



Day in the Life:

Nursing student Beth Kirch, page 3

THE CHANTICLEER



www.thechanticleeronline.com

March 1, 2007

Jacksonville State University

Volume 55, Issue 21

The many faces of a hero JSU ROTC grad mourned by many

By **Bethany Harbison**
The Chanticleer Senior Reporter

"We are not here for that! We are here for peace—not to fight one another!" said Captain Donnie Ray Belser Jr. as he planted himself firmly between two Iraqi soldiers who had raised their weapons angrily toward one another.

Moments of bravery and courage were commonplace in the life of this 28-year-old soldier, who was killed Feb. 10 after his unit was attacked with small-arms fire in Baqubah, Iraq.

For the many who loved him, Belser is remembered as a man who made his life count in so many ways, both in and out of the military arena.

"That's what impressed me the most about him. He knew when to wear the face of husband, of daddy and of the military. He knew how to intertwine those into one person," said Marcia Dobbins, Belser's sister-in-law.

The roots of Belser's military career can be traced back to Jacksonville State University, where he found his niche in the ROTC program from the very beginning on his freshman year. Belser graduated from JSU in 2001 with a degree in criminal justice and a minor in

military science.

"He was always quick with a broad smile and a heart-warming laugh. However, when it was time to get serious, Donnie had a military bearing that was beyond reproach," said Captain Millicent Suzanne Peyer, who served alongside Belser for two years in the ROTC department.

Belser loved JSU and the ROTC program, and he also participated in Ranger Challenge.

"He was eager to learn all he could about his chosen profession," said Capt. Peyer.

Retired Lieutenant Colonel Dave Merriss, a former JSU Professor of Military Science, remembers Belser as a "dedicated, quiet leader."

"When we commissioned him, I knew he would be an outstanding officer," said Merriss.

Retired Major Johnny Thompson, who was Belser's Military Science Instructor and Assistant Professor for three of the four years he spent at JSU, said it was an honor and privilege to swear Belser into the Army as an officer and commission him. The two grew close and continued to stay in

contact even after Belser graduated.

"I watched him grow from an 18-year-old with the goal of becoming a United States Army officer, to a senior cadet with a clear sense of purpose, to a caring and effective Army officer and leader who placed the needs of his soldiers above his own. All the while, I could see that he was completely dedicated to doing something with his life that served a greater cause," said Thompson.

See Hero, page 4



Photo courtesy of JSU Newswire



Photo courtesy of Captain Millicent Peyer



Newswire

Captain Donnie R. Belser Jr. and his daughter, Morgan before his deployment (top).

Belser and fellow JSU ROTC classmate Captain Millicent S. Peyer at their commissioning ceremony (far left).

Belser during his deployment (left).

**Arts & Sciences
Symposium
Presentation
Winners**

2007

Peer Educators take Tallahassee, FL., conference by storm

By **Bridgette Powell**
The Chanticleer Senior Reporter

Florida, the Sunshine State. Home of many great cities and resorts. And this year, home to the Bacchus Network Area 8/9 Annual Spring Conference.

On Feb. 16, JSU's Peer Educators traveled to the campus of Florida State University to attend this annual conference. This con-

ference was exciting to get back to campus and work even harder."

Green is definitely proud of his group's accomplishments.

"I have worked with this group as a graduate assistant



2007

Art
Landon Shirey

Biology
Clifford Webb

Physical & Earth Sciences
Kristen Williams

Psychology
Renee Burt

**Mathematical, Computing
& Information Sciences**
Leslie Calloway (tie)
Jane Wade (tie)

Honorable Mentions
Robert Dafoe, Biology
Rajima Francia, MCIS



Webb at his stream.

Photo by Sara Viernum

Spring Conference.

On Feb. 16, JSU's Peer Educators traveled to the campus of Florida State University to attend this annual conference. This conference proved to be an outstanding event for these Peer Educators as they swept the awards ceremony, winning three out of the four awards that were presented.

Winning Outstanding Chapter of Area 8 (for the fifth year in a row), Program of the Year For Area 8, and JSU's own Todd Prater winning outstanding Peer Educator Advisor of the Year definitely earned JSU the most recognition out of all the schools that were in attendance.

The awards were given to JSU's peer educators based on the activities that they conducted during Alcohol Awareness Week and because of their active roles on the campus.

The conference is a training and leadership conference. Schools from Alabama, Tennessee, Mississippi, Georgia, Florida, South Carolina and Puerto Rico were there.

"They got to network with over 200 peer educators from the southeast," said Advisor Adam Green.

This event certainly had a tremendous impact on the peer educators who attended.

"You learn so much by attending these conferences," said Angela Frazier, president of JSU Peer Educators. "It's great to see what other campuses are doing to make their student body healthier and safer."

First-year Peer Educator Christi Jackson said, "I didn't realize we were part of such a large organization. This is worldwide. It makes

as a graduate assistant and now as an advisor," said Green. "It is great to see them continue to work hard to make the JSU community a better place. They are truly deserving of these awards."

Upcoming events for the Peer

Educators will include "Safe Spring Break" which is scheduled to be held on March 15. And if you are wondering how you can join this hardworking group of students, two interest meetings will be held on the third floor of the Theron Montgomery Building on March 8 and March 12. Both meetings start at 3 p.m. Any questions can be directed to Counseling and Career Services at 782-5475.



Photo Peer Educators

The Peer Educators pose in the football stadium at Florida State University.

Symposium winner: Salamander Whisperer

By Jessica Summe
The Chanticleer Editor-in-Chief

Graduate student Clifford Webb found out he won an award at the Student Arts Symposium through an email from his professor, Dr. George Cline. Webb's presentation, which encompassed 14 months of a 22-month thesis, was entitled Efficacy of Leaf Litter Refugia Bags for Sampling Adult Streamside Salamanders (Caudata: Plethodontidae).

In regular english, Webb is the Salamander Whisperer.

A former teacher and 14-year Florida resident, Webb was "just blown away" by the variety of salamanders in Alabama. So when Webb's first thesis based on mudpuppies fell through, Webb turned to a local stream -- and its slimy inhabitants -- for inspiration.

Webb evaluated Dr. Dolly of Marshall College technique of using "leaf litter refugium" bags to catch salamanders.

"The usual way you catch salamanders is by hand, but they're really quick," said Webb. "You can have your hand wrapped around one and in half a second, they'll drive down and bury themselves in the

gravel at the bottom of the stream. You can search all day, but that salamander's just gone."

Dolly's technique, which involves filling a bag with rotting leaves and onions and leaving it out for the salamanders to find, was altered slightly in Webb's project. The bags have a bigger mesh to attract adult salamanders instead of the babies and juveniles that Dolly had set out to catch.

"The reason he didn't want to catch adults is because adult salamanders are cannibals," said Webb. "Yeah, it's a really fascinating microcosm, amphibian politics."

In 22 months, Webb has caught 868 salamanders of seven different species: Eurycea cirrigera, Eurycea guttolineata, Desmognathus conanti, Plethodon glutinosus, Plethodon serratus, Gyrinophilus porphy-



Photo courtesy Clifford Webb

A Northern Red Salamander.

riticus and Pseudotriton ruber.

But Webb's thesis is more than just counting amphibians. In fact, gathering salamanders is only one-third of Webb's project. His entire thesis is a stream survey --- the chemical, physical, and biological profile of a stream.

See Winner, page 2

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SIFE: JSU Saves Day is March 1 as a part of America Saves Week. Presentations will be at 8:30 a.m., 2:30 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. in room 101 of the Merrill Building.
Contact: Dr. Landry at ext. 8419

Gamecock Rugby: Anyone interesting in playing, coaching, training or supporting the Rugby Club can meet at Fraternity Row from 4-6 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays.
Contact: Coach Trowse, steamertrowse@cablone.net

PRO: Public Relations Organization will now meet on Tuesday at 4:30 p.m. in the office of The Chanticleer, room 180 in Self Hall.
Contact: Jaclyn Cospier, 256-404-2590.

Writer's Club: The JSU Writer's Club will meet on the 7th floor of Houston Cole Library at 3:15 p.m. on Thursdays. The deadline for submissions for *Something Else* and the R.U.M. poetry contest is Friday, March 2.
Contact: Dr. Harding, pharding@jsu.edu

Alpha Xi Delta: Alpha Xi is watching *Grey's Anatomy* in the Coxwell Room at 7 p.m. Thursday. Door prizes will be given out, must be present to win.
Contact: Ashley Miller 256-525-1750

The Chanticleer Announcements Policy: Any JSU student organization or University office may submit items for the Announcements column. Submissions must be typed, and are limited to 50 words. Submissions must include contact information. This information does not count toward the 50-word total. Submissions must arrive at The Chanticleer office in Room 180, Self Hall, or emailed to chantynews@yahoo.com by 12 noon on the Tuesday prior to the desired publication date.

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

CORRECTIONS

Michael Dickinson was misidentified as Matt MacKenzie in a photo for the rifle article.

Softball pitcher Karla Pittman was misclassified as a freshman. Pittman is a junior.

CAMPUS CRIME

You call this winter?

By Nick Lehwald
The Chanticleer Senior Reporter

As I'm sure everyone has noticed, the weather has been acting a little odd this year. First, it gets blisteringly cold for a week. Then it warms up. Then it freezes up again. Monday morning it's snowing, Tuesday afternoon it's 75 degrees.

We will enter March at 65 degrees Fahrenheit. Now, granted, I'm from Maryland (where there is currently three inches of snow and two inches of ice) and am finding this warm weather perfectly acceptable, as I constantly remind my friends back home.

So acceptable, in fact, that I have to be constantly reminded that it's still winter and that summer break is not three weeks away but rather three months away.

The length of time before *The Great Escape* is a sobering realization, one that has made me look outside and take stock. Not of my worldly possessions, not of my academic standings (which I should do, by the way), but of how much I'm going to miss winter. Yes, that's right, I'm going to miss winter. Why will I miss winter, you ask? Well, that's because it might not be what it used to be for much longer.

As most everyone knows, the earth is going through something called global warming. Global warming is when carbon dioxide, along with other air pollution, collects in the atmosphere trapping in the sun's heat. This causes the planet's temperature to rise. Think of a greenhouse and you'll understand. (Greenhouse effect? Ring a bell?)

According to the National Re-

source Defense Council (NRDC) the average earth temperature, over the last 50 years, has increased faster and steadier than at any other time in recorded history (official weather record keeping began in 1870).

According to the NRDC and prominent scientists, the warming trend is accelerating: the ten hottest years on record have all occurred since 1990. If this trend continues, the scientists speculate that by the end of the 21st century the average U.S. temperatures will have risen by three to nine degrees. While that does not sound like very much, it most certainly is.

Now, whether or not global warming is directly responsible for the uncharacteristically warm winter we're having, one can only speculate. But so far the evidence appears to be mounting in global warming's favor.

This, however, may not be the only cause of this year's warm weather. According to the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration, La Nina, the feminine counterpart to El Nino, may be arriving earlier than usual. In its weekly update, NOAA scientists noted that cooler-than-normal water temperatures have begun developing on the ocean's surface in the east central equato-

Two JSU students take trip to Oklahoma

Two JSU English graduate "The Ravaging Effects of Ident-

The Chanticleer Editorial Cartoon



rial pacific. This, the scientists say, could be a sign of a early La Nina. While La Nina conditions typically do not impact inland temperatures, they do have a significant impact on the Atlantic and Pacific hurricane activity. According to the NOAA website, La Nina conditions occur when "ocean surface temperatures in the central and east-central equatorial Pacific become cooler than normal."

So, maybe I'm wrong. Maybe next year there will be a winter, and I will finally see snow in Alabama. If not, then the world may have to come to the troubling conclusion that maybe, just maybe... Al Gore is right.

Winner, from page 1

"Basically, that meant I was catching insects... a lot of invertebrates... bringing them to the lab, putting them under the microscope and counting the little hairs on their butt, trying to figure out what they were," said Webb.

For Webb, salamanders actually function as a "bio-monitoring" tool for the stream. The species of salamander that Webb found only live in really clean streams, both because that's what supports what insects the amphibians eat and also because those particular types of salamanders have no lungs and breathe through their skin. So the streams they inhabit are usually clear, healthy environments for the local wildlife.

"I'll admit, there were times I wanted to throw my computer out the window and run screaming into the hills because I was so sick of this project," said Webb. "But for me, my absolute favorite part was getting into the stream."

STUDENT DISCOUNT ALL DAY - EVERY DAY



Feb. 19
Tyler Freeman reported assault at Pete Mathews Coliseum.

Feb. 20
Mrsk Meier reported theft of property at Pete Mathews Coliseum.

Debony Williams reported harrassment at Pete Mathews Coliseum.

Shelton Carlisle was arrested for disorderly conduct at Pete Mathews Coliseum.

Feb. 21
UPD was given a false name for an arrest report.

Feb. 22
Caroline Carmack was arrested for disorderly conduct at cleaning services.

Feb. 23
Sylvester Green reported unlawful breaking and entering of a vehicle behind the tennis courts.

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 782-5050.

Two JSU English graduate students, Sarah Moersch and Lara Sisk, presented papers at a professional literary conference sponsored by the South-Central Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies (SCSECS) held in Tulsa, Okla., Feb. 22 - 24.

The SCSECS conference is an annual event featuring presentations by professional scholars of eighteenth-century literature. SCSECS is the largest regional group affiliated with the American Society of Eighteenth-Century Studies.

This year's conference theme was "Across & Between Eighteen Centuries" and included over 35 panels as well as presentations on such topics like the future of 18th century studies, the role of women in 18th century literature in China and the role of Native Americans in the Seven Years War.

"I'm incredibly proud of these students," said Dr. Margo Collins, assistant professor of English at JSU and vice president of SCSECS. "It's relatively rare that M.A. students have the opportunity to participate in professional conferences of this caliber, and Sarah and Lara did a wonderful job of representing the university."

In a panel entitled "Boundaries and the Novel," Moersch and Sisk presented papers originally written for Dr. Collins' 18th Century Novels class in fall 2006. The students revised their work for conference presentation.

Moersch's paper was entitled

"The Ravaging Effects of Identity Crisis and Gender Reversal in Delarivier Manley's The Wife's Resentment," and Sisk's paper was entitled "History and Religion in Horace Walpole's The Castle of Otranto." Both presentations examined the ways in which British culture in the 18th century influenced the literature of the period.

"Both papers were well-received by the conference audience and provoked a lively question-and-answer session at the end of the panel," said Collins. "That's always a good sign; any presentations that cause professional scholars to engage in that sort of debate are clearly the type of thought-provoking work that students of literary studies should be pleased to be producing."

"I was a little nervous at first," said Moersch, "But presenting at the conference ended up being a lot of fun."

Sisk is already planning on attending other conferences.

"Now that I've had this experience, I'm planning to attend the annual Popular Culture conference next," she said.

"I think it's important for JSU students to have the opportunity to participate in academic and professional conferences," Collins said. "For one thing, it can help students determine whether they want to pursue a particular course of study. And of course, this sort of positive exposure always raises the profile of the university."

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1 Thursday	2 Friday	3 Saturday	4 Sunday
Code Blue - Alpha Xi -- 7 p.m. Coxwell Room		JSU Baseball 12 p.m. Rudy Abbott Field International Taster's Fair, 5 p.m. Internatoinal House	JSU Baseball 1 p.m. Rudy Abbott Field
5 Monday	6 Tuesday	7 Wednesday	8 Thursday
Traffic Court SGA Senate Meeting Freshman Forum	SGA General Elections 2007 Ayers Lecture with Gay Talese, 2 p.m., Library Organizational Council	SGA General Elections AAA Organizational Meeting Pre-registration for Summer and Fall begins Dealing with Grief, 7:30 a.m. 303 TMB Campus Outreach Banner Beach Party	JSU Star Chamber Winds Concert

Day in the Life: Beth Kirch

JSU Nursing Student

By Toni Merriss
The Chanticleer
Features Editor



The saying goes that behind every successful man stands a strong woman. But in many cases the same could be said for a strong nurse standing behind every successful doctor.

As far as grueling professions go, nursing is one that often gets overlooked in today's society. For Beth Kirch, a senior nursing major from Huntsville, studying to become a doctor's right hand 'woman', is not about the recognition.

"I wanted to be a nurse for the satisfaction of knowing that I was involved with helping a patient get well," said Kirch.

Kirch first realized her calling in the nursing field when she was in the tenth grade but had family in the field long before that.

"Both of my grandmas and one of my aunts are nurses. They did not try to influence me when I was deciding my major," said Kirch. "But once I did, they really supported my decision."

The first two years of college are normal for nursing majors in regards to their class schedule.

Making the decision to apply to nursing is the easy part; the hard part is actually getting accepted. Once a student is accepted, the hectic part begins.

"Since I began nursing school, I have learned to greatly enjoy my sleep. You never know when you are going to real-

ly need it," laughed Kirch. Nursing school can be time consuming and stressful for even the most dedicated of students. Kirch is no exception to this.

One element that deeply complicated Kirch's life last May was when she came down with strep throat. She continued having problems with it and went to the doctor to get checked out.

On July 7, 2006, Kirch was diagnosed with thyroid cancer and required surgery only five days later on July 12. The thyroid gland controls the body's metabolism and regulates body temperature.

On Aug. 21, Kirch had to undergo radioactive iodine treatment, which targets the cancer cells without bothering the surrounding cells. Due to her health issues and doubts of being able to handle the stress of nursing school, Kirch decided to take the fall semester off from her studies to fully recover.

"My professors were really encouraging during that time. Actually, it was Dr. Latham who suggested that I take the time off because it would be a lot to deal with all at one time," said Kirch.

Although still dealing with the cancer, over spring break she will have a total body scan done to check her recovery progress.

If that scan comes back cancer free, she will need another in six months. If all tests point to positive results, then she will only require a scan annually for five years.

Kirch started back to class this spring and is thoroughly enjoying her classes.

Well, when she has time to enjoy them since the nursing

classes sometimes cover an entire unit in only two days, and in all her classes she has a test every other week. Oh, and nursing classes last around three hours each.

Then there are clinicals two days a week, Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Students attend clinicals at two different facilities during their senior year, switching back and forth each week where they go. Kirch currently has her clinicals at Gadsden Regional with the OB ward and Mountain View with the psychiatric ward.

At Gadsden Regional, Kirch begins her shift at 2 p.m. with a pre-conference with the other students and the professor.

During pre-conference, they are given a briefing on their assigned areas for the day and are split up into groups. About 30 minutes later, students are given their patient assignments and then they head off into their designated areas, ranging from post-partum to nursery to labor and delivery.

"Last week I got to work in the nursery, and it was so much fun! Of course, most people enjoy working with all the babies but I had such a positive experience there. I actually got the chance to help one of the babies," said Kirch. "It would probably be a normal occurrence for nurses that usually work there, but he was having a hard time breathing, and I figured out he was choking on mucus, so I removed it for him and he was fine. It sort of hit me then, 'wow, I might have just saved that baby' and it made me feel really good about my chosen profession."

From 5-5:30 p.m., the students get a dinner break and then are thrust back onto the floor until their post conference meeting at 8 p.m. They go over what they learned that day, any case studies they have ongoing and what they need to focus on for the next



Photo by Toni Merriss

Beth Kirch in her comfortable scrubs for clinicals.

time they will be there.

In the psychiatric ward at Mountain View, things are a little different in the fact that Kirch has to wake up between 5:45-6 a.m. to be on time for an 8 a.m. pre-conference. About an hour after that, they get to head off to their specified areas. In this ward a lot of the case work is talking to and learning from the different patients.

"I remember one time I

was talking to adolescent girls about their troubled pasts. They were talking about their sex lives and/or drug use," said Kirch. "One very big factor about this job is that you have to expect the unexpected and not let anything shock you. Otherwise we would never get anything done."

After a short lunch break around 11 a.m., the students sometimes sit in on group sessions or just observe patients. Post-conference is held from 1:30-3 p.m. Then they are done. At least, with the hands-on part of the day.

"I try to study at least two or three hours every night. Sometimes on a clinical day I will take a break but usually I am studying. I really don't know how people with jobs and spouses and kids handle everything associated with nursing school," said Kirch.

Although she is positive about most things with nursing, there is one thing that does scare her about it.

"There are a lot of legality issues with nursing now.

Local Concert Calendar



Thurs. Mar. 1
Fly-By Radio
Brother's Bar

Fri. Mar. 2
Live Acoustic Music
Milestone Mill Restaurant

Sat. Mar. 3
Left Without Stars
Brother's Bar

Sun. Mar. 4
Nathan Smith
Smoking Moose

Mon. Mar. 5
Open Mic Night
Brother's Bar

So many people are 'sue happy' and they will jump on anything, just to make a fuss about it," said Kirch.

Kirch is unsure about her plans after her graduation in December, and because the nursing field is in such high demand right now, she really could end up anywhere.

"I don't want to limit myself to one area. I have thought about Nashville, TN though. And Colorado. Oh, I am really not sure," admitted Kirch.

Wherever Kirch ends up, one thing is for sure: with her love of helping others and dedication to making a difference, she will definitely be one of those strong nurses.



Photo by Toni Merriss

Beth Kirch prepares to give a reluctant patient a shot.

The butterfly effect

By Nick Lehwald
The Chanticleer Senior Reporter


La mariposa, the national flower of Cuba, is also known as the "Butterfly Jasmine".

and family moved to Jacksonville in the late 1970's, where both Jr. and Sr. enrolled here at Jacksonville State.

While at JSU, both Valdezes were active in many campus activities. Both became

sion." Cubern, if you will. "All the food is made on site, so that it's completely fresh when you get it."

Running a restaurant isn't all fun and games, though. Especially when you



JSU & Army ROTC

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La mariposa, the national flower of Cuba, is also known as the "Butterfly Jasmine". The flower was used in Cuba by women during the wars of independence to pass secret messages to and from the battle fields of the Spanish American war. To the Cuban people, it represents purity, rebelliousness and independence. But in Jacksonville, it represents good food, Caribbean comfort and most importantly, family.

La Mariposa owners and JSU alumni John Valdez Sr. and John Valdez Jr. opened their restaurant last June and haven't looked back. As a father and son team, they bring two generations worth of culinary know-how to the table while managing to keep it all in the family. With their extensive knowledge of Latin America and their passion for its food, team Valdez plans to bring a taste revolution to Jacksonville that would make Che Guevara proud.

John Valdez Sr. was raised in Key West. As a kid, he once got in trouble by climbing a wall and swimming in a prominent residents pool. That resident, Ernest Hemingway. Joining the army, Mr. Valdez was a Special Forces Green Beret in Vietnam, Panama, among other places. John Valdez Jr. was born in North Carolina and has lived all over the place. From Panama as a kid, to Miami, Key West and finally the Bahamas, the younger Valdez has an extensive knowledge of the Caribbean and the wonders it holds. Learning to cook from his parents, Valdez Jr. learned the ins and outs of different cooking styles as his family moved from one exotic locale to another. (Attending the Cullinard Culinary Institute didn't hurt either) Valdez Jr.

While at JSU, both Valdezes were active in many campus activities. Both became members of Sigma Nu fraternity. Valdez Jr. worked as production director at 92J and worked with Rick and Bubba before their rise to fame and fortune. Both the Valdezes graduated in 1985, Valdez Sr. with a B.S in Management and Valdez Jr. with a degree



Photo by Nick Lehwald

John Valdez Jr. and his father, John Valdez Sr. established La Mariposa to bring a little bit of their culture to Jacksonville.

in Communications.

Back to the restaurant. When the Valdezes set out to open La Mariposa, they didn't want to be just another restaurant in a town full of restaurants. They wanted something unique, something that wasn't like any of the other sandwich shops and fast food joints that crowd the landscape of the town. So they reached deep down into the depths of the family cookbooks, and pulled out a selection of lip licking stomach teasers that have so successfully hooked the community. "About 90 percent of what we do is family recipes," said Valdez Jr. "Some things we merge with other things, so I'd guess you'd call it a southern, Cuban fu-

is made on site, so that it's completely fresh when you get it."

Running a restaurant isn't all fun and games, though. Especially when you keep it in the family. "You never know what's going to happen. It's very hit or miss every day," laments Valdez Jr.

While everyone knows that it's here, La Mariposa still hasn't made as big of an impact with the university students as it has with the local population. That might be due to the perception that they're just too darn pricey. However, were they to ever stop in and pick up a menu, students would be pleasantly surprised to find that the average price for a plate special is five dollars, less than you will find at most restaurants in town. For those students on the really tight budgets, they have sandwiches that are easy on any wallet, such as the banana sandwich or a BLT. The average price for their entrées is only ten dollars, and you can expect to enjoy every penny's worth.

And the best part is everything is available for carry out. Even their beer prices are some of the lowest in town, beating out even Brother's and Pelham's. But don't expect to go and get tanked, because that's not the right place to go. For those students who think it to pricey or to formal to go to when not on a date or trying to impress the opposite sex, La Mariposa is going to be expanding this summer. Assimilating the empty store next door, the Valdezes plan to open an oyster bar, which will have a more relaxed, laid back atmosphere. Don't worry though; there will still be great food and cheap beer for everyone.



Captain Curt Rowland
B.S. Education
JSU Class of 1997

Lieutenant Sandy Wilson
B.S. Criminal Justice
JSU Class of 2004



Captain Suzanne Peyer
B.S. Elementary Education
JSU Class of 1990

Lieutenant Gavin West
B.S. Recreation Admin.
JSU Class of 2004

For Info Call: (256) 782-5601
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THE CHANTICLEER

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The Chanticleer is the newspaper of the Jacksonville State University community. Copies of The Chanticleer are distributed across the JSU campus weekly on Thursdays during the fall and spring semesters.

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

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 at left. Letters may also be e-mailed to chantynews@yahoo.com.

The Chanticleer will not print letters which are libelous, defamatory, or submitted anonymously. 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.

**QUESTION
OF THE
WEEK:
WHAT KEEPS
YOU HERE ON
WEEKENDS?**



Alyssa
Friedman
All of my friends



Nick Folds
Friedman
My new friends



Kathryn Barber
Junior



Vanity, thy name is advertising

By Jessica Summe
The Chanticleer Editor-in-Chief

I'm going to let you in on a little secret. I'm a cross-dresser. All girls should be. Let me explain why.

Last summer, I realized I couldn't put it off any longer -- I had to get a new pair of jeans. This is always been a bit of a trial for me, thanks to the lovely concept of vanity sizing. I can't simply walk into any store and pick up a pair of jeans. Oh, no. That would be too easy, wouldn't it?

Many women know that they wear different sizes in different stores, but they don't understand why.

The truth is that brand lines design their clothes around the "type" of woman they want to sell to. For example, Lane Bryant is designed for larger women, while Chanel is made for anorexic 12-year-olds. A size six in Gap jeans is a size nine in DNKY is a size four in Levi's. At least sometimes.

The Levi company has realized that vanity sizing can be a headache for women, so they've designed a machine (which looks like a very fashionable teleporter from Star Trek) that customers can step into

and be measured. After the scanner has done its swipe around your body, the computer spits out a ticker tape of jean styles and sizes perfectly suited to you.

At least, that's the plan.

As I stepped out of the machine and eagerly grabbed my ticket, I was shocked to see that I was not only a different size in different stores, but I was also different sizes in the same store! Apparently, vanity sizing isn't limited to different brands -- different styles of clothing within the brand label are also designed around different body types. My recommended sizes ran from a four to a nine. However, I shrugged it off and bolted to the nearest wall of jeans. I picked out some jeans in the suggested size and even took the luxury of picking out my favorite color. I almost skipped to the dressing rooms, so happy was I.

They didn't fit.

Aghast, I had the typical feminine assumption that my ass was the problem and tried another pair of jeans off the list. Didn't fit. Another. Didn't fit. No, no, no. As I frantically whirled around the store, trying on almost every type of jeans in three different sizes, I caught several guys

out of the corner of my eye, walking in, buying jeans and leaving.

Why was it so easy for them? The answer is that men's sizes depend on two things, waist size and inseam length. In inches. Inches aren't a fluid measurement determined by marketing reps -- inches are inches everywhere inches are sold. The cuts vary in men's pants, but that's a matter of personal preference. Generally, guy's pants fit. All the time.

So I decided enough was enough.

I stepped back into the machine and demanded that the rather shocked attendant reenter all my information, except changing female to male.

He did, and when the ticket came out, I felt justified in seeing that the sizes were a straight line of 28x30s. I walked over to the (men's) wall, selected a nice pair of low-rise boot cut and tried them on.

They fit. Beautifully. I was out of there in five minutes, after weeks of searching. There were even added bonuses -- the jeans were cheaper, and you could actually put stuff in the pockets!

My cross-dressing spree continued. Men's shirts, wallets, belts, shoes... funky colors, awesome patterns, real fabrics...it's a totally different world

than the uber-trendy polyester world of junior's clothing. Sure, there will be stares as you peruse the menswear, but isn't it worth shirtsleeves that don't cling to your arm fat? And the whole bathing suit fiasco can be solved just as easily. Find a top you like, and then get a coordinating pair of guys' board shorts. No more thigh dimples or wedgies!

And don't think going to the dark side means you'll have to give up pink. There's plenty of pink clothing marketed towards guys. It might be hard to find those little embroidered butterflies, though. But hey, they've got badass bulldogs instead!

Who knows? Maybe if enough of us start wearing men's clothes the clothing companies will take note and standardize their sizes. Then hundreds upon hundreds of woman-hours spent in the dressing room will be ours for the taking!

Now, I'm not saying every item of clothing should be found on the guys' side. For instance, finding bras or dresses might be a little troublesome. I'm just saying take a look. Try something on. Stop stealing your boyfriend's shirts and get some of your own. Join the ranks of the cross-dressing.

Sound Off: Why would you plan graduation on NASCAR weekend?

I want to take a moment to ask the administration why did they schedule spring graduation for the same weekend as the big NASCAR race at Talladega?

As a non-traditional student who will complete my master's degree in April, I was really looking forward to coming over to Jacksonville for that weekend and walking for my degree. But the university's poor planning has caused me to really consider if it's worth the

booked up for the race, and if by chance you do find one open, they want double the normal rate and a minimum of three-night stay.

I talked to one of the smaller motel operators and they told me that the university does this repeatedly. They schedule graduation on the same weekend as the race every year.

Now, I have no way of verifying this, but if you even do this on an occasional basis, it strikes me as very poor plan-

ance to attend to the ceremony. My in-laws will also attend; luckily they live within a couple of hours drive also. However, some family members may be coming from far away and the fact that they may not be able to find hotel rooms in the local area may cause those individuals to reconsider the trip.

How hard would it be for the university to contact the folks at the NASCAR track in Talladega and find out what the race schedule is

it doesn't conflict with the race. This would probably mean moving graduation one week later, but that still should not be a major inconvenience for the university, and it would allow more students and family members to stay in the local area for the graduation weekend.

Not only would this increase attendance at graduation, but it would also bring in more money for the local economy. How many of those who will attend gra-

other weekend. This is our special weekend and to have to share it with NASCAR fans and not be able to have our friends and relatives attend due to lack of hotel rooms punishes us. Move graduation to some other weekend so that we can invite those special people to Jacksonville. Not only will the university benefit, but the local communities' economies will also.

Thank you.



Kaylynh Carswell
Freshman



Long Library books



Jon Hollingsworth
Sophomore



the university's poor planning has caused me to really consider if it's worth the hassle.

I lived in the local area for the first two years of my degree so I know what kind of mess it's going to be with all the NASCAR fans in town. On top of this, there are no motel rooms to be found anywhere within a 60-mile radius of Anniston/Oxford/Jacksonville. Everything is

ifying this, but if you even do this on an occasional basis, it strikes me as very poor planning on the university's part.

Graduation is supposed to be a celebration of the completion of several years of commitment to higher learning. It's a time when families come together to watch those who have made this commitment earn their rewards. Some, like me, will not have to drive a great dis-

folks at the NASCAR track in Talladega and find out what the race schedule is before they set up the calendar for the spring semester? I am sure that NASCAR knows their race schedule several years in advance. NASCAR is too big a business not to have those races on the long-range planning calendar. Then the university could adjust their schedule by moving graduation so

in more money for the local economy. How many of those who will attend graduation will only be there for Friday's ceremony? If they had motels available, how many would then have stayed for at least one, maybe two, nights and spent their money in the local restaurants and stores?

Come on, JSU administration; take the time to better plan graduation for some

mies will also.
Thank you,
P. Richards
JSU Grad Student

Editor's note: Sound Off is a new section for JSU students, faculty and staff to voice their opinion about, well, whatever you have an opinion about. Please send submissions to chantynews@yahoo.com

Hero, continued from page 1

According to Thompson, that "greater cause" also included a sincere dedication to his family.

"Donnie was also a very dedicated and loving son, father and husband. Here, too, he placed their needs above his own. This was indicative of Donnie Belser as a person. This man was a selfless servant - to God, to his family and to his country," said Thompson.

While Belser attended JSU, he not only earned a degree and a commissioning into the Army, but he also met his future wife, Marshawn. The two met at a JSU basketball game where he was working security and she was a Fastbreaker. They began dating Feb. 15, 1999, and Belser's sister-in-law Marcia Dobbins said that Marshawn always teased him saying that he was too cheap to date her before Valentine's Day.

The two were wed March 31, 2000, and had their daughter Morgan the following year. The next addition to their little family came five years later when son Myles was born. His first birthday was Feb. 9 of this year, the day before his father was killed.

Belser was an adoring father who loved spending time

with his children.

"Whether it was Morgan's ballet or cheerleading, he always took out



Photo of Google images

Belser in his high school photo.

the time to be involved. Morgan also knows all about the computer because of her daddy. She says that he is the smartest person in the world," said Dobbins.

Dobbins also said that after Myles was born, Belser played a major role in his care—bathing him at night, dressing him in the morning and waking up with him in the middle of the night.

"Donnie was very patient with the kids, and knew how to have fun with them," said Dobbins.

Jerrold Brown, Belser's friend throughout high school and college, recalled his friend's excitement about becoming a father. Brown was at the hospital with Belser when Morgan was born in the wee hours of the morning.

"[Donnie] came out of the room with a big smile on his face. He was so proud of her," said Brown.

That big smile continues to be something that people remember most about Donnie.

"He had a perpetual and infectious smile and an optimistic nature," said Thompson.

President Bill Meehan also remembers Belser's time at JSU and attended his visitation to give the family his condolences on behalf of the university.

"It is fine young men and women like Donnie Belser who are serving our country. Our best wishes go out to all of them," said President Meehan.

Donnie Ray Belser Jr. was the first JSU ROTC graduate to be killed in action since the Vietnam War.



Photo courtesy of Captain Millicent S. Peyer

Belser (far left) with members of his ROTC commissioning class.

His visitation was held Feb. 18, and he was buried Feb. 19 at Jefferson Memory Gardens in Trussville.

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Photo courtesy of Captain Millicent S. Peyer
Belser at his commissioning ceremony.

We've seen better days

By Chris Yow
The Chanticleer
Web Editor



Imagine this: over the next seven seasons, Mark Gottfried's basketball team at Alabama goes 88 - 116. He makes the SEC tournament twice, wins only two games in those tournaments, has a 6-8 record versus the school's most hated rival Auburn and never goes to the post-season. What would Mal Moore do? Moore would most likely fire Gottfried immediately following that seventh season, right?

Well, Jim Fuller, listen up. I am calling for the firing of your head basketball coach.

If you didn't know, the above figures are those of Mike LaPlante--the head basketball coach here at Jacksonville State.

In his tenure the JSU men's basketball teams have been less than mediocre most of the time.

Granted, he had a pretty good season last year, hosting a conference tournament game and only being beaten by conference champions by two points. But having two good seasons amongst five decent and mediocre seasons is not good enough for this school.

In the 80's and 90's, when every year was a good year, and the Gamecocks won, on average 19 games a year, JSU was playing for bids to the NCAA tournament.

Now, I understand that we are no longer in Division II. But when a school makes the move to Division I, the school generally attracts Division I athletes.

Has LaPlante gotten Division I athletes? Yes. Courtney Brad-

Gamecocks douse the Flames

By Nick Lehwald
The Chanticleer Senior Reporter

The Jacksonville state rugby team clobbered the Lee University flames last Saturday. With a final score of 83-7, the Gamecocks prevented the Flames from doing much damage to their impeccable record.

Like Smokey the Bear, the Gamecocks prevented a fire that could have cost them their so far spotless season. Currently standing undefeated at 5-0, the Gamecocks left the field of battle to the cheers and shouts of the crowd of dedicated Rugby fans and family who braved the hurricane force winds to stand by their team.

One possible reason for the power behind the Gamecocks' punch was the bitter memory of the last time they played Lee. Although Lee defeated the Gamecocks last year, the team kept their wits about them and calmly dealt a payback so harsh that even Montezuma's Revenge seems weak in comparison.

"The guys were definitely expecting more competition because of the team they

played last year," stated team nurse and little sister Rachael Boyd. "We're still excited to beat them, even if it was nearly a shutout."

With temperatures in the 60's, and the winds blowing at monsoon speed, the JSU ruggers blew right through the Flames' scrum's and stole the ball away faster than a pickpocket in Times Square. The game was only interrupted once, when a young fan lost control of his kite, which went sailing across the pitch.

The scoring was spread evenly across the Gamecocks' roster. Tri's were attempted and completed by seven players. Chris Stekete, Josh Flemming and Justin Armstrong all made tri's early in the game, securing a lead that would only rise exponentially throughout the rest of the game. Other players that scored were Myron Stewart, Mark Kennedy, Tom Snow and Chris Wills.

Next Saturday, the Gamecocks travel to the Bluegrass State to face Murray State University in Kentucky at 4 p.m. (Insert your own Kentucky Derby related joke here.)



Photo by Nick Lehwald

The error of their ways

By Chad Hoffman
The Chanticleer Senior Reporter

The Jacksonville State University Softball team took an emotional 1-0 loss to state foe Auburn Tuesday night at University Field.

The Gamecocks (6-5) faced a tough pitcher in Hollie Currie (4-4) and tried on several occasions to get things started.

Errors on the defensive side of the ball proved to be costly again for the ladies in red.

With a runner on first, Currie hit a roller to third and was thrown out by Ciara Wesen. Nikki Prier then turned and threw to second in attempt to get shortstop Jackie Jarman

to apply the tag for the final out, but the ball sailed over her head into left field and rolled to the wall. Auburn's Lauren Walton went across the plate for their lone run of the game.

"The team fought really well tonight," stated Prier. "I have to cut out the errors and things will fall into place."

JSU got things started when Prier sent one through the

right side and then stole second on a passed ball. Daniela Pappano came to the plate and took a walk to put runners on first and second. Currie was relentless and struck out the next two batters, getting out of the inning.

The Gamecocks were tested by the Tigers from time to time but seemed to work themselves out of the situation.

Sophomore Allie Barker threw out only the second base runner this season as Lindsey Harrelson attempted to steal second in the top of the second. Auburn's next runner reached on the second error of the night for the Gamecocks as Prier bobbled the throw from Wesen. The next batter, Walton, reached on a single to third, but Jarman got them out of the inning when she completed a throw to first.

In the bottom of the third, JSU again had two runners in scoring position with one out, but the next two batters struck out swinging.

"We are facing very good pitching and we have to put the ball into play," stated head coach Jana McGinnis. "We have to produce hits from the top to the bottom of the lineup. Each has been around

team must step up and be more aggressive in the batters box."

JSU left six runners on base; three in scoring position.

Junior Karla Pittman (3-4) went the distance in the circle and suffered another loss with only one run scored. This was only her second earned run allowed in 44 innings of work. She has earned 41 strikeouts and an ERA of 0.32.

"If we will come out to a game and play like we practice," stated Pittman. "We will be successful. The hitters will learn from every pitcher they face, but we are going to continue to get better and will eventually get what is ours."



Photo By Kira Wright

Second baseman Brittany Day gets ready to apply the tag to Auburn's Lindsey Harrelson and complete the double play to end the inning.

Junior Rachel Fleming and freshman Prier were the only two Gamecocks with hits on the night.

"Every pitcher has different timing and we have to use our time on deck to prepare ourselves in the batters box," commented Fleming. "Our defense and pitching are solid and we will work things out. We are going to show up this weekend and win."

This past weekend, the

team traveled to the University of South Carolina and participated in the USC Gamecock Classic.

They went 1-and-3 over the weekend and were rained out in the third inning of their last game.

While winning 5-1 against East Tennessee, the ladies fell 1-0 to South Carolina and 5-1 to Radford.

The defensive had some miscommunication and throwing errors at first over the weekend but rebounded well on day two.

Fleming, along with Jarman, Prier and Alana Hicks led the way with the bats as they had a combined 14 hits over the weekend. Others scattered them across the field, but it did come around in time.

Sophomore pitcher Melissa Dowling suffered her first loss of the season as she pitched the complete six innings against Radford. She allowed five runs on six hits, with one earned run.

This weekend the Gamecocks will travel to Orlando, Fla., and participate in the Knight Classic. They will play their first game against host University of Central Florida at 2 p.m. Friday. They return home for the OVC opener against Morehead State on March 17 for a double header starting at 1 -

athletes. Has LaPlante gotten Division I athletes? Yes. Courtney Bradley is a great basketball player. Walker D. Russell is playing overseas professionally.

However, his athletes have been the reason for his success. I have never seen such inconsistency in a sports program in my entire life. Not even high schools, where programs are given players instead of getting players.

His recruiting ability is not in question, after all, this is the coach that got Mamadou N'Diaye to come to Auburn.

His coaching has not been the best this school has ever seen. That is obvious by his records. LaPlante's coaching style is not exactly the style that most of his players are used to playing. Most of the athletes that are recruited are from junior colleges. In JUCO, it's one step above high school and two steps up on street ball.

The players are used to playing all-out, go get the ball styles. While LaPlante is running a half court set living and dying, but mostly dying, by the 3-point shot.

Honestly, I like Coach LaPlante. He is a stand up guy, and he is as nice as they come. And I hate to write this. However, as a student of this school, I know the traditions here. I also know that JSU is capable of putting a winner on the court every year.

This season, our team lost five games that came down to the final shot. Do you think it was all the fault of the players? I don't either.

I credit last-second losses to not being prepared for that situation and not teaching basketball. I credit it to coaching.

But, hey, if he wins a couple conference titles amongst a bunch of underachieving years, maybe he'll get a contract extension.



Photo by Nick Lehrwald

The Gamecocks fight the Flames in a scrum for the ball.

we are facing very good pitching and we have to put the ball into play," stated head coach Jana McGinnis. "We have to produce hits from the top to the bottom of the lineup. Karla has been around the game long enough she knows her duties and the

they will play their first game against host University of Central Florida at 2 p.m. Friday. They return home for the OVC opener against Morehead State on March 17 for a double-header starting at 1 p.m.

Gamecock Basketball comes to an end

By Chris Yow
The Chanticleer Web Editor



Jacksonville State's basketball seasons have now officially come to a close. With a chance beforehand to gain even the seventh seed in the conference tournament, the men fell out of contention with Morehead State's victory over conference champion Austin Peay. The men and women both finished their years on the court at Pete Mathews Coliseum on Saturday night.

The Gamecock men got the victory over Southeast Missouri State 78-72 on Senior Night, while the women took a 35-point beating from the Redhawks.

On Thursday, both squads were defeated by Eastern Illinois, the women by a score of 82-76 and

the men, 69-65.

On Saturday, seniors Courtney Bradley and Nick Smith set the pace for the victory. Bradley ended his Gamecocks career with his eighth double-double, scoring 28 points and pulling in 10 rebounds. Smith also went out with a career night from the floor, dropping 24 points, the most in his two JSU seasons. Harold Crow, the final senior, got 10 points of his own.

The Gamecocks (9-21, 7-13 Ohio Valley Conference) shot the ball extremely well, 48 percent from the floor and 38 percent from 3-point land.

All three seniors were junior college transfers. Bradley landed here after a great stint with JUCO power Itawanbe College. Crow and Smith played all four seasons together, their first two at Seminole State in Seminole, Okla.

Bradley graduates as the Gamecocks Division I record holder for most points scored in a single season, with 510 points this year.

Thursday night was once again the same story of the season. With less than five ticks on the clock, Smith drove to the basket and drew a foul while shooting. The ball hit the rim softly and came to a stop on the back of the rim, not wavering in any direction.

"Nick got a big rebound and made a play, but the ball just sat there and wouldn't fall," said head coach Mike LaPlante. "We played hard. We just had some good looks that wouldn't go down."

Courtney Bradley led the Gamecocks with 20 points, but it was EIU's Jake Byrne that doomed JSU. Averaging just seven points a contest, Byrne dropped 28 on the Gamecocks.

"Our focus was to stop their two scorers, (Mike) Robinson and (Romain) Martin, and I thought we did a good job of that, but Byrne stepped up for them," said LaPlante.

Becky Geyer's first season

with her women's team was not a very pleasant season. Saturday night, SEMO clinched their second-straight OVC regular-season crown with the victory over Geyer's Gamecocks. A 31-10 SEMO run to begin the second half gave JSU no real chance at making a comeback. For the entire half, JSU shot a dismal 16.7 percent while SEMO scorched the nets with 58 percent shooting from the floor. Kelsey Johnkin led all JSU scorers with 11 points, followed by Ashley Boykin's 10. Jolie Efezokhae pulled down 10 boards.

The game before senior night should have been dubbed Freshman Night for the Gamecocks. Jolie Efezokhae recorded a double-double, while JSU got career-high points from two more freshmen, Eren McMichael and Erica West.

McMichael led the young attack with 19 points, while Efezokhae added 16 points and 13 rebounds. West contributed 13 points of her own in the freshmen tandem.

"Our freshmen really carried us tonight," Geyer said. "There were times when we made some runs to get back in the game and we did it with our freshmen. I think we saw a glimpse of what our future will look like tonight."



Photo from JSUFAN.com

Center Amadou Mbdoji, who stands 7'1, goes for the tip against the Eastern Illinois Panthers on Thursday.

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