Students skeptical about JSU's IDEA

EMILY BAYES  
NEWS EDITOR

“Reminder, End of Semester IDEA Course survey for...”

Look familiar? Students’ accounts fill these mails daily, and will continue until today’s deadline.

“The surveys are a little aggressive, and I feel like I’m being watched,” said senior Anna-Marie Waddle.

“Individual Development and Educational Assessment. It is JSU's system of student ratings of instruction,” said Coordinator of Assessment, Helman Ma, from the Office of Institutional Research and Assessment.

“Through this, we are able to get feedback from students and faculty. This is then used to improve the course content and course instruction, and hopefully we can use data generated from students to guide any needed changes in course content and course instruction.”

A communication instructor, Charles Waddle, signs up an email to his students.

“This course focuses on the feedback and comments and judgments of those who took it previously. I hope you will help me and your successors succeed and enjoy the course content instruction.”

Most professors support the IDEA surveys, and some go to great lengths to get high student participation. Students have been given bonus points or awarded an easy grade. Some professors even march entire classes to the nearest computer lab.

Extreme measures? Perhaps not when you look at the numbers.

In general, in the full semester we tend to get a higher response rate than the spring semester,” said Mr. Waddle.

“Hopefully, in this semester we will break that change. Fall in 2011, the response rate was at 46 percent. That was a five-point increase from spring 2010.”

So what’s stopping the majority of students?

“Back a couple of years ago, I would fill out the surveys, and some teachers would be upset. Now, I don’t know what to fill in, but clearly I don’t fill them out because I’m not very impressed,” said senior Matthew Dial, a communication major.

“Because, I have no evidence that it does,” said personally.

Sophomore Sara Pettig, a Secondary Education major, has a similar view.

“I only fill them out if a teacher begs me because I just don’t see them making a huge difference. Other people don’t even fill them out before they finish back and forth, and do the same thing.”

Waddle admitted to changing aspects of his course based on direct results from the IDEA. But, according Andrew Boldt, a communication major, most professors do the same.

“If there’s no reason designed to check the surveys, look at them, come in, all down with the teacher and say, ‘Hey, you have all these comments, you have a least these comments that are vowing to be do that way — what are you going to do about it?’”

“IT’s just fall up to the teacher then the entire thing’s pointless. The teacher’s not going to take that criticism.”

Mr. Waddle explained that the surveys do provide information. “All courses are evaluated using the same instrument and method, providing the data for various institutions and programs.”

The IDEA results are intended to be used in helping guide improvement efforts, either in teaching or in course content. As a Senior Vice President of Student Affairs, he concurred.

“Faculty take student evaluations seriously. We need student input to decide how material should be presented and to know how we can improve our teaching,” said Mr. Waddle.

In addition, student evaluations are a part of the faculty evaluation process. We use the results of these surveys and to improve our teaching,” said Mr. Waddle.

The notion of anonymity and the timing of the surveys is a concern among students, as well. The survey guarantees anonymity “applies you supply information that identifies yourself,” in the comments section.

“I have added comments before but only to complain about a teacher,” said Pettig.

Some felt it was allowing professors who have access to the survey so quickly.

“Factoring in the Sunday deadline, Ma said. Normally, the turnaround time, I would say, like 10 working days. According to her, “Before the semester ends, they will get their reports back.”

Her communication instructor, Mike Stedham, only allowed IDEA surveys from the first day of his class before he had turned in his semester grades. Normally, “I try them at least a week or more after.”

Tyson joked about merely answering the comment section of the surveys. Asked if he thought his grade had ever been affected by survey answers, he shook his head.

“If that was true, I would raise all kinds of...”
CAMPUS & LOCAL
COMMUNITY, CAMPUS AND SOCIAL NEWS YOU CAN USE

CAMPUS CRIME

Monday, April 9
• Violation of Student Code of Conduct, Oak Avenue
• Theft of Property, Panell Hall
• Booted Vehicle & Assist Other Law Enforcement Agency, Jack Hopper

Tuesday, April 10
• Information Report, Curtis Hall
• Receiving Stolen Property, Houston Cole Library
• Assist Other Law Enforcement Agency, Daugette Hall
• Theft of Property, Alumni House Parking Lot
• Lost Decal, Off Campus

Wednesday, April 11
• Possession of Marijuana, Patterson Hall
• Arrest for Possession of Marijuana & Drug Paraphernalia, Dixon Hall
• Information Report, Kemner Hall Parking Lot

Thursday, April 12
• Fire Alarm, Stadium Tower
• Arrest for Stealing, Beaver Hall Parking Lot

Friday, April 13
• Arrest for Receiving Stolen Property, Dixon Hall
• Information Report, The Grove Apartments

Saturday, April 14
• Medical Emergency, Paul Carpenter Village
• Information Report, Spartan Hall

Sunday, April 15
• Criminal Mischief, Alumni House Parking Lot
• Unlawful Breaking and Entering a Vehicle, Crow Hall Parking Lot
• Assisting Other Law Enforcement Agency, The Reserve Apartments
• None Ordinance, Crow Hall Parking Lot
• Information Report, College Apartments

CALENDAR

Thursday, April 19
Table Scapes for UCP
Where: Lone Cole Auditorium
When: 6 - 9 p.m
Sponsored by: Circle K International
Contact: Larissa Kulfum at kulfum@jsu.edu

JSU Holocaust Remembrance Program
Where: Stone Center Theater
When: 7:30 p.m
Admission: $5
Sponsored by JSU Holocaust Remembrance Committee
Contact: Kim Stevens at weather@jsu.edu or (256) 782-7562

Midnight Snack in the Cafe
Where: Jack Hopper Dining Hall
When: TBA
Sponsored by SGA
Contact: Bryant Whaley at sgaexec@jsu.edu

Saturday, April 28
Growing up WILD for Preschool Children: Womans
Where: 11 a.m. - noon

&
River Rhythm Family Fun Programs: Hello & Sassafras
Where: 3 p.m. - 7 p.m

Where: Little River Canyon Center, Fort Payne, AL
Fee: FREE; pre-registration is encouraged
Sponsored by: JSU Field Schools
Contact: Renee Morrison at rmorris@jsu.edu or (256) 782-5407

Friday, May 4
Congratulations, Graduates!

PHOTO OF THE WEEK

Picture of the week.

Andrew Holderfield/SPECIAL TO THE CHANTICLEER
I have been attending JSU for the past three years, but I grew up in Chardon, Ohio. Chardon is a small town located about thirty miles east of Cleveland, Ohio. I attended Chardon High School from 1996 to 2000.

On Monday, Feb. 27th, a student entered the Chardon High School cafeteria with a handgun and fired the weapon at a group of fellow students; they were sitting at a table in the cafeteria. Five students were injured in this attack. The shooter was shot out of the building by a teacher. The shooter left the school grounds and was later picked up by local authorities. Three of the victims died.

Once I found out that the shooting occurred, I began to search the internet for updates. I read every article and watched every video that I could find on what had occurred in my hometown.

The more that I read and watched, the more I convinced I became that, even in the wake of such a tragedy, all parties involved (the students, faculty, police officers, EMTs, sheriff’s deputies, K-9 units and FBI agents) worked in perfect union to resolve the conflict.

Several years ago, the Chardon school district and local law enforcement began conducting drills, training, practice; if you would, for an event just like this one occurred today. As a result of that we were prepared. The Columbine High School tragedy occurred today, and it was, to me, the ultimate example of how we should handle these types of situations.

I am very saddened by the tragic loss in the life of the person who was killed today. My thoughts have been, and will continue to be, with the victims, their families, the shooter; his family; JSU students & faculty; and Chardon EMT’s & law enforcement officers.

I have a very special place in my heart for the city of Chardon. I grew up in Chardon, but I have also lived in Geauga County, Ohio. My mother and father grew up in Chardon.

I was asked to write a sexual advice column under the guise of a sweet professional manner, it was bit. Sweeney Edna.

Department’s production of “American Beauty” and a huge.

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Gina Brown is a JSU alumna who graduated in 1991 with a degree in art education. She’s now a full-time artist and participated in the Gadsden Art Festival late last year. She lives in Gadsden with her husband and three children. Brown agreed to talk with The Clarion about her artwork.

Q:What can you tell me about Plein Air?

A: Painting “Plein Air” means painting outdoors in natural light. One of the most iconic sounds of the French Impressionist painters was the music which they played as they worked on their unique sound and trademark. It’s a key phrase to understand their style. The first things he did was to play the music which they played as they worked on their unique sound and trademark. It’s a key phrase to understand their style.

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Q: What are you studying now?

A: I’m sure I’ve been influenced by several artists, but I draw an inspiration from bright colors, strong contrasts, heavy application of paint, and loose brushwork. My style is constantly evolving. That’s what keeps me going.

Q: Your Daily Paintworks profile makes the following post: your paintings have stories behind them. What’s the most interesting painting and story that you have, in your opinion?

A: That’s very hard to do, because where such few paintings I have an emotional attachment... but I guess I have to mention two paintings first to see how to start.

The first one is “Jordon’s Song,” which was a commissioned painting for a woman that I once knew. Her husband was in Selma. She wanted a painting of the angel garden that had been painted, but it had already sold. So I offered to paint a similar one for her, before hearing the reasons behind her wanting the painting. She told me she now buys a garden or a piece of art in memory of her son that died. His name was Jordan. So I painted it for the garden, and she included her son’s name on the back of it. The viewer has to look for it.

The second one is a painting of the mural I made for a group of works. It actually is a pearl, I tried the painting “Way Back Home” for my husband’s birthday to show my appreciation for how hard he worked in support for his family.

Secret Stages May 13 & 14
backstageatTN.com

If you’d like to see me and music festivals are about more than just hearing your favorite artists, JSU Secret Stages is for you. For 40+ organized acts and 8,000+ attendees, the music will converge on the Magic City’s historic district for 2 days of raw entertainment goes on and on. Bands from across the south will converge on the Magic City’s historic district for 2 days of raw energy, DJs, rap, bands, pop, and hip hop, comic, singer-songwriters, jazz groups, etc. The eclectic list of entertainment goes on and on. 2012 is only the second year of Secret Stages and the party is only going to get bigger.

Hangout Music Fest May 18, 19 & 20
Gulf Shores, AL
hangoutfestival.com

Many people know that Alabama actually has one of the best music festivals ever to hit our soil. Hangout lineup is proof positive. Dave Matthews, Jack White, Red Hot Chili Peppers and Coheed & Cambria are just a few of the amazing acts performing this year. Hangout 2012 even provides the one-in-a-lifetime chance to see The Flaming Lips perform Pink Floyd’s Dark Side of the Moon in its entirety, if you need more convincing than that... then I simply can’t help you.

Bonnaroo June 14-17, TN

Just in case you’ve been living under a rock since 2001, Bonnaroo is one of the largest and most important music festivals of the summer. Bands from all over the world flock to small towns in Tennessee. This is one of the greatest annual events, and general backwoods-ville. Where ever you are going to be that weekend, you should go see Radeeche, Childish Gambino, St. Vincent, BICEPCITY, Color and Alice Cooper: Bon Iver and LCD Soundsystem in the same place? If you can afford the somewhat hefty ticket price, your nightlife will be rewarded with some of the world’s best music in a fun atmosphere less than 3 hours from home.

Wakarusa May 31 - June 3, 3 Ozark, AR

Some have referred to Wakarusa in the “new Bonnaroo,” but don’t let that fool you; Waka­rusa is a different party; a different genre. Music, art, camping and commu­nity collide in the beautiful Ozark Mountains to the sounds of genres like The Avett Brothers, Primus, Widespread Panic, Umphrey’s McGee, The String Cheese Incident and many more. Some festivals are like big concerts, Wakarusa is like jamming into a different world. Bring extra socks.

Birmingham Artwalk September 7 & 8, Birmingham, AL
birminghamartwalk.org

Every year, amidst the last gasps of summer, Birmingham hosts one of the na­tion’s best art festivals of the year. As you enjoy beautiful art, the great taste of Birmingham’s best food, and the best in local music. Get there. The kids will be happy, because their own art will be right there for them. The real Artwalk begins. Bab elbrooms with the sun setting on the horizon. The sun sets, and the spirit begins to flow at some of the hippest historic districts. Think of it as our own pri­vate little Sundance.
SPORTS

Tiffany Harbin named OVC Pitcher of the week

BIRMINGHAM, Tenn. – Jacksonville State’s Tiffany Harbin has been named the OVC Pitcher of the Week for her efforts in guiding the Gamecock softball team to a 2-1 record last weekend, the league office announced on Monday.

A native of Hazel Green, Ala., Harbin picked up 11 strikeouts in a game that saw the Gamecocks (23-22, 17-7 OVC) sweep the Tennessee State Series on Tuesday and then take two games in a season’s worth of games with a loss to Alabama State over the weekend.

She compiled a 3.13 record in the circle to go along with a 1.84 earned run average. In her eight starts, Harbin has a 1.21 with her best performance, a nine-inning shiner of Shio to Nashville that saw her strike out seven Tiger batters.

She then dropped the first game of the weekend against the Cougars, a 2-1 decision in which she surrendered one earned run.

She finished strong, working 2.2 innings of relief to help the Gamecocks complete a sweep in Tuscaloosa. She would be named the OVC Scholar Athlete of the Week early this week, to thanks a two-year Kristal Roll doteeout.

They rallied off 12 hits this season 11 runs and dropped the 500 mark for the first time in 2012.

Roth joined his fellow in Tuesday, Texas. His return was quickly announced by Transitional Army and the Gamecocks with a state-wide mercy-rule win, thanks to an 11-3 mercy-rule win.

The Gamecocks (23-22, 17-7 OVC) will return to the diamond on April 28 to host University of Tennessee at Martin in a three-game series at Austin Peay.

Jacksonville State Softball

Tiffany Harbin (left) and Tiffany Harbin (right) excelled this past weekend.

Approved!

Upgrades for next season

Plans for the new softball field will be able to seat 510 fans.

The complex will include new seating arrangements and a new outfield.

“See Approval,” page 6

JSU Board of Trustees approves renovations

Jacksonville State University’s Board of Trustees voted to move forward with major renovations to the Gamecock Softball and Tennis facilities during the Board’s quarterly meeting on Monday.

The motion from the Athletic Committee and approved unanimously by the full Board authorized University President Dr. William H. Meehan to proceed with plans and bids for renova- tions to softball’s University Field and also to the University’s tennis courts.

These are exciting times at Jack­sonville State University,” said JSU Athletics Director Warren Koopje. “We have a great opportunity to im­prove our facilities on and off the field and I want to thank the Board of Trustees and also Dr. Meehan for their support in this endeavor.

We feel like we can get both of the projects completed within the time to host an NCAA tournament match and tennis,” added Koopje. The renovations will in- clude a state of the art performance, with.
No text provided.