross Country, Jacksonville, Ala, 9:00 am.

September 2

JSU Soccer vs. Evansville, Davton, Ohio. 11:00 am.

September 3

Labor day holiday - JSU closed

Septémber 4

Movie Night: We Are Marshall, Paul Snow Stadium, 8:00 pm

Poster Sale on the Quad, 10:00 am - 5:00 pm "in case of rain, event moves to TMB lobby*

Delta Sigma Theta Mixer, Leone Cole Auditorium. 9 pm - 12 am

September 5

Poster Sale on the Quad, 10:00 am - 5:00 pm

Go X-treme with SGA, TMB lawn. 12:00 pm - 4:00 pm

to \$1.25, and the price of a 12 oz, canned drink rose from \$.65 to \$.75.

Inc

on Aug. 1.

Whitmore said. In addition to Whitmore of raising prices. Institutional Serves said Coca-Cola also that the Coca-Cola Corp. made a few approached him during more changes to the summer about its own JSU's vending. rising costs, and the price "This summer, Cocaincreases went into effect

Cola brought in new versions of our old "The price increase machines and added the mirrors the increases ability for students to use everywhere," Whitmore credit and debit cards." said. "If you go to a gas station and get a 20 oz. said Whitmore.

drink from the cooler, Vending is not the only area of campus to see the price is about \$1.29 a price spike over the plus tax. Ours is still summer. Campus' dining \$1.25 without tax. We



One student was so unpleased with the price hike that he put up this sign in protest. Photo by Toni Merriss/The Chanticleer

> also raised the prices of two meal plans, according to General Manager Scott Williams.

The 10-meal plan rose from \$805 to \$840, and the 14-meal plan from \$895 to \$935.

Williams said that the increase came about due to the rise in the cost of food, delivery and labor. As in vending, Williams

doubts that the price increase will hurt sales. Both said that the

cost of fuel was partly to blame.

"The increase is relative to the inflation we are all feeling anyway. That's what drives inflationincreases in the cost of fuel. Not just in vending, everything." but in Whitmore said.

Gov. Bob Riley urges Alabamians to wear their school colors to tomorrow. which he designated "College Colors Day." The governor said more than \$5 million is generated from royalties annually collected from the sale of merchandise bearing the colors and logos of Alabama colleges and universities. according to Atlanta-based Collegiate Licensing Co. That money is used directly for academic and athletic scholarships for students.

-From wire service

Banner: Working out the kinks

Cont. from 1A

things than the old system did." Students who do not check their

JSU e-mail accounts are also prone to more problems, according to Miller.

Important information such as financial aid documents and notifications from professors can be sent to a student's e-mail. Students who neglect their GEM account will often miss such important information that could lead to problems. In contrast to the Student Access

System, Banner calculates financial aid for the fall and spring semesters together. This has caused some confusion to students who think that it is still calculated for a single semester, according to Miller.

An issue with prerequisites has kept some JSU students from registering for the classes they need. "The biggest complaint I have heard from students has been with prerequisites," Communication Department Secretary Tammy Mize said.

"The Banner system will not allow a student to sign up for a course if they are currently enrolled in that class' prerequisite."

Several students are still adjusting to the switch to Banner. JSU iunior Adam Wheeler currently prefers the old method of registering, but is beginning to warm up to Banner.

"I prefer the old system," Wheeler said. "I can see the benefits of Banner, but I will not enjoy it as much as the old system until I can pay fees online."

The bugs that currently plague Banner will be solved and new features will be added as time progresses, according to Miller.



Want to see more? Have story ideas, questions or concerns? Come visit us on the Web at: www.thechanticleeronline.com

Campus radio station news director resigns

By Kevin Jeffers Managing Editor

The voice of NPR News in Jacksonville fell silent this week, as WLJS News Director and Morning Edition anchor Brandon Hollingsworth resigned.

"While I hated to leave, 20 months on the job is time enough

to get the hang of it, and now it's time to try my hand at something new," Hollingsworth said.

"I'm satisfied with the work I was able to complete at WLJS, and now I'm ready for something new."

Hollingsworth is not leaving reporting behind entirely, however.

On Monday, he began work as The Chanticleer's news editor.

Hollingsworth will also maintain his public radio presence, albeit ina different way.

He will continue to serve Alabama Public Radio's 35 Jacksonville bureau reporter. In that role, he will anchor APR's daily "Alabama Headlines" podcast, and file long-term feature stories for



of which Hollingsworth spoke to listeners directly. thanking them for their support.

the statewide network.

Friday, Aug. 24 marked

his final show, at the end

WLJS Program Director John Nickolson said. "While I hate losing someone as dedicated to the news as Brandon, I understand his desire for change."

And change is coming to the station. Gone are popular program Democracy Now and one hour of NPR's All Things Considered. The programming will be replaced with more music.

Nickolson said the new changes were not to have less news, rather to have more student-run programming.

Asked what he would miss most about anchoring Morning Edition. Hollingsworth said, "The daily rush."

"The spontaneous nature of broadcast news is exhilarating," he continued. "And even on the days when I had to report awful news, I still felt a sense of importance, of value to the community at large. It's hard to replace that."

Hollingsworth

New buildings still not ready

By Brandon Hollingsworth News Editor

Two new buildings on campus are nearing completion.

The Gladys M. Carlisle Applied Arts Building and the Chimney Peak Observatory will expand the variety of classes and activities offered to students of art, physics, meteorology and astronomy.

The Chimney Peak Observatory has been on the drawing boards for several years. When finished, the silver-domed structure will allow students, faculty and the public views of the heavens.

From its perch above Jacksonville, the observatory's 14-inch reflecting telescope should be above most haze and light pollution that would otherwise hamper celestial observations.

The facility is estimated to open to the public in spring 2008, said Dr. Laura Weinkauf, a professor in the Department of Physical and Earth Sciences.

While the observatory's primary function will be to serve JSU astronomy and physics classes, the most recent President's Quarterly Report to Trustees, issued on July 16, said the observatory will also be shared with local public schools.

The telescope's electronic eye will also serve the general public, as a Web site will carry live images from the mountaintop.

A possible addition to the observatory is an automated weather station. The package of weather instruments will provide realtime weather information for meteorologists, students, faculty and the public.

Funding for the weather station has not yet been secured, according to Dr. Jonathan Herbert of the Physical and Earth Sciences Department.

"The basic idea is that the station is needed to protect the telescope [from adverse weather conditions]," said Herbert.

Condensation on the lens can be a costly problem, and cloudy skies can block out observations, so knowing what kind of weather can be expected on any given night can prevent major problems.

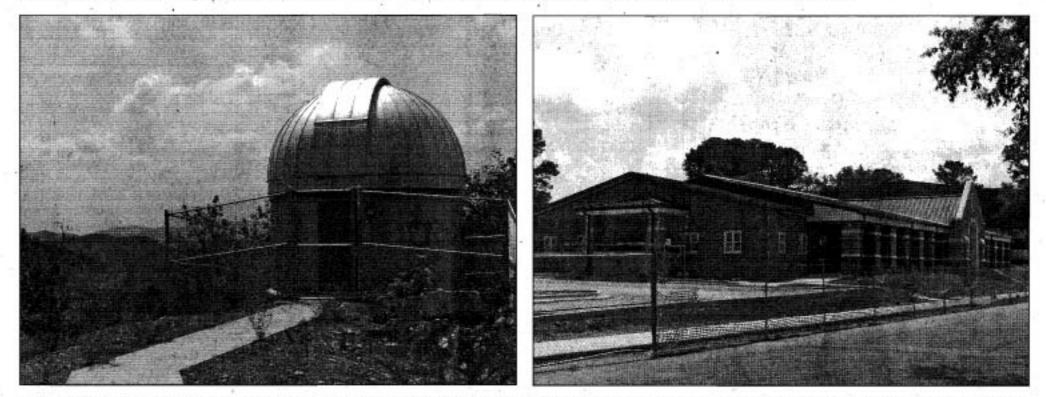
There are plans to archive the station's data to generate long-term climatic information for the Jacksonville area.

Art students will get all-new facilities when the Gladys M. Carlisle Applied Arts Building opens in September.

The \$2.1-million building, under construction since June 2006, will house classes for drawing, design, ceramics and photography, as well as faculty offices.

Hammond Hall, current home of the Art Department, will remain largely unchanged and will still serve as the department's headquarters. There are no immediate plans to replace the parking area over which the Carlisle building was built.

However, a source within the department said that a parking lot will be built in back of the building.



The Chimney Peak Observatory (left) and the Gladys M. Carlisle Applied Arts Building (right) are both still under construction. The Observatory is set to open to students, faculty and the general public in spring of 2008, while the art building should be ready to hold classes in September. Photos by Matthew McRae/The Chanticleer

COVER STORY: Plagiarism

Continued from 1A

column in question.

The Jacksonville News also now credits any others who contribute to the articles.

In other words, Meehan still has a ghostwriter.

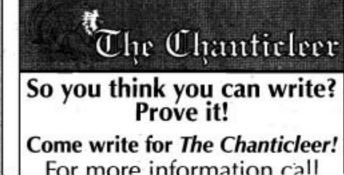
So the question arises, how much

lying on the shoulders of the ghostwriter in situations like these. In this case, Harris.

"You should hire the right person," Chandler said. "In this very realworld environment, ghostwriting is a very common practice. Mr Meehan did nothing that any CEO at any company doesn't do. To say that he

WHAT HAPPENED AND WHEN?

Aug. 6 - The Chanticleer received a then-anonymous letter claiming that William A. Meehan, President of Jacksonville State University, "committed plagiarism in his 'Town and Gown' column' of Wednesday, Aug. 1, 2007. The article in question had content almost identical to a column on the Web site Mercksource.



0

So the question arises, how much is Meehan to blame here? After all, it wasn't he who pulled the information of the Web and passed it off as his own.

Then again, it did get his approval before being printed. And it was his name - not Harris's - on the printed articles.

These are issues also being asked by students and members of the community. And by some teachers.

How much Meehan is actually at fault really depends on what one considers to be plagiarism.

If you ask around the school's instructors, you'll get varying responses.

Two opposing views

Among the most vocal of Meehan's detractors has been Rufus Kinney, Instructor of English at JSU.

In letters to several newspapers across the state, including the Aug. 22 edition of *The Anniston Star*, Kinney criticizes Meehan to the point of suggesting the president resign.

"At the university level, the president of the institution should be impeccable," Kinney said.

"How am I supposed to tell my students not to cheat when their own president did?"

Jerry Chandler, published author, journalist and professional educator in the Communications department, sees things differently.

"Perhaps Mr. Kinney is perfect," Chandler said. "Me? I just can't go to those Olympian heights."

Chandler sees the onus completely .

company doesn't do. To say that he should resign is uninformed at best." He also said Harris should have

been in a position to properly check the attribution of the articles.

"[Meehan] acted in a very responsible fashion," Chandler said.

Said Kinney: "That's ridiculous. The president was lazy in this case. He could get sued. I like the man, and I hope that doesn't happen."

How do we respond?

Getting close to classtime, the freshmen are apprehensive. They chose to come to JSU because of how comfortable their friends who go here said the campus is.

With all the newfound information, the supposed scandal that their new university was undergoing and negative things they were hearing, how could they not be a little anxious?

But on the first day of class, they say they won't let anything keep them from doing what they feel is right.

"So what if all this did happen? It won't keep me from slipping up if I was going to anyway," the first freshman said.

"And it won't keep me from doing what's right. No one's perfect."

That's just it, though. Meehan was seemingly perfect until this. And a mistake, whether his fault or not, was made.

The freshmen, and classes at JSU, will move on.

recommendations.

Also at the faculty meeting, Meehan announced the Alabama Legislature's approval of a \$49 million university budget for fiscal year 2008, a 14.78 percent increase over FY 2007.

question national content almost loentical to

a column on the Web site Mercksource.

com. The letter was later revealed to be

sent from Jeff Youngblood, a 1995 JSU

graduate.

Aug. 8 - The Birmingham News and

The Anniston Star both ran stories on

the situation, in which it was said that

Al Harris, retired director of JSU's news

bureau, served as Meehan's ghostwriter

for the weekly column, including the one

in question. Harris claimed that he sim-

ply forgot to properly attribute his sourc-

es before getting Meehan's approval. In

the Anniston Star story, Meehan said, "It

was our fault, and we want to admit that

right up front."

Aug. 9 - Meehan appointed the Integ-

rity in Communications Committee to

conduct an extensive review of the JSU

News Bureau.

Aug. 10 - In a letter to The Anniston

Star, Harris explained that his lack of

proper attribution was due to his be-

ing impaired from the amount of pain

medications he was on at the time.

He expressed his regret and took full

responsibility for the article.

Aug. 24 - The Integrity in Communica-

tions Committee submitted its final report

to Meehan, in which recommendations

were made to the president in regards to

"During the last two years, the Legislature and the governor have increased JSU's appropriation by an average of 18.74 percent," Meehan staid.

"With double-digit increases . . . it does not justify passing all our expenses for teacher retirement in health care on to the students as tuition increases."

Meehan's annual address also contained notes on the record number of students meeting admissions requirements for the fall semester, greetings to JSU's newest faculty members - who Meehan estimates make up ten percent of total faculty this year - and an outline of what he termed the university's numberone goal: "Educating students to be productive, responsible citizens in a rapidly changing global environment."

The complete text of President Meehan's address to the faculty, as well as the Integrity in Communications Committee's final report, are available at www.jsu.edu/news. For more information call 782-5701 or stop by Self Hall Room 180 Staff meetings are held every Tuesday night at 7:30 p.m.





Faculty meeting

Continued from 1A

News earlier this month.

On Aug. 9, Mechan formed an ad-hoc committee, called the Integrity in Communications Committee, to investigate the veracity of the claims and review past columns for further evidence of un-cited passages.

The committee reported its findings on Aug. 24, including a total of three instances of plagiarism. The five-member panel also made six recommendations to Meehan and the board of trustees, one of which advises more stringent review of material to be published under the university's aegis.

Other recommendations include adoption of a code of ethics that would set up clear guidelines for the news bureau, and responsibility for the news bureau on the vice-presidential level.

Meehan said the committee operated under "absolute autonomy and transparency," and promised measures to ensure implementation and compliance with the panel's

d classes at JSU, ethics and integrity in the news bureau. Meehan dissolved the committee. Page 4A Volume 56, Issue 1

The Chanticleer

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Mike Stedham Faculty Advisor mstedham@jsu.edu, 782-5713

OUR VOICE Notice anything new?

irst of all, we would like to welcome everyone back to school. This year promises to be an exciting one for us all.

Here at The Chanticleer, we have big plans and are looking forward to sharing what we have been working on with you, our readers. We have an almost completely new staff, all of whom are ready to get to work and make changesthat we hope you will both notice and appreciate.

Second, we would like to introduce the editors who have worked so hard to bring you such an excellent first issue.

This year, Patrick Swafford, who many of you remember from our sports information department, has put in extra hours to try and make sure that no snap shall be fumbled, no tackle unfinished, no story unwritten and no game uncovered. To some he is referred to as "little Superman." But to us, he is our super busy sports editor.

The lucky lady to look over and correct our every punctuation and spelling error - and also help out with layout - is Copy Editor Bethany Harbison. Though she can be a little quiet until she gets to know you, her writing and reporting will both dazzle and impress even the most reluctant of readers.

Making his editor debut, Brandon Hollingsworth, recently of WLJS radio, joins us as the news editor. An avid collector of clocks and maps, he has a deep interest in news and the world around us. As a child he loved the word game Name That Senator, which he always won.

Returning to us this fall is Ad Director Jaclyn Cosper. She has worked really hard to obtain advertisers, trying to ensure that this year's paper is bigger and better than ever.

The master of our Web site - and the reason it has been under some much needed construction all summer - is our amazing Wah Editor Chris Pittman He has diligently worked on EDITORIAL



The Meehan I know

Very rarely do you meet a person who everyone likes, and with whom everyone agrees. Even more rarely do you meet someone who is perfect. Though, that is what many people have expected from JSU President Dr. Bill Meehan.

have

L

personally chantyeditor@gmail.com known Dr. Meehan for

over eight years and he has always been someone I have looked up to. Not because I believe him to be perfect, but because I respect him as a friend, a mentor and as the leader of our university.

Even in light of the ongoing plagiarism fiasco, I have no doubt that Dr. Meehan is the best nercon for the job. I believe



Toni Merriss

issues of what to tell students who would like to do the same but not be disciplined. My answer for them? Get to be president of Jacksonville State University and then we can talk about it. Ghostwriting is something

unsure of how this should

be handled and yes, there are

that has been around for a very long time, and seriously, does

anyone really believe that a busy person, such as Dr. Meehan has nothing better to do than sit in his office and think up weekly column topics or maybe fact-checking everything that crosses his desk?

As I expressed before, Dr. Mechan is someone that I have always looked up to, and his actions in this matter only make me recrect him more

The Chanticleer

No laughing matter

I had it all planned out. This first opinion piece going was to be be a doozy.

It was a running joke friends my and I had.

ít.



See. our president used to make awfully

Kevin Jeffers chantynews@gmail.com

hard for us to editorialize on any transgressions, scandals or missteps.

Because there really weren't any.

That didn't make for great copy. Or great editorials.

But, it did make for a squeaky-clean president. There were no holes in his facade, no "needs improvement" on his progress reports.

People love the man, and rightly so. He has been a beacon of consistency, a moral highground for us all to strive toward. He's genuine, bright, goodlooking for an older man (I hear) and an overly good, nice man.

It was going to be a funny little editorial I was going to write. I was going to call for the president to do something that would pump a little juice into this paper.

You know, something with an intern, maybe arson or something.

We laughed about it, anyway. The idea that such a seemingly flawless man would do something for the sake of our editorial page was absurd.

Now, I can't write that piece.

And I wish I could.

This whole scandal, situation, ordeal, whatever you want to call it, kind of took care of that lame little op-ed I was going to write. It wouldn't be too appropriate to ask the president to blow up a building or become involved in some kind of larceny scandal just for our sake.

Not now that there is actually something shadowing the man.

It's almost surreal.

lust to get it out of the way. I'm not

some much needed construction all summer - is our amazing Web Editor Chris Pittman. He has diligently worked on making your Web experience a pleasant and informative one. You can check out his progress at www.thechanticleeronline. com and let us know what you think.

The man behind the camera, literally, is none other than Photo Editor Matt McRae, who some of you may recognize from our local Wal-Mart photo lab. Now, not only is he taking the pictures, but he also gets to develop them himself.

Though we would all love to take credit for the majority of changes that the newspaper has undergone in the last few months, we can't. The creative mind behind much of the design, layout and content of *The Chanticleer* is our managing editor, Kevin Jeffers. He has put in more time and effort than any single person on the staff and we greatly appreciate everything he has done.

That brings us to the last in line, our 2007-2008 editor in chief, Toni Merriss, who has the privilege of overseeing this crazy bunch of writers who want nothing more than for you to enjoy what we have worked so hard on.

As a whole, we always welcome any questions and/or comments and look forward to hearing from you.

Thank you for reading The Chanticleer, and we hope you like what you see.

Every dog has his day

There isn't a single member of our staff who has a positive word to say about Michael Vick. Not even the couple of Atlanta Falcons fans in the bunch. Not even the couple who don't count themselves necessarily as animal lovers.

But, when you kill any innocent being, man or beast, for the sake of sport, you deserve to go to jail. And for much longer than the reported 18-or so months he's probably going to get.

Because he finally confessed to the seemingly unreal charges, he will get less jailtime than he really deserves. Something about that is unsettling. fiasco, I have no doubt that Dr. Meehan is the best person for the job. I believe he had no prior knowledge of what was being done. Upon being presented with the evidence, Dr. Meehan took responsibility and admitted he was wrong in his actions of not checking the source of what had been ghostwritten for him. To me, addmitting wrongdoing is something a strong leader should do.

Some members of the faculty are

to, and his actions in this matter only make me respect him more.

Many have focused so much on this one incident that it seems they have forgotten all the great things he has done for this university.

Thank you, Dr. Meehan, for showing us not only is it okay to be wrong but admitting when you are wrong is probably the best medicine for a bad situation. It's almost surreal.

Just to get it out of the way, I'm not in the minority who thinks he should resign, I am in the majority who have met and genuinely like him. He is a good man.

Don't worry, I will write something funny before the school year ends, and you will laugh. I'm a funny guy.

Here's to hoping we stay relatively scandal-free.

Thirty, and still in college

By Webb Dillard Contributing Writer

This goes out to all the students in the thirty-and-over crowd enrolled here at JSU.

If you have a mortgage, this one is for you.

If you have children who are supposed to be in bed so you can study, this is also for you.

If you can remember *Miami Vice*, *The Fall Guy*, Ronald Reagan (in office) and Styrofoam packaging at McDonalds, then this article is definitely for you.

I started here at JSU when I was 28. In the five years since, I have changed my major once, took off an entire year and become a father. I have worked part-time jobs at Lowe's and at a construction company. I am very ready for my so-called college life to end.

If any of you are like me, you spent the first ten years out of high school attending the University of Hard Knocks. There is no degree, no grade and absolutely no mercy. All you get for your time are the hard lessons learned about life. I wonder how many of our 18-20 year old classmates could have traveled down our paths.

I think everyone should experience the real world before going off to school. I am not aware of the actual percentage, but I can't help but wonder how many kids go off to college and waste their chance at an education by flunking out. I think if a young person got to spend some time up on a roof laying shingles in 100-plus temperatures they would appreciate an

opportunity before wasting it.

How many of you are married and going to school?

Marriage can be hard enough with both people working fulltime jobs. Just imagine the stress and strain on a spouse who is pulling almost all the financial weight.

My wife, herself a JSU alum, has supported me wonderfully since I have been in school. That's not to say that there haven't been a few bumps here and there, because there have been. It's the big picture that she sees -me succeeding in college. (Make sure you express your gratitude to your spouse if you are in the same situation as I am. They deserve it.)

How many of you are parents as well?

For me, becoming a parent was the hardest adjustment since beginning school. The amount – or lack thereof - of sleep that I am able to function on would astonish you. If my wife is working nights, I have to wait until the baby is asleep to do anything. Studying, reading, writing a paper - you name it. It waits. Diapers and bottles come first.

I do wish that I could be more involved on campus. It's awfully hard with all that I have at home to keep up with to stay around campus for anything. I would love to be in clubs, attend drama productions, work at the radio or TV station, but it's nearly impossible.

To all my fellow thirty-somethings, I say congratulations on being here. I know what it feels like to be in your shoes. Tired, stressed out and busy.

We may not have taken the most traditional paths to school, but we did take it.

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 180, Self Hall, or to the mailing address to the left. Letters may also be e-mailed to chantyeditor@gmail.com.

The Chanticleer will not print letters which are libelous or defamatory. Letters may be edited 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. Rebuttals will be published no later than two weeks after publication of the article, editorial or letter in question.

The Chanticleer

Student newspaper of JSU since 1934

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Single copies are free from newsstands. Unauthorized removal of multiple copies will be considered theft and prosecuted as such.

The Chanticleer

ENTERTAINMENT

Music Corner

WLJS Top Ten Records of the Week

John Vanderslice - Emerald City
 Interpol - Our Love to Admire
 Yeah Yeah Yeahs - Is Is EP

 Yeah Yeah Yeahs - Is Is EP
 1990s - Cookies
 Turbo Fruits - Turbo Fruits
 Fog - Ditherer
 St. Vincent - Marry Me

 Bishop Allen - The Broken String

 Liars - Liars
 Spoon - Ga Ga Ga Ga Ga

ALBUM OF THE WEEK

Jennifer Gentle The Midnight Room

Jennifer Gentle's second release for Sub Pop, The Midnight Room, comes at a time when America needs Italian avant-pop the most. Light up some incense and serve the gelato, Jennifer Gentle delivers the goods.

Marco Fasolo, founder and sole creator on The Midnight

Room, holed himself up in an old, creaky house - immersed with fog, no doubt - in Northern Italy to record this album.

He went in with a paisley shirt, wavy hair, and a trebby electric guitar. He left with a modern psychodelic masterpiece and probably dementia.

At first listen, there is no denying the influence of the isolated surrounding that Fasolo recorded in. The album opens with "Twin Ghosts," a track that weaves in and out of dark corners daring the listener to continue on.

The next nine tracks are equivalent to being at a perverted carnival. Tinkles of bells and like-minded percussion mingle with slightly off-tune guitars, and greasy organ jabs lead one to marching with Fasolo's frenzied band of outsiders.

Then there is Fasolo's voice itself. One is unsure whether Fasolo is a pre-pubescent waif or a septuagenarian woman.

Its effect is disorienting, but goes well with the music provided. The galloping romp of "Take My Hand," and the whimsical sweetness of "Electric Princess" are particular delights. These songs cull to mind the late Syd Barrett, psych-pop prince and all-around madman.

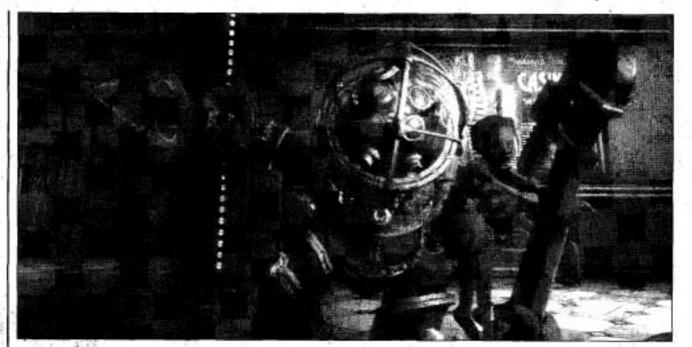
Those looking for a slightly more experimental early-Pink Floyd album would do no better than picking this one up.

-Matthew L. Reese

ALSO IN ROTATION

Tegan and Sara The Con

Tegan and Sara Quin were born September 19, 1980 as identical twins in Canada. The Con was released July 24th of this year as their fifth and newest album. Prior to The Con, their 2004 album, So Jealous, received good reviews and was even on Rolling Stone's list of the 50 Best Albums for 2004. Their newest album is raw, emotional and fun.



Big Daddles provide the most intense battles in Bioshock. Media File Photo

So good it's shocking: Bioshock

By Chris Pittman Web Editor

Bioshock is a game that we rarely see, in modern times. It is a special experience that few games in the past decade can compete with. The game boasts a story so well done you will swear you are reading a novel. The flow of this masterpiece is fantastic and will keep you on the edge of your seat the whole way through.

The game begins with a plane crash that sends our protagonist into the ocean. There is only one place to go to survive, and that is the beautiful underwater city of Rapture. Thus begins your journey to escape and put an end to the evil ways of the cities creator Andrew Ryan. *Bioshock* has a story that has many twists and turns, and therefore I do not wish to say anything beyond this. You simply must experience it for yourself.

Bioshock is a shooter at heart, but it's almost unfair to classify it as such. You will have plenty of weapons at your disposal, including the standard shotguns, machine guns and grenade launchers you come to expect these days. Weapon upgrade stations can be found at different parts of the game which will allow you to upgrade different aspects of each weapon. Every gun has three different types of ammo that you can collect or make. Another collectible and helpful item is tonics. There are over 50 different tonics in the game, and each one will give the player an advantage in a certain aspect. Combat tonics will strengthen certain weapons such as adding damage and wielding speed to the wrench. Physical tonics can add benefits such as making it easier to evade the security cameras that can be found all over the city. Engineering tonics will help improve your hacking skill in many ways.

Hacking is a very useful tool in eliminating the many turret guns and security bots you will encounter, as well as vending and U-invent machines. When you choose to hack a machine, a menu pops up with many uncovered blocks, Under each block is a piece of pipe that must be used to create a stream of current from a starting point to an ending point with no interruption. The hacking mini-game is quite fun, but can get quite old once you have done it a hundred times.

Splicers are the enemy that you will encounter most during the game. These genetically altered humans have gone crazy and will do anything to make your stay in Rapture a short one. There are several variations of splicers and each provides a scary look into just how crazy life is in Ryan's city.

In each level there are Little Sisters

Xbox 360 games available. Rapture has been created with extreme detail, and really adds to the overall experience. Each level has been crafted differently, giving it a style of its own that keeps the game fresh and exciting from start to finish. The detail on the Big Daddy characters is especially jaw dropping.

The sound in Bioshock is probably it's biggest strength. The sounds of Rapture help set the dark mood that will put chills down your spine while playing. Audio diaries can be collected in each level that help paint the picture of what the city was like in the past. These diaries help the already amazing story flow even better.

There are a few problems with the game, but nothing major. The difficulty is a little on the easy side, even on the hard difficulty setting. Ammo, health packs and money are common in every level. Death results in a respawn at the closest Vita-Chamber. The problem with these is that current ammo and enemy health bars remain the same as when you died, so no penalty is given for dying. It would have been better for the game's difficultly if it was on the standard checkpoint system.

The game will take around 18 hours to complete the first time through depending on how much exploring you do. It is definitely a title that you will



mat of the 10 best remains for 2004. Their newest around is faw emotional and fun.

The album's first two singles, "The Con" and "Back in your Head," are relatively catchy and mostly consist of mellowing vocals and just enough drums, bass and a hint of piano to make them each memorable.

Their lyrics are simplistic and for the most part understandable, and even a bit repetitive, which makes them easy to sing along to, and maybe even a tad annoying to some listeners. The tracks blend together seamlessly to form a type of book.

In the wake of their previous critical success, their music has been featured on many TV shows such as Grey's Anatomy, One Tree Hill and Veronica Mars, so chances are you've already heard them at some point while flipping channels or locking into your favorite drama.



If you haven't caught wind of the talented, vocally in-sync and lyrically connected duo, it is suggested you go buy their album.

-Julie Skinner

M.I.A. Kala

Mathangi "Maya" Arulpragasin, better known as M.I.A., was born in Hounslow, London. Her father was a founding member of The Eelam Revolutionary Organization of Students, a militant Tamil group. Because of her father's strong political involvement and views, it kept her and her fathily on the run and forced them to live poorly during the Sri Lanka civil war. It wasn't until M.I.A was around the age of eleven did she learn English, and was exposed to Western radio for the first time.

Kalq the title of M.I.A's second and newest album, was recorded the new album while traveling through India, Trinidad, Jamaica, Australia and Japan. M.I.A also produced her own album in conjunction with the likes of Switch and Timbaland.

While M.I.A's music is interesting and funky, combining tribal beats and a hip-hop style, her lyrics have also led to much controversy. Reportedly, MTV refused to play one of her songs, "Sunshower" off of her first album, *Arular*, until a reference to the Palestine Liberation Organization was removed. Rumors have also stated that M.I.A was turned down a visa to the United States around April or May of 2006 for specific reasons unknown.

The new single "Boyz" is a catchy, make-you-dance, sing-along. Tribal drums and other unique sounds throughout the album definitely



intrigue the listener, but her music is definitely an acquired taste. If nothing else, check out the fascinating story behind this interesting musician.

-Julie Skinner

Black Audio CexCells

Black Audio surfaces with a bang with their debut album "CexCells."

The group is an electronica side project of AFI's Davey Havok and Jade Puget. With the success of A.F. L, this was a bold move for the duo. Reports have said that work actually began in 2001 while AFI was still touring.

The album opens up with the driving rhythm of their first single, "Stiff Kittens." One can hear some resemblance to works by Pet Shop Boys, The Cure and Nine Inch Najls.

The album's strengths are the more upbeat, electronic songs. Highlights also include "Snuff on Digital," "On a Friday" and "Again, Again and Again." The weaknesses of the album include the slow and much mellower songs like "The Love Letter."



If nothing else, this album should inspire feelings of being in a dance club. different types of ammo that you can collect or make.

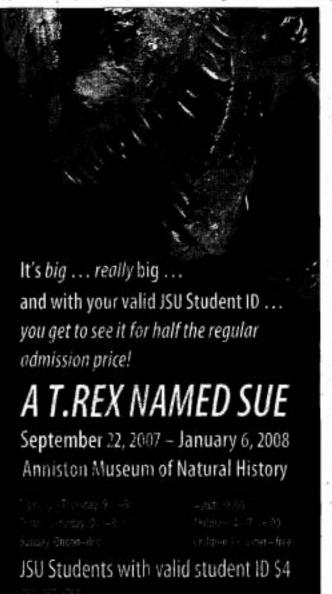
Plasmids are the key dombat addition that set Bioshock apart from the standard FPS. These genetic altering power-ups allow you to engulf foes in a blaze, electrocute baddies standing in a pool of water and even freeze an enemy for some wrench-shattering fun. Plasmids provide an alternate way to tackle enemies which is a breath of fresh air for a game of this nature. The list of plasmids increase as you progress through the game, and upgrades for old plasmids will also become available to the player on certain levels. Using a plasmid in the right way will give you the edge needed to escape Rapture in one piece.

me is m Ryan's city.

In each level there are Little Sisters running about extracting ADAM from the corpses of the fallen. These tiny tots are exactly as the name implies, except they are evil. Each Little Sister is guarded by a Big Daddy, a huge metal beast with a drill for an arm. You will be forced to do battle with these Big Daddies in order to save or kill the Little Sister. These battles can be fierce. Later in the game, the Big Daddy battles become easier, but can still pose a challenge at any level. When the Big Daddy is fallen you are given the choice to either harvest the Little Sister for her ADAM or let her free.

Bioshock is an absolute gorgeous game, and is definitely one of the prettiest do. It is definitely a title that you will want to play through more than once, as there are many ways to tackle each of the games levels.

Bioshock is a game that simply cannot be recommended enough. Everything about the game screams quality, and you can tell that the development time was used to create one of the most amazing experiences on Xbox 360 to date. Irrational Games (now 2k Boston) has done a great job of blurring the line between technology and art. Bioshock is a wonderful achievement in gaming that must be experienced.





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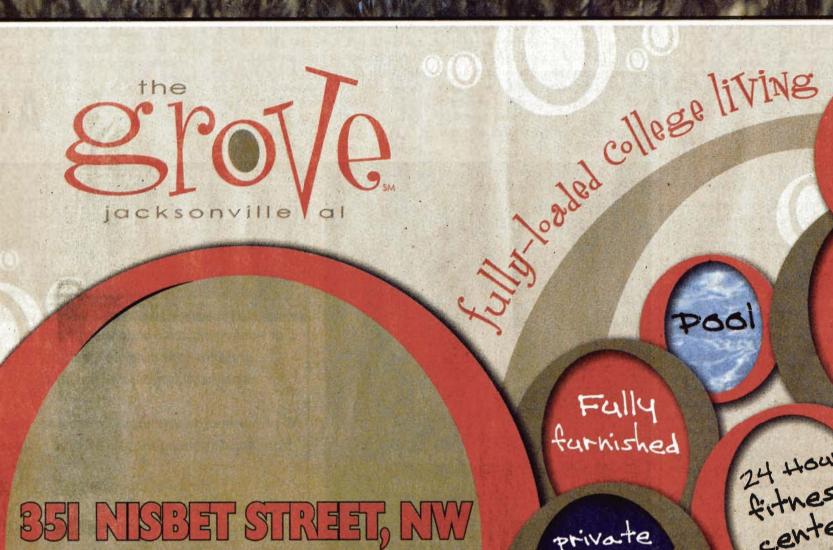
-Matt McRae

The Chanticleer

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WR/QB

PLAY/MAKER

You already know Taurean Rhetta (center) as the Gamecocks' best wideout. But this season, the playmaker will also be the third string quarterback behind starter Matt Hardin (right) and newcomer Cedric Johnson (left). Rhetta will be the key to JSU's new look offense. Read more on 3B.

COUNTDOWN INSIDE...



VOLLEYBALL

After Two OVC titles in a row, the volleyball team is not about to rest yet. Lead by four seniors, the Gamecocks look to again run the conference table. 2B



SOCCER

The starting goalie job for the JSU soccer team will be up for grabs in 2007. But the Gamecocks are determined, whoever their leader will be. 4B



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The Chanticleer

VOLLEYBALL

By Patrick Swafford Sports Editor

Ringo Starr once sang that he got by with a little help from his friends.

Maybe that could be an unspoken motto for Jacksonville State's volleyball team.

Few athletic programs at JSU have the recent history that this team carries.

In the past two seasons, the volleyball team has won two Ohio Valley Conference tournament titles, made two straight NCAA tournament appearances and posted a perfect 16-0 record in conference play in 2006 en route to the regular season conference title.

And the tremendous success can largely be attributed to four seniors: Abbey Breit, Abbey Vierling, Joi Watts and Rebekah Nichols. These four stand on the threshold of something that has never been achieved in the program.

Should the Gamecocks win the 2007 OVC title, there will be no argument that this senior class is the most successful in the program's history.

"I think a lot of it has to do with our attitude," Vierling said. "It's more than just ability and skill and who the best team is. [JSU coach Rick Nold] has been good, especially with our class, about teaching us that attitude is important and your level of competitiveness. I think that's what has given us success in the past."

The four seniors, along with the previous The volleyball team will rely heavily on its four most experienced - and winningest - players, Rebekah Nichols, Abbey Breit, Joi two senior classes, have done a great deal to build the volleyball program up to one of the OVC's elite.

"Since we've gotten things really going, they've been a big part of it," Nold said. "Not just them, but the classes before and developing an attitude you want to see every day. They've done a great job during the preseason in taking that attitude and passing it along to the newer players. They're all great players, but I think attitude is what's gotten them the farthest."

The volleyball team takes a full throttle approach to their offense. They attack every play and rarely slow down. However, that may not be their greatest strength. It's their team chemistry that makes them unique.

"A lot of our time in preseason is used to get used to each other," Breit said. "We have seven new players. We eat every meal together. We go through [injury] treatment together. Sometimes in the evenings we hang out."

They've been seen walking into JSU basketball games as a group. Not just a few at a time, but every member at the same time.

Watts and Abbey Vierling (from left to right). Photo: Kira Wright/The Chanticleer "That's one of the reasons it was so easy for me to come The team chemistry that has helped these four women lead

back," Joi Watts said of her decision to return for her fifth year. "These three, and of course Brittney Whitten and Lia Bogatyreva. Everything we do, we're probably together. Even on our off days. Even when we come off road trips, on Saturday nights we're together. It's easier when your teammates are your friends.

It's hard to think that if I didn't play volleyball that I wouldn't know these people."



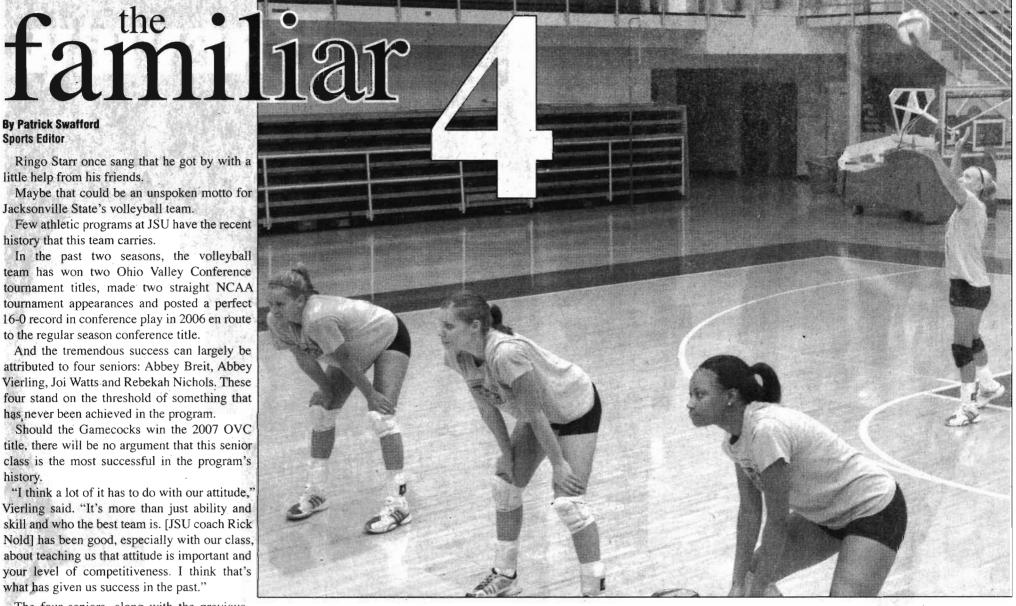
JSU to back-to-back NCAA tournament appearances has also helped them earn individual accolades as well.

The list of their on-court accomplishments reads a mile long. Watts was named to last year's OVC All-Tournament team. Nichols earned second team preseason All-OVC this year. All four of them have earned OVC academic honors. Then there's the short novel of Breit's accomplishments, highlighted by consecutive OVC Offensive Player of the Year awards in 2005 and 2006, and the 2006 OVC Female Athlete of the Year.

The success of this team has certainly made them the focus of the other ten OVC squads this season. In going a perfect 16-0 in the regular season, they swept 15 of those games and lost only one game in the final game of the season.

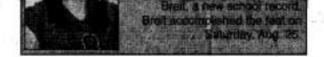
With all the success this program has had, what can this group of seniors do for an encore?

"Hopefully win another one," Breit said. "That's always the goal. We're always pushing ourselves to improve. That's a



group. Not just a few at a time, but every member at the same time.

Teams talk about how much their group is like a family. The JSU volleyball team doesn't talk about it, they show it.



"Hopefully win another one," Breit said. "That's always the

goal. We're always pushing ourselves to improve. That's a part of building the program. It's just trying to improve and become better."

2007 JSU VOLLEYBALL SCHEDULE

8/24/2007 vs Arkansas State / Oxford, Miss. W 3-0 8/25/2007 vs Missouri / Magnolia Invitational / Oxford, Miss. L 2-3 8/25/2007 Ole Miss / Magnolia Invitational / Oxford, Miss. L 0-3 8/31/2007 vs Appalachian State / Comcast Lady Vol Classic / Knoxville, Tenn. 8/31/2007 vs Belmont / Comcast Lady Vol Classic / Knoxville, Tenn. 9/1/2007 vs Indiana / Comcast Lady Vol Classic / Knoxville, Tenn 9/9/2007 vs ALBANY / JACKSONVILLE 9/14/2007 at *Tennessee Martin / Martin, Tenn, 9/15/2007 at "Murray State / Murray, Ky. 9/19/2007 vs *SAMFORD / JACKSONVILLE 9/22/2007 vs * AUSTIN PEAY / JACKSONVILLE 9/28/2007 vs *TENNESSEE TECH / **JACKSONVILLE** 9/29/2007 vs "TENNESSEE STATE / JACKSONVILLE 10/5/2007 at "Eastern Kentucky / Richmond, Ky, 10/6/2007 at "Morehead State / Morehead, Ky. 10/9/2007 at "Austin Pedy / Clarksville, Tenn, 10/12/2007 vs "EASTERN ILLINOIS / JACKSONVILLE 10/13/2007 vs 'SOUTHEAST MISSOURI / JACKSONVILLE 10/19/2007 vs *MURRAY STATE / JACKSON-VILLE 10/20/2007 VE TENNESSEE MARTIN / JACKSONVILLE 10/23/2007 at "Samford / Birmingham, Ala. 10/26/2007 at "Tennessee State / Nashville, Tenn. 10/27/2007 at "Teanessee Tech / Cookeville, Tenn. 11/2/2007 at "Southeast Missouri / Cape Girardeau, Mo. 11/3/2007 at 'Eastern Illinois / Chadeston, III. 11/9/2007 vs *MOREHEAD STATE / JACKSONVILLE 11/10/2007 vs *EASTERN KENTUCKY JACKSONVILLE 11/15/2007 vs TBA / OVC Tournament / TBA indicates an OVC game

A COUPLE OF POINTS:

 The Gamecock volleyball team is ranked first in the preseason OVC poll, receiving 18 of a possible 22 first-place votes. Murray State is second, followed by Eastern Kentucky.

 Abbey Breit and Brittney Whitten were both named to the First Team Preseason All-OVC. Rebekah Nichols received Second Team honors.

2007 season preview: Looking for the 3-peat

By Jared Gravette Staff Sports Writer

When the Jax State volleyball team takes the court for the first time in 2007, the expectations will be at an all-time high.

The Gamecocks are coming off of the most successful season in school history, running the table (16-0) in the OVC. Even more impressive than their conference record is the fact that the team only dropped one game during regular season play.

With JSU entering the 2007 season having won the last two conference tournaments, the Gamecocks will definitely be looking over their shoulders.

"I think we've got a target on our back," senior and reigning OVC Female Athlete of the Year Abby Breit said.

JSU has a number of key players coming back to make a run at a third straight OVC title.

Arguably the best of the bunch, Breit returns for her senior year after earning OVC Player of the Year and Honorable Mention All-America honors in both her sophomore and junior seasons. Breit averaged 5.5 kills a game last year.



Senior Rebekah Nichols gets ready for the serve. File photo

Rebekah Nichols, Joi Watts and Abbey Vierling join Breit in the most successful senior class in school history.

Watts, an offensive hitter and fifthyear senior, ended last season on fire. She finished the season with 178 kills and a .240 attack percentage.

Nichols, an Oxford, Ala. native, enters 2007 as a Second Team Preseason All-OVC selection. She continued her improvement last year with a career-best 284 kills.

Vierling, a defensive specialist, will finally be given the opportunity to start at libero after the departure of Jessica Starck. As a junior, Vierling totaled 235 digs with an average of 2.45 per game.

Also returning to the JSU lineup is OVC Freshman of the Year and Second Team All-OVC selection Brittney Whitten. Whitten is one of the most explosive hitters on the roster. She finished second on the team in kills, totaling 312 for an average of 3.18 per game last year.

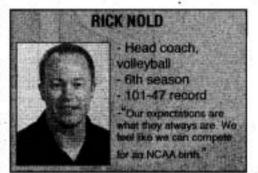
"As far as expectations go, we would love to go undefeated and win conference again, but we really want to play at our highest level as consistently and as many times as we can," Whitten said.

If JSU is to repeat, a lot of the load will be placed on a group of six freshmen. The Gamecocks have a number of holes to fill after the departure of several key seniors from last years' squad.

The biggest loss comes at the setter position where the Gamecocks lost the school's all-time assists leader Emily Withers.

Withers earned First Team All-OVC honors last year, averaging 13.81 assists per game. She finished her career with 4,340 assists and is the only player in school history to record 2,000 assists and 1,000 digs in a career.

To complicate matters even more, Withers' scheduled replacement, sophomore Melanie Pund, transferred at the end of last season. The pressure of replacing Withers at the setter position will sit squarely on the shoulders of freshman Brooke Schumacher, according to head coach Rick Nold.



"That is going to be a really important position for her. She will definitely make a big impact for us," Nold said.

Schumacher, an Illinois native, credits the chemistry of this team as something that has eased the pressure of starting.

"I'm comfortable because I feel like we are a together team. Everyone is encouraging no matter what. So, I'm not really worried that I'm going to let anyone down," Schumacher said.

Schumacher may not be the only freshman earning a starting role this season.

"So far the way it's looked in the preseason, Caitlin Vorbeck has come in and really shown some versatility to play for us," Nold said. - "Right now, they're probably both going to be in a starting role.

Despite the loss of Withers, Starck, Pund and Sheri Weyer from last years' team, the chemistry that has made the last two seasons so special is still there.

The girls are more than just teammates. They consider each other to be more like family.

For the veterans, one way to bring the seven new freshmen into the team atmosphere is to spend the majority of time together off the court.

The Gamecocks opened the 2007 season with a 3-0 victory over Arkansas State on Aug. 24 in the Magnolia Invitational in Oxford, Mississippi. On Aug. 25, JSU lost its games against Missouri and Ole Miss to begin the season 1-2.

On Aug. 31, JSU will take on Appalachian State and Belmont in the Comcast Lady Vol Classic in Knoxville, TN.

FOOTBALL

fold attack **By Patrick Swafford Sports Editor**

the 2 gunmen

The Gamecocks have the most depth they've had in a long time under center with the return of Matt Hardin as the opening day starter, coupled with the arrival of highly touted JuCo transfer Cedric Johnson.

Johnson, the Junior College All-American from Copiah-Lincoln (Miss.), made an early impression with the JSU faithful this spring, throwing over 300 yards in the spring game, immediately starting an apparent quarterback controversy.

Coach Crowe squelched that idea before the Gamecocks began their first fall practice, with his statement that Hardin was the team's starter.

Much like Crowe did two years ago when Hardin was the backup to Maurice Mullins. Johnson will see action on the third series of each game.

The differences in Hardin's and Johnson's styles aren't that staggering. Johnson has the edge in the speed department, but don't let Hardin fool you. He has the ability to make plays with his legs as well as his arm.

While Johnson is the more athletic of the two, Hardin has the edge in experience. Johnson had a stellar career during his junior college days, but this is Hardin's fourth year at Jacksonville State and in Football Championship Subdivision (formerly known as Division 1-AA) level.

the weapon

It was NFL Hall of Famer Michael Irvin who brought us the term "playmaker."

If the Gamecock football team has it their way, their own playmaker, receiver Taurean Rhetta, will spark a new-look offense.

"Taurean's our third quarterback and at some point this season, he's going to line up at quarterback," JSU coach Jack Crowe said. "It's like when Alabama had David Palmer. The best way to get him the ball is to have him take the snap."

Rhetta, a senior from Birmingham, enters the 2007

Above: Taurean Rhetta Right (from top to bottom):

All photos by Kira Wright/The Chanticleer, Illustration by

Cedric Johnson and Matt Hardin

keep everybody guessing."

primary the best receiving

corps he has

role

"We've got a few things in the playbook,"Rhetta said. "We're not going to break out anything too spectacular, but we're going to

> Rhetta's will still be as the number one receiver. Crowe says this will be

Cedric Johnson and Matt Hardin All photos by Kira Wright/The Chanticleer, Illustration by Kevin Jeffers/The Chanticleer

Rhetta, a senior from Birmingham, enters the 2007 season as the top receiver on JSU's depth chart and as the third

option at quarterback behind incumbent starter Matt Hardin and JuCo transfer Cedric Johnson. At some point this season, we will see the playmaking wide receiver line up under center. "Really, I'm just the emergency quarterback in case someone goes down," Rhetta humbly said.

"I've been practicing those plays to get me comfortable with them just in case.

"But, they might slip me in here and there just to shake things up."

Rhetta caught 30 passes for 568 yards in a primarily run-based offense last year and has over 1,200 yards receiving with 10 touchdowns in his collegiate career.

While he's been one of JSU's best receivers over the past four years, Rhetta is no stranger to the quarterback role.

In his high school career, Rhetta threw for 1,851 yards and 17 touchdowns in his senior year as signal-caller for Parker High in Birmingham. He threw for more than 3,000 yards total in high school.

When Rhetta sees action under center this year, it won't be the first time he's done so in Jacksonville. As a freshman, Rhetta saw limited action in 2004 in a similar role.

"Basically, I take it as being a decoy," Rhetta said. "When people see me lining up at quarterback, knowing that I play receiver, their first mind set is 'he's going to get the ball.' I just try to be a decoy and get the handoff done, or when I'm not handing the ball off, just making sure that my fakes look like I did."

One possibility is that Rhetta could line up under center in a formation similar to Arkansas' "Wildcat" formation that features pre-season Heisman candidate Darren McFadden. the best receiving corps he has coached at JSU.

Josh Moten, James Wilkerson, Derrick Harris and Maurice Dupree will join Rhetta as weapons in these new-look sets, enabling the two-year starter to open things up in the passing game.

"It gives me goosebumps just thinking about it," Hardin said. "Just having this receiving crew that we've had for the last four years has helped us out a lot."

Just because Rhetta and company will help to spread the field, don't think Crowe will abandon the running game altogether.

JSU has three talented running backs whom Rhetta has called "The Terrible Three."

The extra depth at the receiver position won't necessarily change the overall look of the Gamecocks offense, but it likely won't look like the run-heavy offense it had been with the departure of record-setting back Clay Green.

"I wouldn't say [it's] a lot different because we're still going to run the ball first to open it up for the pass," Rhetta said. "It's just going to help each position on offense out a whole lot. There's going to be more to the pass than there has been, though."

As for any surprises the offense will have for the rest of the Ohio Valley Conference, JSU's playmaker isn't letting anyone in on the secret.

"I don't know," Rhetta said. "You're just going to have to wait and see. It's going to be pretty exciting. We've still got more stuff to put in and work on and I think it's going to be a pretty exciting year. I can't reveal all the secrets."

BREAKDOWN: Other positions

Running Backs

Gone are the days of Clay Green and Oscar Bonds. What the Gamecocks do have is a trio of runners.

Daniel Jackson looks to be the opening day starter, but newcomer Anthony Jones will get his fair share of touches.

Jackson got at least one touch in all of JSU's 11 games in 2006, rushing for 299 yards on 60 carries as a backup.

Jones comes to JSU after playing his first two seasons at Troy and has been very impressive in both spring and fall camps.

Jones' arrival also brought into question the 2007 status of Shawn Green. Green was almost redshirted last season and head coach Jack Crowe made the tough decision just before gameday preparations began to sit the Jacksonville native.

The biggest move of the offseason was the decision to move last year's starting center Ronald Murray to fullback. Murray's move gives JSU a lead blocker with plenty of experience opening up holes for the running game. However, redshirt freshman Alphonso Freency looks as if he has secured the starting job.

Receivers

There is more than just a small buzz around the team that says that wide receivers will play a more important role on this team than in recent years.

In addition to Rhetta, the returns of Josh Moten and last year's surprise James Wilkerson give JSU a threat in any threereceiver set. The trio combined for more than 1,200 yards receiving and seven touchdowns in 2006.

Rhetta lit up opposing defenses last season, catching a team-high four touchdowns with an average of 18.9 yards per catch.

Wilkerson finished second on the team in catches and receiving yards as a freshman and averaged 18.6 yards per catch.

Moten has been a weapon for any JSU signal caller since his artival. A former Alabama high school record holder for most receiving yards in a season, Moten finished third on the team in 2006 with 236 yards receiving.

Add to that the athletic Derrick Harris and Maurice Dupree to the fold to give the receiver corps some extra athleticism, and the possibility of four- or fivereceiver sets.

Defense

ISU lost standout outside linebacker LeMarcus Rowell as well as three-quarters of their secondary in Craig Agee, Montae Pitts and Kenny Brown.

Returning are linebackers Drew Robinson and Marquise Elston, as well as nose guard John Scott. Scott tallied 23 tackles and a sack in ten games last year.

The Gamecocks bring plenty of youth and speed at cornerback. Jarvis Smith saw playing time as a true freshman last year and T.J. Heath looks to translate an outstanding prep career into success at the collegiste level.

Caroell Clark spent last season as the third cornerback on the depth chart and anchors a young stable of defensive backs.

Kenny Walker makes the transition from receiver to safety this season and will be playing alongside returning starter Mike Johnson, Johnson finished fifth in tackles last year,

From an experience standpoint, this defense lacks what last year's had. However, this unit doesn't lack anything in terms of athleticism. Don't be surprised if the Gamecocks still rank near the top of the OVC.

Special Teams

Punter Zach Walden had a 2006 to remember, dropping 22 punts inside the opponents' 20 yard line, averaging 41.2 yards per punt and blasting a school record 81-yard punt against Tennessee Tech on Oct. 28. He was also named the OVC Special Teams Player of the Week four times last season and National Special Teams Player of the Week for the week of Sept. 3.

In 2006, kicker Gavin Hallford was 13-of-15 from inside the 40 and only missed one extra point kick. However, Hallford struggled outside of his comfort zone, missing all seven kicks from beyond the 40. Hallford has only connected on one kick from the 40-plus range.

The return game gets a boost of athleticism this year with Maurice Dupree returning both punts and kickoffs this year. Dupree looks to fill the hole left by the graduation of Craig Agee and Clay Green.

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2007 FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

Location

FALL SPORTS PREVIEW

Page 4B Volume 56, Issue 1

SOCCER

By Patrick Swafford Sports Editor

For much of last season, Jacksonville State soccer split time between their talented duo of goalkeepers, senior Elizabeth

Selasky and junior Kate Kelly.

In the spring, JSU coach Julie Davis decided that both Selasky and Kelly would compete against one another during the team's 2007 out-of-conference schedule to determine a

full-time starter for the Ohio Valley Conference schedule.

Both keepers have a style all

their own. Kelly is a fiery competitor whose intensity is rarely matched. Selasky is a more reserved, soft-spoken and tactical leader.

"The number one thing we're looking for is if they're keeping the ball out of the back of the net," JSU coach Julie

Elizabeth Selasky

The first thing anyone will notice when contrasting the two goalkeepers is that their personalities are as much of a contrast as their styles of play.

"They're very different in the manner in which they communicate and the different personalities we have on the team will respond differently," Davis said. "Kate's very intense in her direction. Elizabeth is a little calmer in the back. That's just a difference in their personalities."

If you compare these two goalkeepers to prize fighters, then Elizabeth Selasky is JSU's version of Oscar De La Hoya.

She is soft-spoken, precise and extremely tactical.

Every move she makes on the pitch is thought out in detail, rarely allowing opponents room to take advantage of her.

"Elizabeth is a little better at the immediate shot stopping ability as far as reaction saves," Davis said. "She takes much more initiative to organize her back four quicker than Kate does."

When it comes to the senior from Maineville, Ohio, experience is not a question.

Selasky logged nearly 200 more minutes than Kelly in 2006, partly due to Kelly's recovery from off-season knee surgery.

That's where the differences in statistics end.

The fact that both keepers were nearly identical in every statistical category last season

Selasky and Kelly have been put through the gauntlet during fall practice, going through 7-on-7's and other drills where they must compete against one another.

To a degree, it's a trial by fire.

"It's working well," Selasky. "I love that type of atmosphere where I always have to be on my toes. I have to make minimal mistakes and fix those mistakes instantly or else I'm going to get booted down.

'And I don't want that to happen."

If Elizabeth Selasky is Oscar De La Hoya, then Kate Kelly would draw comparisons to a younger version of Mike Tyson.

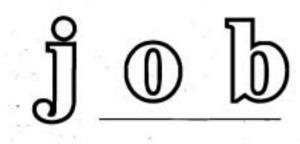
She is outspoken, fiery and intense.

"I think I'm more in-your-face," Kelly said. "I yell at the girls a lot more and Elizabeth is more of a silent leader."

She doesn't just play the game; she attacks it head on.

And the fact that she's endured five different knee surgeries on her ACL in the





Davis said. "Number two, how they communicate with the players in front of them and organize them in order to do their role and do it well."

Davis also hopes to use the keepers' performances in certain game situations to determine her starter.

"The third thing is how they deal with set pieces, such as corners and free kicks," Davis said. "It's the transition of play and how they respond to that change and how quickly they respond to it. Do they get the team organized quick enough? Is it too slow? Was it organized or not? Those are things we're going to start looking for."

Kate Kelly

last three years shows you just how tough she

"I'm 120 percent ready," Kelly said. "I'm better than ever this year.

True, Selasky logged more minutes than Kelly in 2006, but Kelly bested her counterpart in both goals against average and save percentage by a tenth of a point in each category.

"We're both talented goalkeepers," Kelly said. "We've been competing since my

> freshman year. It's good to have competition because it makes you do better. I think the team is well-off with either of us in net."

> Kelly is no stranger to splitting time in net with Selasky. After Kelly returned to action last season, both keepers split games. Selasky played the first half and Kelly the second.

> "It's going to be interesting to see how it works out this year," Kelly said. "Last year, we split time a lot and we did well doing that. She was a better first half keeper and I was a better second half keeper. It'll be interesting to see how it works out this year whether we're going to play whole games or split time."

> While Selasky's strength is her shot stopping ability, Kelly's ability to go up and get a shot is what gives her an edge.

"Kate's very good on high balls and dealing with balls in the air because she's a lot maker coming off her line



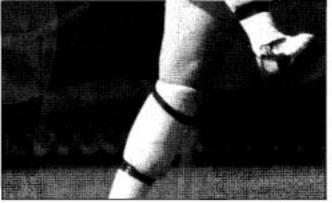
goalies,

were nearly identical in every statistical category last season makes this competition interesting.

"I think it's good," Selasky said. "Competition will always bring out the best in people. It's good to compete against one another. We'll have competition at all times, so you can't let your guard down. Therefore, either of us will be ready to go at any time because we'll be prepared.

"It's going to be a close fight."





balls and dealing with balls in the air because she's a lot tougher coming off her line to deal with those," Davis said.

Both keepers got off to rocky starts in their first exhibition match against UAB on August 19. Selasky gave up five goals in 30 minutes of play while Kelly gave up two in almost as much time in the Gamecocks 7-0 loss.

The starting goalie job for the JSU soccer team will be up for grabs this season. Vying for the position are Elizabeth Selasky (left) and Kate Kelly (right). Both photos courtesy of Steve Latham, JSU

2007 season preview: Back to the playoffs or bust

By Jared Gravette Staff Sports Writer

The soccer team will take the field in 2007 with a renewed confidence that a fresh start always brings.

Last year saw the Gamecocks finish with a 5-11-2 record and miss the conference tournament for the first time since joining the Ohio Valley Conference.

JSU enters the season without several key players from last years' squad. Co-captains Daniela Malta and Christina Balint are gone, along with several members of last years' freshman class, such as Lauren Deppe and Erica West, who logged significant minutes last season.

Despite the losses, JSU brings back three seniors for the 2007 season. Defender Jessica Scerbo and midfielder/forward Courtney Moore have the experience and talent to make a big splash in the OVC this year. Goalkeeper Elizabeth Selasky also returns for her senior season and is expected to compete with junior Kate Kelly for the starting gig in goal.

After making the conference tournament in each of their first two seasons at JSU, getting back there will be one of the major goals for this years' senior class.

"In my opinion it's kind of unacceptable for us not to make the tournament. We should be in the tournament every year," Selasky said. "I expect us to at least make it to the semi-finals every year."

Said Scerbo: "Everybody needs to want to get to the tournament. We have a really good team this year. As long as we work hard and everybody keeps their minds on playing and getting to the tournament, we should get there."

The Gamecocks also have juniors Kristi Pereira and Elsa Kurlychek back in the fold, but the majority of the team is made up of freshmen and sophomores.

JSU will put one of the youngest teams in school history on the field this year. Nine freshmen and six sophomores make up the majority of the 21-player roster. The performance of these underclassmen could make or break the Gamecocks in 2007.

"We have a pretty young team," Moore said. "We're looking for a lot of them to start and carry us through to the tournament. I think we have a lot of talent. If we all get on the same page, I think that we can be in the top three."

"One of our goals is to really break in some of our younger players into our system and our style of play," said head coach Julie Davis.

"Right now the ones who are stepping up - and the ones that we were expecting to step up - are Alyshia Madison, Kaitlyn MacLellan, Kim Kimmel, Sara Neibuhr and Debbie Matich. They have all done a good job. They are so competitive. They have really come in and made a statement early on and have really gained the respect of the upperclassmen."

Samford, Morehead State, Southeast Missouri (SEMO) and Eastern Illinois enter the 2007 season as the top four teams in the OVC, but the talent gap may be much smaller than many people might think.

"We beat SEMO, who won the



championship tournament. We lost to Samford on an own goal. We lost to Eastern, and the second goal was an own goal. We lost to Austin Peay and UT-Martin by a goal. We lost to Morehead by a goal, and Murray State we beat. Everything now is by a one goal difference in the big scheme of things, and that makes the OVC anybody's ballgame and anybody's' championship trophy," Davis said.

The Gamecocks enter the season ranked seventh in the preseason poll, with the ultimate goal of breaking into the top three in conference.

"My expectations for this team are for them to gain respect within the conference and to put ourselves in a position that is respectable compared to the last two years. Respectable means in a much higher ranking position whether we're regular season champs, OVC champs or in the top three. So, our goal is to be in the top three," Davis said.

JSU opens the regular season at Wright State in Dayton, Ohio Aug. 31.

Ala. L 0-7 Sat 8/25/2007 vs Auburn (Exhibition) Auburn, Ala. L 0-6 Fri 8/31/2007 at Wright State / Wright State Fall Classic Dayton, Ohio 6:30 PM Sun 9/2/2007 vs Evansville / Wright State Fall Classic Dayton, Ohio 11:00 AM Fri 9/7/2007 vs Youngstown State / Gamecock Soccer Classic JACKSONVILLE 7:00 PM Sun 9/9/2007 vs The Citadel / Gamecock Soccer Classic JACKSONVILLE 3:00 PM Fri 9/14/2007 vs Kennesaw State JACKSONVILLE 7:00 PM Sun 9/16/2007 at South Alabama Mobile, Ala. 1:00 PM Fri 9/21/2007 vs Troy JACKSONVILLE 3:00 PM Sun 9/23/2007 at Arkansas Fayetteville, Ark. 1:00 PM Fn 9/28/2007 *vs Murray State JACKSONVILLE 7:00 PM Sun 9/30/2007 *vs UT-Martin JACKSONVILLE 1:00 PM Fri 10/5/2007 *at Samford University Birmingham, Ala. 7:00 PM Fri 10/12/2007 *at Morehead State Morehead, Ky. 6:00 PM Sun 10/14/2007 *at Eastern Kentucky Richmond, Ky. 12:00 PM Fri 10/19/2007 "vs Austin Peay JACKSONVILLE 7:00 PM

2007 JSU SOCCER SCHEDULE

Sun 8/19/2007 at UAB (Exhibition) Birmingham,

Sun 10/21/2007 *vs Tennessee Tech JACKSONVILLE 1:00 PM Fri 10/26/2007 *at Southeast Missouri State Cape Girardeau, Mo. 7:00 PM

Sun 10/28/2007 *at Eastern Illinois Charleston, III 1:00 PM

"Denotes Conference Games

The Chanticleer

FALL SPORTS PREVIEW

Old Crowe, new tricks



By Jered Staubs Staff Sports Writer

Don't expect to see the run n' shoot, offense, but there will be some noticeable changes in Jack Crowe's offense' this fall.

"People are going to see this team and think that Jack Crowe isn't coaching this team," he said.

A run-first mentality has been evident at all of Crowe's coaching positions since he began his coaching career as the offensive coordinator at Oxford High School in 1970.

Three years at Clemson; three conference rushing titles. Four years at Auburn; three conference 'rushing titles and a Heisman Trophy for Bo Jackson. And a conference rushing title at Arkansas.

The list goes on and on.

"There's no two ways about it," Crowe said. "Back at the beginning of my history, whoever ran the football better won the game."

Crowe's extensive background has seen a bevy of talent at the running back position. He coached four backs in college who became All-Pros in the NFL. JSU has churned out 1,000-yard rushers like clockwork under his guidance.

This year the cupboard is not quite so stacked at running back. It's not that there's not talent - Crowe says projected starter Daniel Jackson is showing signs in practice - but there is very little experience running the football.

There is no lack of experience or talent in the passing game, however. Crowe considers Taurean Rhetta a potential NFL player and had high praise for the rest of his receiving COPDS

The two quarterbacks who will share snaps are Cedric Johnson – who owns the state of Georgia's high school passing TD record – and Matt Hardin – who owned the same record in Florida until it was broken by Tim Tebow.

Crowe says he's always been open to the passing game, but his personnel dictated that his teams keep coming back to the triedand-true method of running the ball the majority of the time.

"Part of it is system, but a bigger part is realizing what you've got and playing to the personnel you've got."

So with the influx of passing talent and consecutive disappointing 6-. 5 seasons, Crowe says a shift in philosophy is in order.

"I think we've got to get ahead of the defense again. We came in, won the league the first few years, and - it sounds arrogant, but it's the honest truth - people started imitating what we were doing in the running game," Crowe said.

"We've gotten to where we are a little too known, so we've got to create a different offensive approach."

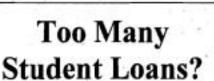
The shift seems logical, perhaps even mandatory. But Crowe says that while there will be obvious changes, he will not entirely abandon what has made his teams so successful in the past.

"I think people will play us to run it, and that will open up some opportunities. We're going to seek balance a little more, but we are not going to tip the scale [and become pass-first]."

Considering his team is only 3-23 in games in which they were out-rushed under Crowe, JSU supporters would hope not.



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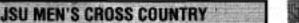
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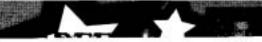
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La Marinaira (Cuban Rostaurant)







JSU MEN'S CROSS COUNTRY 2007 SCHEDULE

Sat 9/1/2007 JSU Season Opener, Jacksonville, Ala.

> Fri 9/7/2007 UTC Opener, Chattanooga, Tenn.

Fri 9/14/2007 Alabama Crimson Classic Tuscaloosa, Ala.

Sat 9/29/2007 Auburn Invitational, Auburn, Ala.

Sat 10/6/2007 Memphis Twilight Invite, Memphis, Tenn.

Sat 10/13/2007 JSU Foothills Invite Jacksonville, Ala.

Sat 10/27/2007 OVC Championships Birmingham, Ala.

Sat 11/10/2007 NCAA Regionals Gainesville, Fla.



