am a Survivor

BY EMILY GLASER
STAFF WRITER

Pamela Tomocl is a survivor. According to the American Cancer Society, one in eight women will have invasive breast cancer (over course of her lifetime). A 31-year employee of Jacksonville State University, Tomocl is one of those women. She has been cancer-free for 11 years.

Tomocl has no history of breast cancer in her family, but discovered a lump during a self-examination in December of 1999. She had a biopsy and continued to live life as usual; nothing was wrong.

On Dec. 26, and when asked if anyone had ever heard her, she knew “everything wasn’t fine.” The biopsy was malignant and Tomocl was diagnosed with Stage II breast cancer.

According to the Susan G. Komen society, the Cure website, Stage II breast cancer consists of a tumor between two and five centimeters. Tomocl underwent chemotherapy and radiation treatments. Yet she didn’t let her diagnosis slow her down. She continued to do everything she could.

She was a wife and a mother. At the time her daughters Jennifer and Emily were 12 and 5, respectively. Plus she was an employee of the Registrar’s Office.

In support of her wife and to calm their fears, Tomocl’s husband Chuck told his daughters cut his hair which he then shaved. Paul Turner, a good family friend, also shaved his “Chuck has been bald ever since.” Tomocl says with a cheerful grin.

During six months of treatments, Tomocl kept a normal lifestyle. Through it all she missed only a few days of work and stayed healthy through exercises which kept me mentally healthy,” she states. Today her favorite outfit is walking to work, she was a VICE President of Scholarships the music management, and her favorite outlet to be a better karate studio’s assistant. She was a Vice President of Scholarships the music management, and her favorite outlet to be a better karate studio’s assistant. She was a Vice President of Scholarships the music management, and her favorite outlet to be a better karate studio’s assistant. She was a Vice President of Scholarships the music management, and her favorite outlet to be a better karate studio’s assistant.

In 2002, Tomocl hosted a Relay for Life in Jacksonville City Auditorium for the American Cancer Society’s Relay For Life for the past 15 years. Tomocl tells about the current cancer patients that she has been practicing together since her diagnosis.

Tomocl and family are also active in the fight against breast cancer. They’ve participated in the American Cancer Society’s Relay For Life for the past 15 years. Tomocl tells about the current cancer patients that she has been practicing together since her diagnosis.

Housing Tunes Students into Greatness

BY EMERALD DUKES
STAFF WRITER

Jacksonville State University students and faculty crowded into Leon Cohen Auditorium last Wednesday for “Tune into Your Greatness.”

According to Brooke Bell, Assistant Director of Student Development and Educational Programming, the University Housing and Residence Life “hosted this event as part of our new programming model.” October brought motivational speaker Diana Thompson to the college campus for approximately three years. His main message was, “It’s true, don’t just happen.”

Huff began by asking the audience, “What would you do if you knew you couldn’t fail?” A roundabout spread through the audience. Many students replied, “Anything.” Huff commanded the audience on their own personal ambitions, then proceeded to share the three essential elements of success.

Number one is vision. Everyday one possesses a vision that only he or she can see, and must stay true to it and strive to make it a reality. This led to Huff’s second element, commitment. If a person is willing to try and never give up, there’s always a way “Troy hogs swing big doors,” Huff says. He continued by sharing that “if someone has vision, go for it.” According to Huff, one can never know if another has the same vision — and they might reach the goal first.

Huff spoke of perseverance, hanging in there and having an “I will succeed” attitude.

According to Huff, success isn’t an easy task. There are many roadblocks in life, but these are overcome with belief, time management and perseverance. “Anyone can do anything they put their mind to if they have the talent, the desire, and the will,” he says.

Students especially enjoyed Huff expressing his own life story through music. Throughout the night Huff played hits and pieces from songs he’s written to keep the audience entertained. According to Bell, more than 500 students filled the Leon Cohen Auditorium for the event. JSU freshman Sarah Johnson stated, “I really enjoyed the program and look forward to coming back next year.” Huff’s housing program puts on next month.

The department hosts programs each month to improve the residence hall experience by exposing students to varying experiences. They also ensure that students are aware of different independent resources that are available to them through various community organizations.
Photo: Courtesy of SassySageGreek

**Gamma Sigma Sigma Hosts “Love Shouldn’t Hurt”**

**By ZACH TYLER STAFF WRITER**

Jacksonville State University’s Gamma Sigma Sigma chapter hosted a “Love Shouldn’t Hurt” awareness walk last Wednesday in recognition of Domestic Violence Awareness Month. The demonstration took place at 6 p.m. on the TMB lawn and spoke out against the practice of domestic violence.

Choral Echoes was the driving force behind the demonstration. They’ve raised awareness of domestic violence at JSU, such echoes reverberating in their home event last August. A member of a sister chapter in Texas lost her life to spousal abuse, leaving behind a young son. To raise proceeds for him and to further promote awareness, Gamma Sig members sold purple bracelets at the walk. The group then spoke passionately to the crowd prior to the walk, President Motonin opened the address with a sobering question: “Raise your hand if you’ve been affected by domestic violence?” A number of audience members nodded along, and held their hands.

Julie Nix, director of JSU’s Disability Support Services and Counseling followed and thanked everyone involved for bringing the issue into the spotlight at JSU. “Gamma Sigma Sigma has taken on this issue to being aware of the violence within our community and our campus, about this important problem.” According to Nix, many college students don’t realize they’re in an abusive relationship. “They believe abuse only happens in marriages with children. Yet dating violence and domestic violence are the same. We also have college sophomore.”

“Students see in our office every day who are either exiting from past abusive relationships or are currently in them,” says Nix.

Concluding speaker Susan Shipman is Executive Director of Anniston’s 2nd Chance, Inc., an organization that assists victims of domestic violence in Calhoun, Cleburne and Tallapoosa counties. Shipman thanked Gamma Sigma Sig for taking initiative to promote awareness of such violence. “We don’t think about domestic violence because it’s ugly,” Shipman said. “It’s something most people prefer to keep hidden and hope it goes away because we don’t want to look at it.”

The walk began following the speeches, and Gamma Sigma Sigma held massive signs that read “Love Shouldn’t Hurt” and “End Teen Dating Violence.” The paraplegic crowd made a circle at Trustee Circle and drew the attention of fellow students. The event was an overall success. The Domestic Violence Resource Center is the perfect organization. The event was held in four women experience some level of domestic violence in some point in their lives. Domestic violence is physical, mental, sexual or emotional abuse to an intimate relationship. It occurs when one person uses abusive tactics to gain power and control over a partner or former partner. The Alabama Coalition Against Domestic Violence has a toll-free 24-hour crisis line, safe shelters across the state, and many other services available to victims. Find out more at asc.org or call 2nd Chance, Inc. at (256) 236-7381.

**JSU Music Faculty member to perform at Carnegie Hall**

**By NOELLE MILLRONS SPECIAL TO THE CHANTICLEER**

Dr. Jeremy Benson, Professor of Voice Studies in the David L. Walters Department of Music, was named a first prize winner at the Alexander & Buono International Flute Competition and will travel to New York City with pianist Christopher-Cortez Miller where he will give a solo debut recital at Carnegie Hall on Sunday, October 3rd.

The competition was open to musicians worldwide. Benson applied to the competition by submitting a solo flute recording, which was selected as the winner and will perform in the Annual Winners Recital during a special Carnegie Hall Recital at Carnegie Hall. Dr. Benson is a JSU grad, and he began his post at JSU just this fall. He currently teaches the flute studio and flute ensemble, and is creating curriculums for a music history class. He calls it a “dream job.”

“When I was a student, I walked through these same doors with no plan,” Benson states, “and now I walk through them with a plan and purpose.”

Dr. Benson believes in his students and states on his syllabus that he does “not expect perfection, just progress.” His attitude and energy seems to be making a positive impact on the music department and his students.

“His energy is always a positive asset to JSU students,” said Dr. Shipman. “He encourages the students and gives them the freedom to explore their own interests.”

Dr. Benson graduated from JSU in 2005 and went on to receive his Masters from Florida State University. He then earned his Doctorate from Rutgers, where he also taught secondary flute and was a substitute instructor in Dabrowski shows, before returning to JSU to assume the position he now holds at alma mater. Benson said that he hopes to inspire his students, and connect to the fact they come from the same university. He states, “I hope that the JSU music students can understand that they can go anywhere. It just takes practice and dedication. I carpe diem through the same doorways that I practiced in the same practice rooms. The opportunities are here, you just have to take advantage of them.”

The possibilities are endless. Dr. Benson is a teacher to just that, and was even the Southern’s Drum Major. Benson graduated from JSU in 2005 and went on to receive his Masters from Florida State University. He then earned his Doctorate from Rutgers, where he also taught secondary flute and was a substitute instructor in Dabrowski shows, before returning to JSU to assume the position he now holds at alma mater. Benson said that he hopes to inspire his students, and connect to the fact they come from the same university. He states, “I hope that the JSU music students can understand that they can go anywhere. It just takes practice and dedication. I carpe diem through the same doorways that I practiced in the same practice rooms. The opportunities are here, you just have to take advantage of them.”

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**Weekend Box Office**

**By MARICELLE CERRETTI STAFF WRITER**

With an estimated 52 million Americans living with a disability and October being National Disability Employment Awareness Month, the annual Pancake Breakfast is a way of giving back.

The Pancake Breakfast will be held at a pancake breakfast this Saturday, October 22nd at the First United Methodist Church to benefit Push America.

Push America, founded in 1977 is the exclusive land-mass-to-land-mass event organized by the Push America group dedicated to serving people with disabilities.

“Push America is dedicated to making a difference in their lives,” said Josh Robinson, the Push America chairperson of the local chapter.

The breakfast will be held from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. Tickets are five dollars each.
Author Ted Dunagan Returns to JSU

by COURTNEY RAY
STAFF WRITER

I have a confession: I love words. Ever since I can remember I have loved the elegance of a well-structured sentence and reveled in finding the perfect word that conveys exactly what I want to say. So, as an avid reader and writer, I was excited to attend the first reading of the friends of the Houston Cole Library’s presentation of Ted M. Dunagan, an award-winning author from right here in Alabama.

The event, billed with a welcome from John Graham, Dean of Library Resources, and Dr. Janice Gates, chairperson of the Friends of the Houston Cole Library, Mr. Dunagan was introduced by Dr. Hardy Jackson, his childhood friend and fellow author.

During his presentation, Dunagan recounted his introduction to books as a child, noting: “The Brothers Grimm’s ‘Hansel and Gretel’ was the first story that I ever read to him. At an early age, heekin’ things into words, I’m still doing the same. Even, Uncle Sam had different plans, and after high school Dunagan served in the Vietnam era.

Upon his return, the author went to college, got married, had four children, and worked in the cosmetics and fragrance industry. Although he was fined after 26 years on this career path, Dunagan says that the incident gave him the opportunity to do what he’d always dreamed of doing—write. After Jennifer Gardner, a writer, introduced Dunagan about six months to write the first draft of his present novel, ‘Dunagan’s upcoming release, ‘Falling Watermelon’.” It would be six years before it was published by NewSouth Books.

His series thus far consists of three books that follow the intercessional friendship of Ted Dillon and Pendain, two twelve-year-old boys growing up in rural Alabama in 1948. The two main characters are based on Dunagan himself and his childhood friend Orlando Robinson, also known as Pendain. The two other books are entitled “Secret of the Satellite” and “Trouble on the Toohibough.”

The books are about the boys and how they deal with poverty and social issues and what it was like to be a kid fifty-something years ago,” says Dunagan. “It’s about the beginning of social and economic change. The roots of those are right here in these books.”

Dunagan also said that the fourth book in the series, “The Salvation of Miss Lucaster,” is finished and might be published as soon as next fall.

Mr. Dunagan came to JSU courtesy of the Friends of the Houston Cole Library. The Friends are an organization hoping to promote an appreciation of the Library as the center of academic life at Jacksonville State University and to provide enrichment for its resources.


HUNGRY FOR SOMETHING besides wizards and vampires? The Hunger Games is for you!

BY PAIGE BAKER
ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

If you are tired of wizards and vampires, but you find yourself craving to read a book series, then “The Hunger Games” in the series for you. ”The Hunger Games” like many book series, is the first book of the epic trilogy by Suzanne Collins, which is followed by “Catching Fire” and “Mockingjay.”

Although this book is classified as Young Adult Literature, I found myself unable to put this book down until the very last page. It opens to a dystopian society (think The Lottery, by Shirley Jackson), in which future America is divided into 12 different districts. This is a society that is much different than ours today, but in terms of our society still lingers. The main character, Katniss Everdeen, is just 16 years old. After her father’s death she became the sole provider for her mother and her younger sister. She provides for her family by hunting, illegally, outside of district 12. Her hunting skills prove to be very effective because she decides to take her sister Prim’s place in the hunger games.

Every year each district must put up two contestants from their district, one boy and one girl aged 12 to 18. These “tributes,” as they are called in the book, will be drawn at random and sent off to the Capital in a week long preparation for the games. The games are set in an arena that is controlled by the leaders of the capital. It is a cross-fire to the death in order to survive.

The winner will return to his or her district a hero, only after killing all the other contestants, including the tribute from their district. The first book takes you into the heart of the games. You are with Katniss as she struggles to find food and fight off wild animals. You are also with her when she has to kill her fellow tributes in order to stay alive. By the end of the book, you are Katniss Everdeen and you have witnessed some very horrible things.

This story has so much for everyone. The setting, in itself, seems like something out of a science-fiction novel, the characters have a lot of action, it has gore and some situations that seem more mature in nature.

There is also another underlying love triangle. However, the love triangle does not consume the plot like another book series everyone knows (TWILIGHT). The first book is truly a great read and I am excited to continue with the series with Catching Fire. I look forward to Catching Fire, part two of my review of The Hunger Game’s trilogy.
Gamecocks ride high into a tough battle

By DANIEL PORTER
SPORTS WRITER

The Gamecocks are rallying up through the polls. After opening the season ranked sixth the Gamecocks fell all the way back to seventeenth after losing in week two at Chattanooga. The Chattanogas less don’t look so bad considering the Mos have just outside the top 23 with four tough losses. Chattanooga played Florida Powerhouse Ne­braska in week one, then the Mos encountered a three game losing skid which included losses at #1 Georgia Southern and at #4 Appalachian State, for three games were lost by a combined four points. However, after last week’s win over confed­eracy Austin Peay in Clarksville, Tennessee the Gamecocks are #5-1 and sitting eighth in the Coach­es poll and ninth in the Sports Network poll. Jack­son­ville State is now 4-0 in OVC play as the only team remaining unbeaten in conference games.

The two teams behind JU, with only one OVC less are Tennessee Tech and Eastern Kentucky, who both are on the Gamecocks’ upcoming sched­ule. Before these games though, Jacksonville will be taking a trip up to Lexington, Kentucky this weekend to face the Wildcats of Kentucky. Everyone remembers what happened in last year’s meet­ting between JU and a SEC team, Ken­ tucky had a tough season and will enter the game 2-4 on the season. Coach Crowe knows the importance of the game saying, “Those games have become a measuring stick for us at every level of competition.”

The Wildcats are coming off a bye week but prior to that they lost three straight games to SEC bullies LSU, Florida and South Carolina, the Wildcats were outscored 137-20 against those three games. “If here ever was a week up factor – it isn’t there anymore. We are playing a football team in Kentucky that is coming off an open date and they will certainly bring everything they got,” stated Coach Crowe.

The Gamecocks could set a tone for the re­mainder of the season and going into the hopeful playoffs with a win Saturday. The Kentucky game will be televised nationally on ESPN but it won’t affect the team’s mentality. “It’s really just another game and everything is the same,” said Sophomore QB Cory Blanchard, while Junior DB Brooks Robinson added, “We prepare for everyone the same way… we are going out to prepare just as hard as we would for anyone else.”

Jacksonville State should start becoming fa­miliar with the SEC after playing Ole Miss last season and Kentucky this weekend, the Gamecocks also have Florida already on the schedule for next season as well as Austin in 2013. Wachau Bailey and Calvin Middleton have combined for 949 yards rushing for the season and continue to lead the team with 1124 yards and three TDs on the ground to go along with his 800 yards and six TDs passing.

While Tiny Smith, James Shaw, Kecyn Cooper, Calvin Middleton, and Ake Horton all have at least ten catches, it’s Justin Howard who’s pulled in the team high three touchdowns receptions.

Nine defensive players have interceptions, Robert Gray is the only player with multiple picks, he has two. Rashad Smith leads with thirty-nine total tackles. James Evans has been solid connecting on all five of his field goals attempted and being 23-24 on PAs.

FORMER GAME­
COCK T.J. HEATH
PROMOTED TO
JACKSONVILLE
JAGUARS ACTIVE
NFL ROSTER

Former Jacksonville State All­American T.J. Heath was signed to the Jacksonville Jaguars active NFL roster from the practice squad, the NFL team an­nounced on Tuesday.

Heath, 6-1, 179, was signed as an undrafted rookie by the Jaguars on July 27 and spent the first six weeks on the practice squad. A three­year starter at Jacksonville State, he recorded 145 career tackles and 16 interceptions.

“I’ve enjoyed every moment since I’ve been a part of the Jaguars,” Heath said at Tuesday. “It get even better when i got the news that i was coming up yesterday. I’ve been blessed and I’m looking forward to making some plays.”

The former Alexandria High School product was named All­America as a junior in 2009 by three different national organizations, including the Associated Press and The Sports Net­work.

Heath led the Ohio Valley Confer­ence in passes defended and led the Jaguar defense with six interceptions, in­cluding returning two for touchdowns against Murray. The defensive back also led the team with 13 pass break ups and also forced a fumble and blocked a kick, while recording 34 total tackles during his All­American season.

Jacksonville State finished one of the most successful seasons in the school’s Division I history, entering a 9-3 overall record, and was ranked as high as No. 2 during the 2010 season. JU also advanced to the second round of the NCAA playoffs and hosted its first home playoff game in 18 years at the newly renovated Burgess­Snow Field at JU Stadium.

Heath was a member of the team that made Jacksonville State the talk of the football world on the opening weekend following a thrilling 49-48 defeat of No. 16 Ole Miss. The Gamecocks were the lead story on ESPN, ESPN News and Col­lege Game Day following the “biggest upset of the 2010 season.”

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