

THE CHANTICLEER

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"Live-Love-Health" Wellness Wednesday

EMILY GLASER
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

"Live-Love-Health" was the theme of the February Wellness Wednesday, hosted February 8 by the HPE 441 and FCS 422 classes. Being the month of Valentine's Day, the three course meal was dedicated to being heart healthy.

Senior Anna Dorsey, whom had never been to a Wellness Wednesday lunch before, was pleasantly surprised by the event. "It was good, healthy, and I will definitely come back," Dorsey said between bites of dessert.

Students from both classes worked together to prepare a calorie-controlled meal while learning something new and exciting to inspire a healthy lifestyle.

Lunch was served in the basement of the Family and Consumer Sciences side of Mason Hall. A classroom was turned into a dining area and the tables were set with red tablecloths and the department's finest china.

Upon sitting down, a student took the guest's drink order. A group of students presented facts about the meal and tips to living a healthy lifestyle. Each guest was also provided with a packet containing the recipes and nutrition facts for each course.

The first course was a spinach salad with strawberries and toasted almonds. According to the presentation, both spinach and strawberries are full of vitamin C and almonds can reduce the risk of heart disease. The salad contained 100 calories and four grams of fat.

The main entrée consisted of chicken breast with red and yellow peppers, served over whole wheat spaghetti with cold, marinated Italian green beans.

Vitamin C was abundant in this dish, as well. One pepper contains three times the suggested daily amount of Vitamin C. Since chicken is a lean protein, it can lower the

risk for cancer. The entrée weighed in at 318 calories and five grams of fat.

Students presented chocolate yogurt cake for dessert, dusted with powdered sugar and garnished with a few slices of strawberries. The cake was prepared with dark chocolate, which can help lower blood pressure and cholesterol. Many guests smiled at that remark and others mumbled about how that was just another excuse to indulge. Each slice of cake contained 180 calories and four grams of fat. The caloric count of the meal totaled 598.

Following the presentation, guests chattered about the meal and the information that was presented to them. "My favorite course was the entrée because it was healthy and actually tasted good," said senior Raymond Brown.

Healthy eating tips cited included drinking at least six glasses of water a day to transport nutrients, eliminate toxins, and lubricate joints. Eat whole grains and foods high in fiber, such as fruit. Dine with others when at all possible, because eating alone usually results in overeating. Last, exercise vigorously, because if you're not sweating, you're not doing anything for your body.

Students instructed guests on how to check resting heart rates, one of the easiest ways to check personal heart health. The average resting heart rate for adults is 60 to 90 beats per minute. According to WebMD, the best time to check your resting heart rate is before you get out of bed in the morning.

Two more Wellness Wednesday lunches take place this semester, March 14 and April 11. For more information about these events or to make a reservation, contact Lynn Steward at (256) 782-5054.



spiritjaicstudios.com

Advanced Audio Production class provides opportunity for artists

JACOB HILL
STAFF WRITER

Jacksonville State University's Department of Communication offers classes that may be of interest to students wishing to record and produce their own music.

Advanced Audio Production (COM 305) is a course that provides students the opportunity to further familiarize themselves with recording, editing and mastering audio tracks. These skills stem from those learned in Intro to Audio Production (COM 302).

Dr. John McGrail teaches the course in the spring for those who pass the prerequisite and wish to continue learning about the artistry of producing high quality audio.

"Right now, with some high quality mics and a reasonably

powerful laptop, you can make some high quality recordings," said McGrail. "The art is still in the mixing, which requires taste and talent."

A final project for students enrolled in the course involves using multi-track studio techniques to edit the audio post-production for television and film, or music production. Those choosing to work with a music production must record a band or ensemble.

"We will bring musicians in to work with the students and get them understanding microphone techniques, which even those who are familiar with audio software usually need help with," said McGrail.

The coursework proves to be beneficial for those students who aspire to be a part of the music production industry.

"I made a living as a sound de-

signer and audio engineer in the 90s before getting my Ph.D. I will also be discussing working with clients, communication skills involved and the business side of audio production," said McGrail.

Current COM 302 student, Blake Brenton, plans on taking Advanced Audio Production when it is offered in the spring semester of 2013. He said the courses "are important for any student to take who wants to record their own music. The course takes a very hands-on approach, which makes it very intriguing to learn."

McGrail encourages students outside of the Department of Communication to enroll, especially drama and music students. The benefits go beyond the classroom and extend into real world applicable skills for anyone involved in drama or musical audio production.



Amanda Porter/JSU

EXPLORING: One of the students from Ms. Allison McElroy's mixed media class "Explores the Simple" by sitting on a bench dressed head to toe on squares.

Elite Honor Students Sponsor S.H.O.E Drive



PAMELA HORTON
STAFF WRITER

Jacksonville State University's Honors Program is hosting its third annual S.H.O.E. (Scholars Helping Others Excel) during the month of February. Boxes can be found throughout campus for students to donate new or slightly worn shoes for charity.

"Students spear-heading this are elite honor scholars, and it's a big service project for them and they can give back from the benefits they receive for their scholarships," says Honors Program Coordinator Janet Whitmore. All shoes will be donated to the Jacksonville Christian Outreach Center.

Boxes were only in the academic buildings last year but now students can find them in residence halls, as well. The group hopes that in future years, more boxes can be placed in other areas to increase donations.

Inspiration for the project came Blake Mysoskie, founder and Chief Shoe Giver of TOMS. According to the TOMS web site, for every pair purchased, one new pair is given to a child in need. JSU's honors students took this idea and decided to help those locally. Fifty pairs were collected the first year and 220 last year. They expect to exceed that number this February.

Project holds truth: Silence is Loud

KARA COLEMAN
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

Last Thursday morning, students and faculty at JSU were surprised to see some unusual creatures walking around campus.

Five students from Ms. Allison McElroy's mixed media class dressed in outfits-complete with shoes and full-faced masks-covered in paper squares that resembled Post-It notes. Starting from Hammond Hall, the five students: Dovie Luckado, Jeremy Bagwell, Larry Baldwin, Lee Hamric and Allison Merritt, dispersed all over campus and silently walked around. The students climbed trees, turned cartwheels, and sat with strangers in the cafeteria, but they were not allowed to speak while wearing the suits. Each costumed walker had two of their classmates following them inconspicuously: one was a handler, who would pick up any loose squares that fell off of the costumes, and the other was a photographer who documented people's reactions to the silent walkers. A handful of students also served as videographers for

the project. If anyone questioned the handlers and photographers about what they were doing, they were allowed to answer with only one word: square.

As part of a lesson that she titled "Exploring the Simple", McElroy instructed each of her students to cut out 512 squares of paper. With eighteen students in the class, the total number of squares reached over 9,000. The students then had to put their heads together and come up with a project that they could work on as a group, utilizing all of the squares. They decided to make outfits.

"It was their idea. I just fostered," McElroy laughs. "This is the kind of thing we do in the Art department; one, to get students to work on craftsmanship, and two, to work on concept development; you know, start with an idea, a simple square, and see how far you can build it, how many different ways you can make it work as art."

The class has been working on the project, designated "Silence is Loud", for about two weeks. They intend to have an installation in Hammond Hall of their work,

which will feature the actual suits and masks worn by the walkers, and some of the photographs taken of their trips around campus.

One of the walkers paid a visit to Dr. Meehan's office, but was told by the president's secretary that he was out of the office. The walkers also made appearances in the library, Stone Center, the University Police Department, and aboard the Gamecock Express before reuniting at the TMB.

"It's supposed to have been a secret, but they've been, you know, dropping hints on Facebook," McElroy said as she watched her students working.

Judging by the mixed reactions from onlookers around campus-some waving and playing along, some just staring bewilderedly-the mixed media class certainly received some attention Thursday morning. Their project title must be true: Silence is loud.

To learn more about the Exploring the Simple project, and follow the class on all of their projects, visit the mixed media blog at <http://jsumixedmedia.wordpress.com>

CAMPUS & LOCAL

COMMUNITY, CAMPUS AND SOCIAL NEWS YOU CAN USE

PHOTO OF THE WEEK



Jenn Boozer is a 2002 JSU alum.

ABOUT THE PHOTO Boozer says, "I planned a two week trip to Glacier and Yellowstone with my friends and this was our first day in the park. The mountains were HUGE, pictures do not do them justice. My friend JP (who is not a small man) was walking ahead of me and I was overcome by how small he seemed compared to these mammoth rocks."

CALENDAR

Thursday, Feb. 16

Sankofa African-American Museum on Wheels
Where: TMB Auditorium
When: 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.
Sponsored by: SGA

Sunday, Feb. 19

Alabama College Goal Sunday
Where: JSU Campus
When: TBA
Contact: Stephanie Miller, (256) 782-5361

Jonathan Larson's RENT

When: 2:00 p.m.
Where: Stone Center
Admission is charged
Sponsored by: JSU Drama Department
Contact: Randal Blades, (256) 782-8429

Monday, Feb. 20

Housing Reapplication
*See "Briefs" for more details

Wednesday, Feb. 22

Movie Night
What: The Great Debaters
Where: TMB Auditorium
Admission Free
Sponsored by: SGA
Contact: Debbie Taylor, dbtaylor@jsu.edu

Thursday, Feb. 23

Jonathan Larson's RENT
When: 7:00 p.m.
Where: Stone Center
Admission is charged
Sponsored by: JSU Drama Department
Contact: Randal Blades, (256) 782-8429

Arbor Day Celebration

Where: Outside TMB
When: 3:30-4:30 p.m.
Sponsored by: Earth Club/
SGA/Landscaping Dept.
Contact: Tyler Law/Landscaping at susandibiase@yahoo.com



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CAMPUS CRIME

Monday, February 6

- Disorderly Conduct, Leone Cole Auditorium
- Duty Upon Striking Unattended Vehicle, Crow Hall
- Theft of Property, Dauge Hall
- Automobile Accident, Nelson Avenue
- Criminal Mischief, Curtiss Hall

Tuesday, February 7

- Theft of Property, Merrill Hall
- Information Report, Student Health Center
- Unlawful Breaking & Entering a Vehicle, Stone Center Parking Lot

Wednesday, February 8

- Violation of Student Code of Conduct, Stadium Tower
- Possession of Marijuana, Millican Street
- Arrest - Possession of Marijuana, Sparkman Hall

Thursday, February 9

- Theft of Property, Martin Hall
- Arrest - Possession of Marijuana & Drug Paraphernalia, Patterson Hall

Friday, February 10

- Information Report, Highway 21
- Property Damage & Speeding, Highway 21
- Assist Other Law Enforcement Agency, Merrill Hall
- Medical Emergency, Merrill Hall
- Information Report, Paul Carpenter Village
- Information Report, Theron Montgomery Building
- Suspicious Person, Merrill Hall

Sunday, February 12

- Arson, Paul Carpenter Village
- Domestic Dispute, Campus Inn Apartments
- Criminal Mischief & Harrassment, Campus Inn Apartments

BRIEFS

Pre-registration begins March 12 for summer and fall classes. Schedules are posted online and students are encouraged to make appointments with their advisors.

Housing reapplication begins online Monday, Feb. 20, at 8:00 a.m. During the week of Feb. 20-24, students will need to log on to <https://housing.jsu.edu>. Using a MyJSU user name and password, complete the "Returning Student Application 2012-13." A submitted application does not ensure housing for next year. Selected students will pick rooms on a specified day.

The Jacksonville State University Small Business Development Center (SBA) and the Gadsden Area Chamber of Commerce will offer one-on-one counseling for prospective and existing small business owners at no charge on Wednesday, February 22, 2012 from 1:00- 4:00 p.m. at the Chamber office. It is necessary that you make an appointment. For more information or an appointment, please call 543-3472.

Attention to all JSU Special Interest Groups:

The Chanticleer wants to know about your upcoming events, fundraisers and general news. We're happy to utilize our Facebook page to spread the word, and might even cover the event for an upcoming edition. Contact us at chantynewstips@gmail.com.

OPINION

CASUAL CONVERSATION. TRENDY TOPICS

Social Media

Soundoff!

We asked, you answered.



choice-fm.co.uk

What did you think of Nicki Minaj's Grammy Performance?

"If you're gonna get weird, at least do it with a Melody... or write a tune that people would be singing the next day, whether they wanted to or not. GaGa managed to turn something crazy like, "Rah-Rah, Ah-Ah-Ah" into gold."

- Melissa Barnard, 2004 JSU Alum



indyhiphop.com



Twitter: @chanticleerJSU
Facebook: facebook.com/jsuchanticleer

Hip-hop: is it dead?

TAMARA TELLIS
STAFF WRITER

Music is considered a basis in our society. From folk to hip-hop, different genres exist to fit the likings of each person enjoying the sounds.

For so many years there has been controversy over the subject of hip-hop. Is it degrading, is it necessary, has it lost its way? Music, in itself, seems to have lost its way. Anyone is allowed to put his or her voice over a beat and call it music.

Hip-hop was generated in the 1970s. Since then it has evolved, gradually getting better than worse. In the past, music had meaning. The verses either inspired people or were greatly put-together analogies.

Today's songs are generally about sex and the degradation of woman. The music videos have become soft porn and most just don't make sense. So as of today, can we pronounce hip-hop dead?

Transitioning from meaningful words to kiddy rhymes put to a beat is huge. It

isn't enough to kill a whole genre, though. Everything that exists has to evolve in some way. So hip-hop is just evolving.

Some might say that since legendary rappers Tupac and Biggie Smalls died, hip-hop hasn't been the same. Truthfully, it hasn't. Those rappers brought to the music industry something no one else can.

Tupac was known as a lyrical genius, who not only wrote about the life he lived, but poetry as well. Biggie was known for speaking the truth, educating and entertaining by the way he lived. Neither can be replaced.

But hip-hop isn't dead. It will live through the records of previously-recorded songs. The world will always remember what hip-hop was, but after 40 years we can't expect it to stay the same.

As for today's "rappers," their music shouldn't automatically be placed in the genre, although that's usually the case. This is why people consider hip-hop dead. But it isn't. Let's just say hip-hop has evolved, and listeners have helped it get to where it is today.

George Washington would be appalled

MATTHEW TYSON
STAFF COLUMNIST

Presidents Day is probably one of the more underrated and less-thought-about holidays of the year. There aren't any presents or parties. Shopping malls don't have big sales events in honor of past presidents, and honestly, nine times out of 10, even I forget about this federal holiday.



Monday is the day in which we are supposed to think about and appreciate the accomplishments and lives of the men who have served as commander-in-chief of this country. But I wonder how many of us know (or remember) that this day also honors the birthday of George Washington.

We've seen pictures, heard stories and read all about the father of our country since we were little children. However, it seems to me that we've talked about Washington so much, and held him in high regard for so long, that our perception of this man has become somewhat diluted.

What many of us don't realize is that George Washington wasn't just some government stiff with wooden teeth. He was a fierce warrior who risked his life on countless occasions in the fight for freedom. Washington was a passionate soldier who wasn't fighting for a king, or for honor, or glory, but for freedom. Washington was on the front lines of a revolution that would establish a new nation and the lives of everyone in this world for generations to come.

Washington fought for the freedom of the people. That includes you, all your friends, and me. I wonder what Washington would say about the state of our country today.

Washington fought to get away from government oppression, so I wonder what he would say about the public willingly allowing the government to invade their privacy as long as it "keeps them safe." I wonder what he would say when he saw that we are more concerned with fashion, phones and "Jersey Shore" rather than what is happening in our government. What would Wash-

ington say about our attitude towards immigrants? Or the sick, hateful and unnecessary things we say and do to people that are different from us?

We have become comfortable and numb to what people have done for us in the past. If we aren't careful, we are going to lose everything to tyranny.

If Washington could have seen the country as it is today, I think he would have stayed at home. So this President's Day, take a moment and at least think about how much we owe to George Washington.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR 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. Letters may also be e-mailed to chantyeditor1@gmail.com.

The Chanticleer will not print letters which are libelous or defamatory. Letters may be edited for style, brevity or clarity. The Chanticleer reserves the right to refuse publication of any submission. Letters must be received by noon on the Monday before the 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.

ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

Art is Alive at JSU

KARA COLEMAN
ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR



When most people think of schools for art, drama and music, it probably brings to mind colleges in New York, Los Angeles or Nashville. But Jacksonville State boasts thriving arts programs.

For Jauneth Skinner, Head of the Art Department, a typical day is "Busy. I start the day with a list of projects that need to be worked on, then the phone rings. Then someone (student or faculty) needs to talk. The phone rings again. And the next time I look up, the day is gone!"

The Art department is a constant flow of energy, hosting around ten exhibits in Hammond Hall each year. Exhibits feature work by students, faculty, and guest artists.

This past fall, JSU began offering a Master of Fine Arts in Visual Communication and Design degree, which makes it the first and only college in the state of Alabama to offer that degree.

All faculty members are not just teachers; they are practicing, professional artists. JSU's Art department is also accredited by the National Association

of Schools of Art and Design (NASAD).

According to Hammond Hall Gallery Coordinator Gale Brodie, "There is nothing mundane in the world of art. Each day there is something different, something new, something waiting to be expressed".

There is nothing mundane in the world of drama, either. JSU's Drama department has been offering a major since 1973. It currently has about 75 students majoring in the department, with concentrations in either technical/design areas or performance.

One of those students is Nathan Andreasen, a native of Yakima, Washington, who actually stumbled upon JSU while on Facebook.

"While playing with an app on Facebook, I came across a cute girl wearing a Cocky shirt.

When I inquired about the shirt, she mentioned Jacksonville State, so I decided to look into the Drama program there," says Andreasen. He explored college options from Hawaii to the

University of Colorado to Boston College of the Arts, but was very impressed by pictures he saw of the set for JSU's production of Fiddler on the Roof. But it was the student/teacher ratio and small class sizes that really drew him to JSU. "I prefer a smaller environment because I feel you get better teaching in more intimate-sized classes," he explains.

Andreasen plans to graduate from JSU this spring as a Major in Drama Performance and Minor in Vocal Music.

According to Drama Department Head Carlton Ward, "The department is constantly in 'show mode' for six mainstage plays, fifteen to twenty one-act directing projects each spring, a touring children's production and a drama camp for young people."

Ask Music Department Head Legare McIntosh what the most-used building on campus is, however, and he will say Mason Hall. JSU's Music department currently boasts over

300 music majors and minors. Its motto is "A Proud Tradition in Sound Education".

Aside from the Marching Southerners, the Music department has three concert bands, three jazz bands, three percussion ensembles and a plethora of smaller groups, including a saxophone quartet and trumpet choir. Ensembles are composed of students from all over campus, including many who are not music majors or minors.

JSU is also home to the Jacksonville Opera Theater, which hosts two major opera productions each school year, as well as five other choral/vocal groups.

There is no lack of entertainment from the Music department, as students, faculty and guest performers hold over 150 concerts every year, in venues both on and off campus.

Students don't have to look far to enjoy a cultural experience. A world of opportunities is right here at Jacksonville State.



cnn.com

Movie Review: "Safe House"

MINNIE MARBURY
STAFF WRITER

Safe House starring Denzel Washington and Ryan Reynolds opened in theaters February 10. The movie takes place somewhere between South Africa and the United States. Tobin Frost, played by Washington, is a spy that represents a major threat to the CIA. We are first introduced to Frost in the middle of a trade between him and an old friend. This trade includes a file that contains very private information regarding the CIA's assignments.

Ryan Reynolds is a young CIA agent by the name of Matt Weston. Reynolds is a "House Keeper" for the CIA who is eager for more excitement. He does not know that this is closer than he thinks. Matt Weston has asked for many assignments to prove himself as being an experi-

enced and reliable agent yet has always been unsuccessful.

Frost was one of the CIA's best agent's gone rouge when he trades valuable information to other countries. Frost's biggest trade included the release of unlawful activities committed by certain CIA personnel. When targeted by unknown gunmen, Frost turns himself in to the U.S. Consulate for safety where he is taken to a "Safe House." Weston is informed that he will be housing a new guest and that he needs to be prepared. This is his opportunity to show his capability as an agent.

Upon Frost's arrival he is escorted by four agents into the facility handcuffed with his head covered. He is then taken into the interrogation room where he is questioned

and "ruffed up." Suddenly, the safe house is under siege by the unknown gunmen.

To protect his house guest after all the other agents are killed, Weston has to keep Frost alive. He removes Frost from the house in search of a new safe house. Weston suddenly realizes that no matter where the duo goes, they are always under siege and that with Frost, no where is safe.

Weston then suspects that the unknown gunmen are working to protect an agent in the CIA. Frost does everything in his power to stay alive because of the information he possesses. Frost warns Weston of the dangers of working for the CIA. He explains to him how there are many dishonest agents and to watch his back.

After seeing the true colors of the CIA, Weston

makes a decision to be an honest agent. The information is leaked by an anonymous source and exposes the unlawful personnel.

This is by one of Washington's better movies. This movie is full of action and suspense. The cliff hangers in the movie keep the audience's attention through Washington's jumps from roof tops, his killer fight scenes and hall way shootings. This movie grossed \$39,330,590 with \$12,610 per theater and the ranking of number two on opening weekend.

I recommend this movie for any true Denzel Washington fan or anyone looking for suspenseful excitement. This movie is really one to enjoy.

Looking for chicken scratch?

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facebook.

Zeta Tau Alpha finds "Big Man on Campus"

EMERALD DUKES
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

There's a new big man on campus. Zeta Tau Alpha crowned Paul Killen during their annual "Big Man on Campus" pageant, held Tuesday February 7 at the Leone Cole Auditorium.

The all-male pageant raised money for Susan G. Komen for a Cure. Ten contestants, sponsored by various student and Greek organizations, competed in talent, formal wear and interview.

"Breast cancer is so relevant in today's world and has affected so many people," said ZTA's philanthropic chair Katie Britton. "For us to raise money and help support that many peo-

ple is such a great feeling."

Contestants entertained the audience with talents such as personal poems about hunting and fishing, songs dedicated to ZTA and rollerblading tricks.

Club Paradise owner Jack Strother, Get Personalized's owner Tressie Britton and Miss JSU Beth Milam judged and tabulated scores.

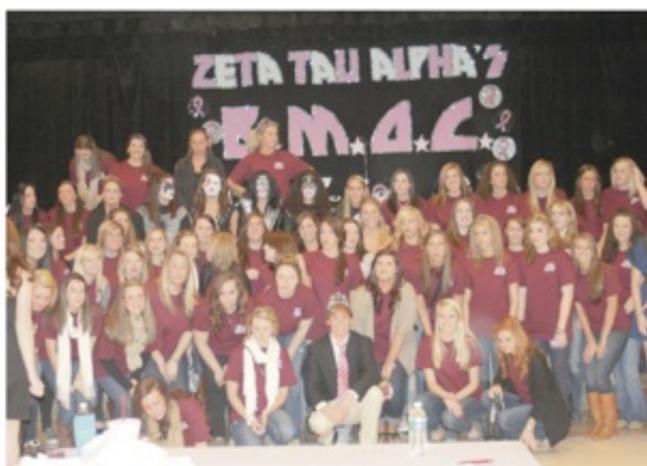
In the end, they crowned Paul Killen "Big Man On Campus 2012." Zach Overstreet finished first runner-up, and Tim Sexton and Robbie Rockwell shared second runner-up.

"I am honored and thrilled to be Zeta's Big Man On

Campus! Go Gamecocks!" said Killen after receiving his title and crown.

The Zeta Tau Alpha Foundation furnishes more than a quarter million dollars to Susan G. Komen for a Cure each biennium. JSU's chapter donated over \$28,000 last year.

"We raise money each year by accepting business, community and member donations," said Abby Manus, Zeta Tau Alpha's Vice President of Programming, "as well as contestant entry fees, selling T-shirts, and selling pink ribbons."



Emerald Dukes/THE CHANTICLEER

Zeta Ladies posing with new Big Man on Campus, Paul Killen

ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

RENT Still a cultural relevance



MAURICE WINSELL
SPORTS EDITOR

The 1980s was an era that faced difficult and pressing issues that are still reflected in society today. Issues such as AIDS and the acceptance of homosexuality may seem to have escaped the media circus it was surrounded with during the 80s and 90s, however, there is still no cure for the virus and people still face humiliation daily because of their sexual orientation.

RENT, a rock-opera based on the Italian opera La Bohème, explored these issues through a variety of characters who lived in the Lower East Side of Manhattan. Jacksonville State University's drama department has teamed up with members of the music department to bring this story to life.

"It really hasn't changed in its relevance," said Eric Traynor, who is directing the JSU production of RENT. Traynor explains that AIDS is one of the many issues that RENT involves itself with, however knows there is more depth to the story.

"Essentially more than AIDS and homosexuality, it's about relationships and living in a situation in which the joy of life supercedes riches," said Traynor. "It's about love; it's about connections with people that are different than us or different than a lot of us."

Cast member Joshua Cody Hunt, who plays the character Mark, agrees that the message is deeper and explains that RENT is "kind of sticking up for those people who live day to day, and truly seem to pursue something more in life than just dollars."

It's this kind of message and connection that has made RENT a hit after its off-Broadway debut on January 25, 1996; nearly 100 years after La Bohème had been produced.

Show creator, Jonathan Larson, who worked with Billy Aronson on RENT, had died from an aortic aneurysm the day before the show's off-Broadway debut. Larson's death sparked further curiosity and Larson would never get to see how far RENT would actually go.

The musical's popularity spread so quickly that four months later it made its official Broadway debut on April 29, 1996.

RENT'S characters

While the show is praised for how well it attacks the controversial issues, the characters of RENT stand out as another element. Omar Brock, who will portray the flamboyant Angel, understands that at first the eccentric characters may shock the audience.

"I had to jump a couple of hurdles just to get comfortable," said Brock on

shoes for two hours of a show."

Every cast member has found a way to relate to their character. Hunt describes his character Mark as a Jewish videographer, trying to break into the film scene and while he does "hold the group together." Mark is in fact "a lonely guy." These kinds of attributions are where Hunt was able to really get a control of Mark.

"I feel as though I can relate to any person and I bring people together," said Hunt. "But at the end of the day I really am secluded even when I'm in a room full of people just because I am always inside my own mind. I feel like I relate to [Mark] in that way."

Autumn Brown, who plays the heroin addict Mimi, dug deep to accurately portray the physical demand of her character. Brown researched for the role by meeting and speaking with several people actually addicted to heroin to properly understand their emotions and study their movements. While Brown had to find ways to understand Mimi's addiction, she didn't have to go far to understand the person that Mimi truly is.

"I really connect with Mimi as someone who is really looking for that love," said Brown. "I've been wanting to find that one love too. I don't want to rush things, but it's still a deep desire inside of me."

Musical challenges

"It's pretty much an opera," said Traynor. "So the entire thing is sung with the exception of a few minutes of dialogue here and there." Traynor serves as co-musical director because the play features a live rock band from the music department and they are conducted by Jeremy Stovall, who is employed through JSU as an Assistant Director of Bands.

Traynor knew he had a great group of singers who were up for the challenge that RENT presented itself with. "I think the challenging thing with the singing is to be able to sing a line of dialogue to each other," said Traynor.

Traynor explains that in a normal theatrical production, actors are given that freedom to say the line as they wish but "in this case you have to sing the line in the rhythm, stay in the rhythm and yet still give it the same acting as you would normally say the line as an actor."

Traynor benefitted from the musical background most of his actors came from.

Brown learned from a young age to sing. Her grandparents were musical teachers who helped nurture her talent that further developed through singing at church.

"This is the kind of thing that is almost second nature to me," said Brown, who went on to explain that she embraced musical theater at the age of nine.

Brock and Hunt each have showed their musical talent throughout other JSU productions and Brock is even a part of the show choir as well.

Hunt definitely found the opera experience refreshing.

"You have a subtext in the words and when you have a script you can read those words and you can write down your subtext and you can do that," said Hunt. "Learning the music, you not only have a subtext as far as what each words means but what each notes means." He explains that this is just another dynamic that had made it such a fun experience.

"Expressing yourself through tone is better than just expressing yourself in words," Hunt adds.

Bringing the Lower East Side to life

RENT is based in the Lower East Side of Manhattan and at Jacksonville State University it was Carlton Ward and Freddy Clements, who co-designed the set to bring the New York City neighborhood known as Alphabet City to life.

Ward, who went to school at NYU, had recently been in the Lower East Side district last year. He describes the area as "trendy," and thought it ironic that he was in the area before he even knew the school was doing RENT.

While personal experience helps, Ward and Clements downloaded several images from Google in order to actually visualize what they were going to create. Ward himself is happy with what they have been able to accomplish but faced challenges along the way noting that the challenge was "trying to put so much in a small space."

With help of 30 students all participating from class activities or work-study programs, they finally had a set to offer Traynor and his cast.

"I'm happy with the levels, I'm happy with the movement of the stage," said Traynor. "I think the set looks well."

A message of hope

A total of 22 actors fill the cast list of this impressive musical. While the focus is to entertain their audience, everyone feels that there is still a message to walk away with.

"Honestly, I hope that [the audience] can pull a message of hope in life out of it through any time," said Hunt. "Life can be bad, it can be good but it's always going to be life. You need to just celebrate living."

Brock hopes people embrace the message of hope and find acceptance for the characters as well. "I don't want them to come expecting to see this flamboyant homosexual guy that's just over the top," said Brock. "I want them to leave basically knowing that he was loving, and it's bigger than that. He had a huge heart."

Traynor's direction is a reflection of his own thoughts on what he hopes the audience will walk away from this experience as well.

"I hope they can see people simply as human beings, maybe the next time they see a homeless person on the street they think a little differently," said Traynor.

RENT opens up today and will run throughout this weekend and the next.

A total of eight performances will be available for the public.

Eight chances to spread the message of hope.



Autumn Brown portrays "Mimi."

Randy Blades/ JSU

developing Angel. "But now that it is here and I came alive a little bit- it's been fun and interesting."

Brock has found in his own experience, while developing his character, that at the core of each of these characters are simple-natured human beings. Brock describes Angel as a "very giving, very loving person" who "is in love with life." He adds that he has enjoyed an educational experience as well through the process.

"So many people go throughout life and have to deal with basically being crucified because of their sexuality," said Brock. "Being a straight male taking on this part has been a good opportunity to branch out and be in those



Randy Blades/ JSU

Omar Brock (far right) plays the eccentric "Angel."

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SPORTS

Four Gamecocks post double figures, but Jax State falls at Morehead State, 79-60

MOREHEAD, Ky. — Jacksonville State placed four players in double figures in the scoring column, but it wasn't enough to overcome a first half deficit as JSU women's basketball squad fell 79-60 to Morehead State on Monday evening.

Junior Danielle

Vaughn recorded her tenth double-double of the season and the 17th of her career with an 11 point, 15 rebound night. The Huntsville, Ala.-post player, who played all 40 minutes, has now tallied double digits in 38 career games and just two double-doubles shy of matching former

Gamecock Shanika Freeman's mark of 12 in a single season. Vaughn was one rebound shy of matching her career high on the boards.

The loss was JSU's seventh in a row as it fell to 4-22 on the season and 1-12 in OVC games. MSU pushed its overall mark to 9-16 and 6-7 in the OVC.

The 19-point setback to the Eagles was the fourth-straight since the Gamecocks claimed an overtime decision last year on MSU's home floor. MSU claimed the first meeting of the year in Jacksonville, 68-52. The Eagles

led from the opening tip to the final buzzer and built its double digit lead midway through the opening half as they took advantage of Jax State's 17 first half turnovers and capitalized on them with 15 points on the other end. At the 11:23 mark of the half, MSU held an 18-8 lead and the difference was 10 points off Gamecock miscues. Morehead pushed the double figure lead out to as many as 15 points with just over two minutes left in the half at 31-16. JSU was able to trim the deficit down to nine points at intermission after scoring the final six points of the half. The Blue and Gold took a 31-22 lead in to the dressing room.

MSU opened its nine-point lead out to 18 points after starting the

second half on a 17-8 scoring run to push the lead out to 48-30 at the 15:48 mark of the final period. The Eagles posted their largest lead of 20 points on two occasions on the game's final 8:12. After MSU held its second 20-point lead at 67-47 with 6:22 left, JSU made a run to get within 12 points. The Gamecocks put together a 9-0 scoring run over the next three minutes, but the Eagles thwarted Jax State's threat as they extended the lead out to the final 19-point deficit.

Freshman Briana Morrow and senior Britany Manning shared team high scoring honors with 14 points each. Morrow had a strong second half effort with 12 of her 14 points in the final half. She finished the half x-of-x from

the field in the half and knocked down four free throws. The Nashville, Tenn.-product has turned in back-to-back double figure scoring outings after ten points at UT Martin last Monday.

Manning has now reached double digits in scoring in six of her last eight games dating back to JSU's road contest at Murray State. The 14 points was a season-high for the Huntsville, Ala.-native in OVC match ups. Manning was also credited with three assists as she was hampered with foul trouble throughout her 35 minutes of activity.

Returning to her home state, freshman Candace Morton finished with 11 points, five rebounds and a pair of steals.

-Sportswire



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A hard fought contest still comes up short for the Lady Gamecocks.

Two for the price of one

MICAH KING-GARNER
STAFF WRITER

Baseball season is nearly upon us and the Jacksonville State Gamecocks are poised for a big year.

JSU returns practically its entire starting lineup from a 36-23 season in 2011, and playing defense up the middle again this year will be Andrew and Michael Bishop.

The twin brothers are in their second year at Jacksonville State after making the all Ohio Valley Conference freshman team last season.

Andrew started 50 games at shortstop in 2011 and batted .234 while he slugged 3 home runs and drove in 31 runs.

Michael is the speedy centerfielder who started 43 games and hit .280 with one homer and 23 RBI. He also finished second on the team with nine stolen bases.

The brothers from Pelham, Alabama played for Jeff Mauldin at Pelham high school and credit the JSU coaching staff as the main reason to play at Jacksonville State out of high school.

"Our high school coach played for Coach Case at UAB and they had a good relationship," says Michael.

Michael chose to expand baseball horizons by playing for the Forrest City Owls in the Coastal Plain Collegiate

Baseball League this past summer.

"I was told it is a lot like pro ball," said Michael. "You would play a game at 7:00 at night, take a four hour bus ride home and then play again the next day."

The outfielder hit three dingers while carrying a .286 average in the wooden bat league.

The two players are looking forward to a big year in 2012. The pair believes it will be a successful season due to team camaraderie, according to Andrew Bishop.

Last year there were several new players to the team, including themselves, and it took some time for the team to mesh. "It was the most fun year I've ever had playing baseball," says Andrew.

The Bishop Brothers relied heavily on their team last year as they experienced the unexpected loss of their mother during the middle of the season.

Jane Bishop had been active in their school life in high school, serving as the Assistant to the Athletic Director at Pelham High School prior to her passing.

Andrew and Michael say that Coach Case went with them to the hospital and they had great support from their father, James, and older sister Briana.

They also credit the

team as being like a "second family" to them and the support they received from their teammates was important.

"Baseball is an escape," said Andrew.

The Bishop twins and the rest of the Coach Jim Case-led Gamecocks open the season on the road at Northwestern State in Louisiana on February 17.

The first home game is set for Wednesday, February 22 against the Samford Bulldogs at Rudy Abbot Field.



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Andrew Bishop

Graham's high expectations

SIERRA TILLMAN
STAFF WRITER

Coming off a 40-21 overall season and a 21-9 record in the conference and the title of OVC Softball Champs under their belt, the Lady Gamecocks Softball team has a lot of high expectations this year.

The high expectations stem not only from the coaches, fans but as well as from team members. JSU pitcher Kristen Graham shares in those expectations.

Graham is back at JSU for her second season on the softball team. She played two seasons at Virginia Tech in Blacksburg Virginia in 2010. She started all 58 games, mostly at first

base.

However, at JSU this year she is a pitcher.

Hailing from Warner Robins, Georgia, Graham has been playing some form of softball for over fourteen years, and has had impressive high school stats to show for it.

Graham and her team were the All-Houston County Team all four years she played. She played on the varsity team all four years, and helped her team reach the Elite Eight two straight years in a row.

Graham is an athlete who truly loves what she does. Her fondest memory as a Gamecock was winning the conference last year describing it as the "best feeling ever."

"There are a lot of younger talents on the team this year," said Graham. "[They] are working hard, and I feel good about that."

Graham knows that while she is playing at a college level, she has to indeed make time for a balanced social

and scholastic life.

A "steak and macaroni and cheese gal," Graham enjoys listening to all kinds of music. Her favorite lately on her iPod is the track "Champ" from hip-hop artist Nelly.

Graham is an athlete, and like most athletes set goals for themselves. One goal her whole softball career has been to help win a College World Series.

She fits right in with the rest of her teammates who share that mutual goal.

This weekend the Lady Gamecocks will be hosting Southern Illinois, Southeastern Louisiana, and South Alabama in four games starting with Southern Illinois Friday at 3:30 pm.



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Lady Gamecock Kristen Graham in her second year with JSU.

JSU falls 69-64 at Tennessee State in OT thriller

NASHVILLE — The Jacksonville State men's basketball team gave the hottest team in the Ohio Valley Conference all it wanted on Tuesday night, but Tennessee State forced overtime in the final minute and pulled off a 69-64 win over the Gamecocks.

Nick Cook and Ronnie Boggs notched double-doubles for the Gamecocks (11-17, 6-8 OVC), the first time two JSU players recorded double-doubles in the same game since February of 2009, but the Tigers (18-10, 11-4 OVC) used one last charge to pull off their eighth-straight win.

Robert Covington took over for the Tigers, scoring 18 of his 28 points after halftime. He knocked down his fourth and final 3-pointer of the game from the right corner with 33 seconds to play to send the game into overtime.

Cook, a sophomore

from Hattiesburg, Miss., scored 11 points and pulled in 10 rebounds for his third double-double of the season. Boggs, a junior from Kansas City, Mo., added 10 points and 10 boards for his first career double-double. The duo helped the Gamecocks tie the much longer Tigers on the boards at 35 rebounds apiece.

Sophomore Brian Williams led JSU with 14 points, while Tarvin Gaines added eight despite playing just 22 minutes before fouling out.



Sportswire

A thrilling game went into overtime as JSU fell to Tennessee State Tuesday night.

The Tigers were 5-for-10 from behind the arc in the second half and in overtime, while JSU struggled from outside.

In a game that saw seven lead changes after the 3:30 mark of the second half, the Gamecocks used defensive stretches in both half to build a 10-point lead at

one time. They held TSU without a field goal for a stretch of 6:50 in the first half and then kept the ball out of the Tigers' hoop for 6:57 at one point in the second half.

The Gamecocks used a 14-1 run in the first half, holding the Tigers without a field goal for 6:50 to build a 22-12 lead with eight minutes

left in the first half.

The Gamecocks held off a few TSU charges early in the second half until TSU tied the game at 43-43 with 11:15 to play. JSU answered, using a Brian Williams two and then a 3-pointer that built a 48-43 advantage.

The Tigers went 6:57 without a field goal in the second half, allowing JSU to pull back up by six at 51-45 with just over five minutes to play. The Tigers charged back again, scoring seven in a row to take their first lead since early in the first half.

Cook grabbed an offensive board on the other end and put it back to tie it back up, and a pair of Williams drives gave the Gamecocks a 57-53 lead with just under two minutes to play. A Rackley free throw and a pair on the other end by Kellen Thornton

gave JSU a 58-55 lead, but Covington sank his fourth 3-pointer of the half to tie it with 33 seconds left.

JSU couldn't get a good look on the offensive end before a Williams attempt at the horn fell short to push the game into overtime.

JSU got three looks from behind the arc with the 3-point deficit but couldn't make one.

Peters went to the line with 8.4 seconds left to put the Tigers up by two possessions and JSU couldn't overcome it.

The Gamecocks play a non-conference game vs. Presbyterian on Saturday at 7 p.m. at Pete Mathews Coliseum.

They will host Southeast Missouri on Feb. 23 at 7:45 p.m. before rounding out the regular season on Feb. 25 against UT Martin at 7:45 p.m.

-Sportswire