

THE CHANTICLEER

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SGA elections to be under way soon



The SGA is hoping the students will run and vote in the upcoming elections

yalscientific.org

The SGA prepares for their 2012 election year. Come April, students will vote for Executive Positions and Student Senate representatives.

KARA COLEMAN
ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

2012 is an election year, and candidates will soon be vying for the votes of Jacksonville State students. No, these candidates are not Romney, Gingrich, Santorum, Paul or Obama. They are JSU students who will be running for positions in the Student Government Association.

Incumbent SGA President Bryant Whaley encourages students to run for an executive officer position or a place on the Student Senate. Executive positions are President, Chief Justice, Director of Publicity, Vice President of Students, Vice President of Student Activities, and Vice President of Organizational Affairs. To be eligible for president, a candidate must have 32 credit hours and a minimum GPA of 2.75. Candidates for Chief Justice, Director of Publicity and Vice President must also have 32 credit hours and a GPA of 2.5. Students who wish to be senators must have a 2.5 GPA and 12 credit hours. The Chief Justice and Director of Publicity are both appointed by the SGA Executive Board, which consists of the president and all vice presidents. All other positions are elected by students. Interested students may pick up applications beginning Thursday, March 1, from the Office of Student Life, located on the fourth floor of the TMB. Whaley, a graduate student pursuing his masters in public administration, weighed in on the responsibilities of being president. "Interacting with students and school administrators on a day-to-day basis"

is the best part of the job, according to Bryant. "The feeling of helping a fellow student is very rewarding and makes the job worth it." He admits that the worst part is "going to constant meetings and never having free time." Aside from weekly SGA officer meetings, the president has a list of meetings to attend as representative head of the student body. He meets with Dr. Meehan once a month, attends Student Senate meetings once a week, traffic court once a month, and among being present at numerous different committee meetings, also sits on the Board of Trustees as an ex-officio member. The president also occupies a position on the University President's Council, which consists of all student body presidents in Alabama's public university system. Meetings are held in Montgomery.

Additionally, the president organizes events, mostly consisting of advocacy programs. The VP of Organizational Affairs handles community service projects, and other activities fall under the jurisdiction of the VP of Student Activities. Current VPSA, Alex Rainwater, is a communication major with a concentration in public relations. Rainwater says that the pros of serving in that position include hearing a variety of ideas and deciding which events come to JSU. The down side is working with a fairly limited budget. The VPSA's responsibilities are serving as President of the Student Activities Council, overseeing the legislative processes of student government, planning events and helping students who want to get involved.

College Goal Sunday



collegegoalalabama.org

PAMELA HORTON
STAFF WRITER

JSU held its second annual Alabama College Goal Sunday this past weekend, an event set up to aid prospective students and their parents with the financial aid application process. "It's our opportunity to tell you all about financial aid," said JSU President William A. Meehan. "It's not about coming to JSU particularly. We want to make sure you have all the information you need to make a wise decision about financial aid and going to college." College Goal Sunday is a nationwide program sponsored by the Lumina Foundation through a grant from the YMCA. Its mission, according to Alabama state coordinator Stephanie Miller, is to assist all students with the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, known as FAFSA. This form is the foundation for applying for financial aid at any institution.

"I think it's a great program because it helps the community not to be afraid of the filing process," said Miller. Students can complete the form themselves at fafsa.gov. JSU students are encouraged to complete the form early due to the March 1 scholarship deadline. JSU Student Ambassador Morgan Cox said, "It can be a complicated process, and to have these people take time out of their weekend to come help students and teach means a lot to people." Fellow ambassador Jordan Vickers added, "It simplifies things." "I think it's a great opportunity for folks that want to know more about college and financial aid opportunities," said Meehan. "Financial aid is very important because college has become more expensive through the years." For a list dates and locations and upcoming programs visit collegegoal-alabama.org.

Arts and Sciences Symposium winners announced

PAMELA HORTON
STAFF WRITER

The Jacksonville State University College of Arts and Sciences presented its annual Symposium on February 15-16 in the Houston Cole Library. Undergraduate and graduate students presented research from a variety of fields to a panel of judges, and a winner was

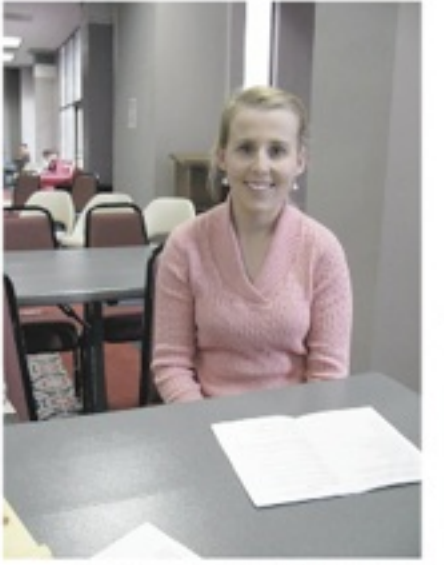
chosen from each category with three entries or more. Dr. Jan Case, chairperson of the symposium, thinks the event offers an advantage to undergraduates. "We are small enough to foster undergraduate research, and our undergraduates can present a lot of things that other universities reserve for their graduates."

The winning presentations were:

- Biology (Graduate & Undergraduate): Holly Allen
- MCIS (Graduate): Sharon Padgett
- MCIS (Undergraduate): Thomas Buzan
- Physical and Earth Sciences (Undergraduate): Holly Park
- English (Undergraduate): Katie Cleveland
- Art (Undergraduate): William Lee Hamrick
- Cover Design: Lindsey Brooks, Nicolette McClure, Lindsey Price



Thomas Buzan won an award for his research in MCIS.



Holly Allen won for her research in Biology.



Holly Park won for Physical and Earth Sciences.



Katie Cleveland won for her research in English.



William Lee Hamrick won for his research in Art.

CAMPUS & LOCAL

COMMUNITY, CAMPUS AND SOCIAL NEWS YOU CAN USE

CALENDAR

Thursday, Feb. 23

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

Collegiate Day of Prayer
 Where: JSU Quad
 When: 6:00-10:00 p.m.
 Sponsored by: The Bridge Christian Center
 Contact: Rochelle Smith at
 rdsmith@jsu.edu or (256) 782-5128

Saturday, Feb. 25

Growing Up Wild & River Rhythms
 Where: JSU Little River Canyon Center
 When: 11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.
 Admission: FREE
 Sponsored by: EPIC
 Contact: Renee Morrison at rmorrison@jsu.edu

Growing Up Wild for Preschool Children
 Un-natural Trail Hike
 Where: JSU Little River Canyon Center
 When: 11:00 a.m.-noon
 Admission: FREE
 Sponsored by: EPIC
 Contact: Renee Morrison at rmorrison@jsu.edu

Monday, Feb. 27

The Right Path to Career Services
 Where: Anders Roundhouse
 When: 2:30-3:00 p.m.
 Sponsored by: Academic Advisement
 Contact: A. Michelle Green at
 amgreen@jsu.edu or (256) 782-8303

Wednesday, Feb. 28

The Ingredients for a Healthy Registration
 Where: Anders Roundhouse
 When: 1:00-2:00 p.m.
 Sponsored by: Academic Advisement
 Contact: A. Michelle Green at
 amgreen@jsu.edu or (256) 782-8303

PHOTO OF THE WEEK

“Significant”



Emily Hayes/THE CHANTICLEER

ABOUT THE PHOTO Hayes says, “I pass this field every day on my way to school. On this particular day I stopped to take pictures of the tulips, but I ended up laying on the ground shooting the tiny purple flowers that surrounded them instead.”

CAMPUS CRIME

Monday, February 13

- Information Report, Patterson Hall
- Duty Upon Striking Unattended Vehicle, Stadium Tower Parking Lot
- Unlawful Breaking & Entering a Vehicle, Patterson Hall Parking Lot

Tuesday, February 14

- Medical Emergency, Curtiss Hall
- Harassment, Crow Hall Parking Lot
- Violation of Student Code of Conduct, Ayers Hall Parking Lot
- Information Report, Trespass Issued, Salls Hall
- Unauthorized Use of Vehicle, Dixon Hall Parking Lot

Wednesday, February 15

- Arrest for Disorderly Conduct, Obstruction of Governmental Operation, & Resisting Arrest, Millican Street
- Arrest for Criminal Littering, Millican Street

Thursday, February 16

- Cruelty to Animals, Jax Apartments

Friday, February 17

- Rendering False Alarm, Dixon Hall
- Assist Other Law Enforcement Agency, Wal-Mart
- Automobile Accident, Pelham Road South

Sunday, February 18

- Violation of Student Code of Conduct, Sparkman Hall

BRIEFS

The Office of Academic Advisement will continue its annual Advising Seminars through Wednesday, February 29, in the Anders Roundhouse. The event is free and open to all JSU students. If you need help with registration, you have questions about JSU degree programs or you need money for college, you should attend a seminar. For more information, contact Academic Advisement at (256) 782-8303 or advising@jsu.edu.

TriBeta Cleanup Day is Tuesday, Feb. 28, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the lookout on Mountain Street. Prospective members are encouraged to attend.

The Public Relations Organization (PRO) will host a talent competition Tuesday, March 13, at 7 p.m. JSU students are encouraged to enter. For more information contact Pamela Horton at jsu9581m@jsu.edu.

The Directing Class is holding auditions for their One Act Plays this Monday, Feb. 27, at 3 p.m. People who audition have the choice of a monologue or reading from selected scenes. Auditions will be held in Stone Center, Rm. 338.

OPINION

CASUAL CONVERSATION. TRENDY TOPICS

Praise for RENT

SIERRA TILLMAN
STAFF WRITER

"I saw this play both last night and today. I recommend you see this play."

- Shelly Moore, JSU student

"Never seen Rent before but I had heard a lot about it. Excellent performance! I recommend everyone go see this—my grandson is in it!"

- Norah Webster, Leeds AL

"Rent is absolutely my favorite show, so I knew when JSU was putting it on I had to be here. It's completely incredible—over and beyond what I expected. They really captured the true spirit of the original. I'm totally overwhelmed with how awesome they did."

- Kelly, JSU alumni, Lincoln AL

"I totally loved the show. Never saw it on Broadway before today. I enjoy the theme behind it all. It's a great portrayal of love and human emotion."

- Marcedrick, JSU student



Good 'Ol Scratch

"A purty fountain at JSU? That'd be like puttin' teats on a warhog."

Find this Chicken Scratch and more at chanticleeronline.com



Twitter: @chanticleerJSU
Facebook: facebook.com/jsuchanticleer



Run DMC was one of the first hip hop groups to make gold chains popular.

From baggy pants to skinny jeans

The changing world of hip hop fashion

TAMARA TELLIS
STAFF WRITER

For decades, fashion has complemented the expressions of Hip Hop. Remember Adidas sweat suits and sneakers, thick gold chains and high-top fads? Those were the days that "real" Hip Hop existed. Since then, fashion has changed drastically, from "alright, I can deal with that" outfits to "now, that's just outright ridiculous" costumes.

Back in the 1970s, fashion trends developed from the rising Hip Hop stars. The people mimicked the fashion trends they saw—as they still do today. The fashion trends started with stars like LL Cool J and Run DMC. This was the era of "big is better." These icons modeled the fat shoelaces, large gold necklaces and many big rings.

The 90s brought about the bright colors, baseball caps and baggy pants inspired by "prison fashion"—without the use of belts. Other fashion trends were inspired by gangs—which distinguished what colors were to be worn to identify each affiliation.

Some fashions were divided by regions—South, North, East coast and West coast. Each region had its own style showing regional personality. The North showcased hooded clothes and Timberland boots. The South brought gold teeth and the West coast contributed converse sneakers and flannel shirts.

In today's fashion trends, the new thing is "skinny jeans," the tight, form-fitting pants that fit to the body all the way down to the ankles. Most would consider this trend brought about by the rap group "The New Boyz" and the popular dance "jerking." Though there were and still are complaints



bling-bling-online.co.uk

about the men's sagging pants and exposed underwear, you would think this new trend would end it. WRONG! Skinny jeans, which I believe were originally designed for women, are worn by most men just below the buttocks with a belt to keep its positioning.

Tight shirts accompany the skinny jeans. It seems they are going from one extreme to the next. The world wanted men to stop wearing their pants so big to where they have to constantly pull them up, so now they wear their pants so tight they don't even have to touch them.

Fashions for men seem to take more trends from the women. It started with the earrings, some men now wear "guy-liner," long hair, feminine colors and now tight clothes. It's scary to think what they might do next. In this world of constantly changing fashions, who knows what's bound to be next—maybe man skirts.

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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.

SPECIAL REPORT

Support available for struggling students

TAMARA TELLIS
STAFF WRITER

After more than ten years away from a college campus and leaving behind his hometown of Cleveland, Myke Jackson decided to pursue his life-long goal of obtaining a degree in English. He had suffered from bipolar disorder for most his life, which was one obstacle that delayed his return to school. Jackson needed to learn how to cope with his anxiety. If only he knew how. If only he had some support.

A support group is a place people go to acquire practical and emotional support from others who share the same feelings. It also provides information to help one's specific situation. Entering college can be intimidating, and having someone by your side, who feels the same way, is important.

"Because a lot of students are leaving their comfort zones and their family origins for the first time, there's a lot of 'anomie' (normal-lessness)," said Dr. Tina Deshotels, Associate Professor of Sociology and faculty advisor of Women's Issues, Support, and Empowerment (WISE).

"They don't have the people that know them and they are not doing the same things with the same people and because of that, 'normal-lessness' can lead people into depression, anxiety and worst case scenario, suicide."

Students should contact Jacksonville State University's Counseling Services department if they ever just need someone to talk. The department helps students recognize

their obstacles and strive for personal and academic success. They promote emotional health.

Counseling Services offers both group and personal counseling. Students come to them with problems such as stress, depression, anxiety, homesickness, assertiveness training, relationship training, relationship concerns and academic problems. The counselors can help with any issue, even issues about being anxious about counseling.

"A lot of students think that if they come to counseling, they are admitting that something is wrong with them," said Counselor and Testing Coordinator Mary Clark. "So the peer education groups help, and also it makes them more accepting of counseling and talk about counseling

and the need for counseling if it is necessary," she added.

Clark went on to say that she finds most students have a misconception of counseling.

Personal counseling is available for students wary of participating in a group. For personal counseling, one can just walk in or call and make an appointment, depending on the availability of a counselor. If it is something that needs immediate attention, there is some-



activeminds.bigcartel.com

one there to assist.

JSU has several support groups available to students on campus. SOAR (Survivors Overcoming Abusive Relationships), New Pathway (A Student Substance Abuse Support Group) and WISE (Women's Issues, Support, and Empowerment) and can be accessed through Counseling Services.

"This group was started because of things that were happening in women's lives and they really thought that they were all alone, and felt that this was only happening to them and so they blamed themselves a lot," said Deshotels. Deshotels believes that group therapy helps women not feel alone and unites them in a unique bond.

"We, as individuals, need to do everything we can to cope with what is going on and know that if you just act on an individual level, all the things that are causing our problems will continue to exist," added Deshotels.

As for Jackson, he

moved to Alabama and had to learn to deal with being away from his friends, family and not having the loving support of those people.

Moving to the South was a decision he knew he had to make. Luckily, he soon found a support group to make this experience easier.

Active Minds is a student-run mental health awareness organization created to provide an open environment for discussion of mental health issues.

"Students don't have to have a mental illness to join the group. It's not a support group but more of an awareness group," said Linda Shelton, faculty advisor of Active Minds. "We have a variety of topics for each meeting."

"The Active Minds group, which I have gotten feedback from members of the group, is about awareness," said Clark. "They talk about their experiences, they talk about the resources that they have used, and they feel connected."

Clark went on to say that most students are misinformed about what mental illness is. "They don't know how to communicate how they feel in regards to a mental illness, and they don't know how to express themselves," Clark added. "I believe Active Minds helps them to understand that it can range from anything- from just having anxiety, depression, to different mood changes."

According to Clark, Active Minds has the resources to address those topics.

"Because without even discussing them or knowing what they are, they can lead to more serious issues," said Clark.

The group strives to promote awareness about mental health, combat the stigma about mental health, direct students to available resources on campus and in the community and help identify symptoms of mental illness.

Jackson was apprehensive before attending the first few Active Minds meetings.

He saw nothing but unfamiliar faces there. His anxiety triggered most of his fear but he learned to listen and learned that many, if not most of the members, shared similar symptoms with him.

Over time those unfamiliar faces became great friends that he could share anything with.

By learning to cope with his disease, Jackson began to appreciate himself

and his recovery. He attributes his success to support groups.

"Having a group of people, or even one person, to have in life that understands, or at least attempts to understand, means a world of difference," said Jackson. "If I convey nothing else to my fellow students, it is to let everyone know that no matter who we are or where we come from, people encounter hurdles throughout life."

Sometimes those hurdles may be a little high to jump over, but if one can learn to pace themselves and figure out that knocking down a hurdle does not mean the race is over, it simply means that he or she must put forth more effort to grow stronger. And sooner or later gliding over those obstacles will be a breeze."

So why is it important to have support groups on campus?

"What keeps us healthy mentally is our connections with other people and the fact that they know what to expect from us and we know what to expect from them," said Deshotels.

"So when students come to a new place and they don't have any support groups around or anybody that's familiar with them, on one hand it's very freeing. They create themselves to whoever they want to be. On the other hand, that very freedom is also anxiety producing and it can lead students to withdraw themselves."

"I think that, in my opinion it does make a huge difference because I do get kind of discouraged in those classes and stuff like that and it's nice to know that I can go somewhere and talk about what's discouraging me and stressing me," said Chris Klinger a former member.

"And it's not to feedback and what I could do about it and stuff like that. It is important for colleges to have support groups."

According to Jackson, "Being that suicide is a leading cause of student deaths across many college campuses in this country, it is imperative that similar groups, like JSU's very own Active Minds, be vigilant and embraced by not only students, but faculty as well."

"Students must realize that every single person goes through a bewildering moment at some point in life. Especially those that are recently coming into their own, trying to find life and who they are and what it is they have to offer the world. It is no secret that many of us tend to keep our problems to ourselves, limiting our chances to overcome situations that may be easily 'fixed' just by talking to others that share similar quandaries."

No matter what issue it is, having someone going through the same things, someone who understands, can help make the situation easier. No one has to go through it alone.

For more information about JSU's Counseling Services, call 256-782-5475

"Students must realize that every single person goes through a bewildering moment at some point in life. Especially those that are recently coming into their own, trying to find life and who they are and what it is they have to offer the world. It is no secret that many of us tend to keep our problems to ourselves, limiting our chances to overcome situations that may be easily 'fixed' just by talking to others that share similar quandaries."

-Myke Jackson



ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

Sankofa African-American Museum



Kyrsten Taylor/THE CHANTICLEER

Angela Jennings (right) has traveled for almost two decades, adding pieces to her private collection of African-American memorabilia.

“Everything is laid bare”

KYRSTEN TAYLOR
STAFF WRITER

Sankofa is a Ghanaian phrase meaning “to take what we have learned from the past in order to help shape our future.”

This is exactly what Angela Jennings has done for the past 20 years. She has traveled for almost two decades, collecting pieces along the road for her private collection of African-American memorabilia. Her goal is extraordinarily simple, to inform people about the history of African-Americans.

It began in 1995 when Jennings gave her nephew, who was an honor student in high school at the time, a fifth grade level black history test. When he failed, Jennings began to build what is known today as the “Sankofa African-American Museum on Wheels.”

Today it takes Jennings about four hours to finish up all the pieces that make up the exhibit. It is set up in the form of a timeline, beginning mid-1800s in Africa around the time of the Zulu warriors. There are many antique tools and photographs, all carefully arranged to fit chronologically.

It progresses through the time of slavery and the African Holocaust. George Washington Carver revolutionizes the concept of a peanut. Cathay Williams becomes the first black woman to serve in the Army by disguising herself as a man. Malcolm X and Martin Luther King, Jr. woo the world while Billie Holiday plants “Strange Fruit” into history.

Assistant Tased Smalls stood by ready to offer insight and information on any display. He gently guided students and teachers alike along the timeline with tidbits of knowledge.

Video camcorders and hair creme was among the items showcased in the “Inventions” section. Further along, violent images and objects.

Nooses and bullwhips adorned with a cat of nine tails are displayed next to framed images of men and women being hung, many times as a public display.

Displayed toward the end was an exhibit dedicated to Barack Obama. Obama dancing with the First Lady at his inaugural ball, Obama in sunglasses getting out of a limo, looking for all the world like a rock star.

Everything is laid bare on this timeline. No event is left out or watered down. The timeline is perfect because it does its job so well. It doesn’t try to beat around any bushes; it informs. It presents the truth in such a way that you walk away shaking your head in wonder at how far we have come.



Kyrsten Taylor/THE CHANTICLEER

Students view items from the Sankofa African-American Museum on Wheels.

Learn from the past, shape the future

EMILY GLASER
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

In celebration of Black History Month, the Jacksonville State University Student Government Association and the Office of Multicultural Programming brought the “Sankofa African-American Museum on Wheels” to JSU this past Thursday. The museum showcased in the TMB Auditorium.

Owner and curator Angela W. Jennings has traveled the country for the past 25 years, showing her pieces at universities, churches and everywhere requested.

Jennings’ collection was so big, there was not enough tables in the TMB to display them all.

Tables were arranged in an arc shape, and spectators walked through each part of the museum in order. Artifacts spanned from 1860 to present day and were divided into six parts. Categories included the “Motherland into Slavery,” “African-american Stamps,” “Outstanding Celebrations of African Americans,” “African American Books,” “African American Inventions” and “Kwanzaa.”

The oldest artifacts were shackles used in the transportation of African-Americans to the United States. Near the shackles were additional pieces related to what was



Kyrsten Taylor/THE CHANTICLEER

Bales of cotton were among the items on display.

called the “African Holocaust.” There a diagram of a ship showed how many slaves were piled onto ships going to America for slave trade auctions.

Jennings said she doesn’t have a favorite piece, she loves them all.

However, freshman Sean Glaster did have a favorite piece. The Lt. Lee A. Archer, Jr. display caught his attention because he likes the movie *Red Tails*. Reading the information on its display “really brought it to life for him.”

One of the best rewards for Jennings is to see students like Glaster learn some of his history. One of the main reasons she started the museum was because she didn’t like to see black people not know their history, “the real stuff,” which gets omitted from textbooks.

The picture of the four girls killed in the bombing of the 16th Street Baptist Church in Birmingham is the favorite piece of freshman Evelyn Rucker. She feels that people often forget that young people played an important role in the Civil Rights Movement and believes this picture really helps people to see just how important young people were.

In the “African American Invention” section, there was a stethoscope and a railroad switch device. Many students huddled around this area, some discussing their surprise that such everyday items were invented by African-Americans.

Other areas of the museum surprised people in different, very graphic ways. On top of a black tablecloth were pictures, drawings and paintings of African-Americans being hung. Two female students shuddered as they approached the display and quickly moved on to the next table.

Jennings’ motto sums up the museum. “We must go back to reclaim all that has been stolen, lost, hidden and ultimately forgotten, in order to preserve and rebuild our present and our future.”

ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT



Members of the upcoming drama *Th' Burning*

Theatre preview: "Th' Burning"

COURTNEY RAY
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

"Th' Burning" is a new, original play that was conceived by JSU's Susan C. McCain and Jason Wright.

The play is set amid the events of Mother's Day in Anniston in 1961, when a mob bombed a bus filled with civilian Freedom Riders.

The Freedom Riders were a group of civil rights activists who were riding an integrated bus to protest Alabama's Jim Crowe segregation laws. These laws denied African-Americans their civil rights.

According to McCain, the show is "inspired by humanity's

enduring battles and by those who transcend the controls of rigidity" and "accentuates ongoing life as it finds survival in the most unconventional ways."

The play debuts on Friday, February 24 at 7:30 at the Mason Hall Performance Center. There will be a second showing on Saturday the 25 at 7:30 p.m., with a preceding reception at 6:00 p.m.

"Th' Burning" is dedicated to the late Rev. Fred Shuttlesworth, a U.S. civil rights activist who was prominent in Birmingham.

All proceeds benefit the scholarship fund of JSU's Black Alumni Association. For ticket prices or other information call (256) 782-8364.

Review: No day but today to see RENT

COURTNEY RAY
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

I am majorly into musical theatre, so imagine my excitement when I learned that the JSU Drama and Music departments were teaming up to do none other than my favorite show ever, Jonathan Larson's "RENT." I love everything about the show: the music, the characters, the costumes, the story, the set — everything!

I've seen the show twice with traveling companies, own both film versions, and have been belting out the tunes since way back in the sixth grade.

With that being said, I have to admit that I was a little nervous to see it done locally. Of course, I was not disappointed.

RENT is a modern retelling of the

Italian opera "La Bohème" that examines the lives of eight New Yorkers living and loving in spite of the difficult conditions life has dealt them. Jonathan Larson's characters are passionate, believable, and undoubtedly colorful, and the cast of JSU's production has no problem bringing them to life.

Eric Traynor, director and co-musical director, and Jeremy Stovall, co-musical and vocal director, have done an excellent job in coaching their cast.

Roger, accurately portrayed by Clark Bell, is a wannabe rock star and recovering heroin addict living with AIDS. Played excellently by Joshua Cody Hunt, Roger's roommate and best friend Mark is an aspiring Jewish filmmaker who often feels like an outsider looking in.

DeEric Williams is fantastic as Col-

lins, Roger and Mark's former roommate and love interest to the flamboyant and hilarious Angel, wonderfully interpreted by Omar Brock. Collins and Angel have AIDS as well, but they have a passion for life that helps them cope.

Jacob Cummings is great as Benny, another old roommate who has turned his back on his former comrades in favor of a wealthy lifestyle. Anita Guzman and Kayleigh Jade Smith depict lovers Maureen and Joanne, and they do a splendid job telling their roller coaster of a story.

Rounding out the leads is the talented Autumn Brown, who plays Mimi, a heroin addict who also struggles to live with AIDS. These players and the fourteen ensemble members that make up the cast do an excellent telling of a story that inspires hope and acceptance in

a world that seems to have lost its way.

The set may be minimal, as is tradition for this show, but it does nothing short of bringing the Lower East Side of New York City right to Jacksonville. This, along with great lighting and costuming, allows audience members to be sucked in to the gritty Alphabet City in which RENT takes place.

Undoubtedly, this review would not be complete without acknowledging the contributions of the fabulous JSU music department, who provided the score for the show.

So, what are you waiting for? RENT will be playing at the Ernest Stone Performing Arts Center for only four more performances.

As a self-proclaimed "Renthead", I highly recommend that you see it. For tickets and info, call (256) 782 - 5648.

Movie reviews

EBONEE ROSTON
STAFF WRITER

Big Miracle

This is a family drama/romance film that is rated PG. It has the fun-spirited actress Drew Barrymore and the American actor John Krasinski starring in the movie.

The cover or the previews make the audience think it is a boring movie about whales, but do not miss the great significance of the movie. Big Miracle is based on a book called Free the Whales by Tom Rose.

The movie is inspired by an organization called Operation Breakthrough, which was an international effort to free three gray whales from packed ice that developed in Alas-

ka. Big Miracle is about a reporter named Adam Carlson (Krasinki), who discovered that three whales were trapped in the ice of the Arctic Circle. When he publicizes this, his news catches attention from people who want to help save them. Carlson's girlfriend Rachel Kranner (Barrymore) also joins him on his journey to save the whales.

Both struggle with bringing Inuit natives, oil companies, whale hunters, and both the Russian and American militaries to overcome their differences to free the whales, while time is running out. Go see how this heart-warming movie ends.



chulavista.com



collider.com

The Iron Lady

This is a drama/historical film starring Meryl Streep, Jim Broadbent, Anthony Head, and Richard E. Grant. This is inspired by true events of Margaret Thatcher, a British politician who served as Prime Minister of the United Kingdom.

The young Thatcher is portrayed by Alexandra Roach, and the older Thatcher is played by Streep.

Thatcher's husband Denis Thatcher (Broadbent) was Thatcher's longest-serving cabinet member, and Deputy Geoffrey Howe (Head)

surrounded her and played major parts in this film. This movie shows how influential Thatcher is and as a role model to women. She came from a middle-class family, struggled to the top, overcame barriers of gender and got her voice heard in a male-dominated world.

In the movie, Thatcher has difficulties distinguishing from the past and the present. There are flashbacks of her youth, her marriage to her wealthy husband, and of historical events of her time as Prime Minister of the United Kingdom.

Journey 2: The Mysterious Island

This is a fun, adventurous, science fiction, 3D movie that families can watch together. This film stars popular actors Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson, Michael Caine, Josh Hutcherson, Disney's favorite Vanessa Hudgens, Luis Guzman and Kristin Davis.

Sean Anderson (Hutcherson) received a letter or note written in code that distresses a signal from an island not supposed to exist. Hank, (Johnson) Sean's stepfather, joins him on his journey to the South Pacific. The helicopter pilot Gabato (Guzman)

and his sassy daughter Kailani (Hudgens) come together to find the mysterious island and attempt to rescue a traveler, Sean's grandfather (Caine) from the island. On their journey, Sean develops a crush on Kailani.

The four travel in the air until their plane is hit by a freak storm and puts them on an island where big animals become small and the small animals become big. The insects are even huge. The team experiences more hectic problems that hinder them from leaving the island. Will they make it out alive and be able to rescue Sean's grandfather?



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SPORTS

Gamecocks reload on signing day

AUSTIN FAULKNER
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

Of all the things Coach Crowe does, the best, by far, is recruiting. While adding 25 players to its 2012 signing class the Gamecocks filled some glaring needs in their lineup for the coming year and near future:

Quarterback: Though the team has Marquez Ivory, Coty Blanchard and Steven Coates returning. Ivory is a senior and Blanchard may decide to focus purely on baseball in the future leaving Coates alone on the roster. With the future in mind, Coach Jack Crowe sought to sign a young quarterback. Elijah Jenkins, Birmingham Area Public School's Offensive Player of the Year, is a dual threat who can run and has a nice touch when he throws the ball.

Running Back: The Gamecocks lose Calvin Middleton to graduation and have to find a way to fill the void. While Washaun Ealey, DaMarcus James and Rashod Byers all return, Ealey is the only full-time running back on the roster. James seems to have to fallen into more of a fullback role and Byers is splitting time at cornerback.

The good news is help is coming. The Gamecocks rolled in three fresh pair of legs in the form of Troymaine Pope, Mile Jones and LaDarius Rodgers. Pope hails from Anniston and was courted by several FCS programs. Over the last two years, Pope has helped the Bulldogs get to the playoffs and found the end zone 60 times.

Jones and Rodgers are nothing to scoff at. Jones is the only three-star recruit the Gamecocks signed and Rodgers was named the Fox 6 3A Player of the Year.

Defensive Back: Seniors A.J. Davis, Jawaan Booker and Jason Horton all graduate taking a lot of experience with them. Several players who either started or had extensive playing time last season return. However, the position is not as deep as coaches would like it to be. That's why the Gamecocks inked three freshmen and signed two transfers.

Both transfers come from FCS schools, Desmond Brown from Clemson and Darrell Smith from Arkansas, while incoming freshman Dushonta Broughton, Jermaine Hough and Tyler Hughes look to compete for playing time.

Defensive Line: After losing three of four starters and not having much playing experience behind them the Gamecocks needed some signees to fill the void. The team has no shortage of young players but it is always nice to bring in new talent. Unfortunately, this is the part of the recruiting class that was the weakest with a solitary recruit: Steven Snyder.

Standing at 6'4" tall, he has the height to disrupt the quarterback's line of vision and passing lanes but at 200 pounds he's better suited to play an outside linebacker or safety spot. If he can add weight without losing too much speed he will be able to terrorize opposing offenses.

With recruiting it's hit or miss. It is not an exact science, if it was everyone would be getting great players. Jacksonville State's coaching staff seems to have figured out what to look for specifically that fits their system and style of play. It looks like it is going to be a promising year for Gamecock football.

For more information and a complete list of the individual recruits check out:
www.jsugamecock.blogspot.com/

JSU Women's Basketball to hold "Play 4 Kay" Thursday night; free admission to fans wearing pink

JACKSONVILLE - The Jacksonville State women's basketball team will join teams all over the nation in support of the Women's Basketball Coaches Association's Play 4 Kay initiative as the Gamecocks will Paint "The Pete" Pink on Thursday, Feb. 23 against Southeast Missouri. Tip off is set for 5:15 p.m.

Fans wearing pink will be admitted free to the Ohio Valley Conference match up.

The WBCA's Play 4 Kay brings awareness about breast cancer and supports the research efforts of the Kay Yow Cancer Fund. JSU has a connection to Kay Yow, the former North Carolina State women's basketball coach, as Annette Watts served as an assistant coach under Yow from 1997-99.

The late Yow was a galvanizing voice for the WBCA along with her coaching duties.

She was first diagnosed with breast cancer in 1987, and succumbed to the disease in January of 2009 after facing three bouts with the disease. In her 38 years as a head coach at the collegiate level, Yow was one of only six Division I head women's basketball mentors to achieve 700 career victories.

To date the Kay Yow Cancer Fund has allocated \$2,515,000 to various research projects and related programs.

- Sportswire

Softball: Lady Gamecock's rally falls short

SIERRA TILLMAN
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

The Jacksonville State Gamecock softball team dropped their home opener to Southern Illinois by a score of 10-9 on Friday afternoon, the first day of the Jacksonville Invitational.

The Gamecocks started off slowly as Southern Illinois jumped to a 6-0 lead by the end of the second inning. Haley Gorman drilled a three-run home run sending it past left field in the first inning and Taylor Orsburn contributed by ripping a double with bases loaded in the second inning to jump on top of JSU.

Freshman Shelby Holley and junior Krystal Ruth slugged the Gamecocks back into the game and Holley tied the game in the sixth inning when she slammed her second home run of the game.

Unfortunately, Southern Illinois had a big answer for the Gamecocks and scored four runs in the top of the seventh inning on two separate two-run homers. With one out Gorman walked and sophomore catcher Allie VadeBoncouer followed with a dinger down the left field line. Meredith Wilson immediately followed with a single to left field. Kelsea Ashton hit a bomb over the left field wall to give

Southern Illinois a 10-6 advantage. Jacksonville State tried to answer in the bottom of the last frame but came up short.

After Savannah Sloan walked to put runners on first and second base, Crawford and Borders slapped back to back RBI single to bring the Gamecocks to within a run, 10-9. Holley ended the game by grounding out to first base, with Crawford representing the game tying run standing on second base.

With the loss JSU fell to 0-5 on the season, while Southern Illinois improved to 3-1.

Jacksonville State vs. Presbyterian



Freshman Darion Rackley, a St. Louis native, scored 14 points in the final 10 minutes.

Sportswire

18-0 run surges Gamecocks to victory

DANIEL PORTER
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

The Gamecocks faced the Blue Hose of Presbyterian in the BracketBusters matchup at Pete Mathews Coliseum in front of 1,600 plus fans this past Saturday. Presbyterian comes out of the Big South Conference and has met JSU three previous times, the most recent the last two seasons as a result of the same BracketBuster games. The Blue hose leads the series 2-1, but JSU's lone win did come at The Pete where Saturday night's action was held.

Presbyterian controlled the opening tip but Junior Tarvin Gaines put the Gamecocks on the board first. Gaines scored 8 quick points including two three-pointers that gave Jacksonville State an early 10-4 lead. Brian Williams had 8 first half points himself to help the Gamecocks stay just ahead of the Blue Hose. Presbyterian fell behind by nine at one point but came back within four before going into halftime down by seven to the Gamecocks, 28-21.

Coming out of the half Jacksonville State put up seven straight points to take their largest lead of the night so far, 34-21, before Presbyterian called timeout. After falling behind by 13, the Blue Hose worked the next seven minutes to climb all the way back to within three. With 7:30 remaining the Gamecocks held just a 47-44 lead and the Blue Hose looked to have the momentum making a comeback. Then the Gamecocks went on an unprecedented 18-0 run starting when

Darion Rackley earns OVC Freshman of the Week honor

BRENTWOOD, Tenn. - Jacksonville State guard Darion Rackley has been named the Ohio Valley Conference's Freshman of the Week after guiding the Gamecocks to a 1-1 week, the league office announced on Monday.

Rackley, a 6-foot-2 native of St. Louis, earned his second Freshman of the Week honor of the year after averaging 11.5 points, two assists and 2.5 steals in JSU's two games. He was the driving force in a late rally that propelled the Gamecocks to a 67-48 win over Presbyterian in Saturday's Sears BracketBusters event.

Against the Blue Hose, Rackley scored 17 points, 14 of which came in the final 10 minutes of the game. After a Presbyterian rally that cut JSU's lead to three, he converted a four-point play to spark an 18-0 JSU run that put PC away. He was 5-of-7 from the floor and 5-for-5 from the stripe in the win.

Rackley and the Gamecocks will close the regular season this weekend with a pair of OVC games in Pete Mathews Coliseum. The final push for a spot in next week's OVC Tournament starts at 7:45 p.m. Thursday against Southeast Missouri and will conclude on Saturday against UT Martin at 7:45 p.m.

- Sportswire

Freshman Darion Rackley made a four point play with 6:56 to go, after draining a three-pointer while being fouled and making his free throw. During the outstanding run, Williams added a three of his own. Rackley followed soon after with a steal that he took back for a dunk.

With 1:50 remaining JSU had stretched its 47-44 lead into a 65-44 lead. Presbyterian went over five minutes without a single point! The Gamecocks ran out the clock and took a 67-48 win bringing the series 2-2.

Freshman Darion Rackley out of St. Louis, Mo. was a huge factor in the game scoring 17 points off the bench, 14 coming in the second half. He played a huge roll in JSU's 18-0 run and total shot 5-7 from the field including two threes and made all five of his free throws. He took three steals on defense.

Sophomore Brian Williams added to his 13.1 avg. points per game with a team high 20 against the Blue Hose.

Jacksonville State advanced to 12-17 with the win, 6-8 in OVC play with two OVC games to play.

Currently the Gamecocks are in a three way tie for sixth in the OVC. JSU takes on SEMO at The Pete tonight. A win could be enough to secure to the Gamecocks a spot in the OVC Tournament in Nashville, Tn.

- Sportswire

JSU Rifle concludes NCAA qualifier match

FAIRBANKS, Alaska - The Jacksonville State rifle team made its final case to the NCAA Selection Committee on Saturday at the University of Alaska in Fairbanks. JSU posted a final mark of 4645, turning in the second-best score of the three teams competing in the event.

On Thursday, Jax State posted an aggregate score of 4648 in the pre NCAA qualifying meet on Saturday. The Gamecock shooters finished smallbore with a 2304 and an identical mark from Thursday in air rifle,

2341. Sophomore Muegge and junior Andrea das matched other in air rifle with a score of 586. Monica Fyfe turned in a 585, while Cole Tucker tallied a 584. Dan McCall rounded out the air rifle total with a 576.

Dardas followed her air rifle mark with the squad's top smallbore score with a 584.

Sam Muegge recorded a 576, followed by Tucker's 585. Fyfe and McCall finished the relay with a 569

each. The Ohio Valley Conference Champions will find out their NCAA fate on

Wednesday, Feb. 22 as the team qualifiers will be announced.

- Sportswire



OVC Rifle Champions are hoping for a NCAA bid.

Sportswire



Gamecock Sports



JSU had their hands full with the visiting Samford. Samford would go on to win 4-2.

Nationally ranked AUM downs Jax State Tennis

MONTGOMERY – The Jacksonville State men's and women's tennis teams tested Auburn University at Montgomery, but eventually fell to the nationally ranked Warhawks on Friday at the AUM Tennis Courts.

Playing by the NAIA point system, the JSU men were edged 5-4, while the Gamecock women dropped a 6-3 decision.

Coming in to the match, the AUM women's program was ranked No. 1 in the NAIA national poll, while the Warhawk men were ranked fourth in the country.

In the men's match, Jax State got off to a great start by winning a pair of doubles points.

At No. 1, the Red and White tandem of Nenad Marcec and Igor Santos topped Bence Toth and M. Jansen Van Vuuren of AUM, 8-6.

The JSU duo of Felipe Wenzel and Felipe Watanabe cruised past AUM's pairing of Matias Dasso and Josh Reason, 8-1.

In singles play, Marcec and Wenzel posted a pair of wins at

No. 2 and 6. Marcec turned back Bence Toth ranked 20th individually, 7-6, 6-4. With the win, Marcec moved to 4-3 on the season in singles action.

Wenzel claimed a three-set win after dropping the first set, 6-2. The freshman rebounded to top Dasso, 6-3, 6-0 in the final two sets to secure the win at No. 6.

The JSU women picked up two of their three points in doubles play against the top-ranked Warhawks, who had the third-ranked double duo playing at the top spot.

The Gamecock team of Zoe Bizinos and Rafaela Wenzel notched a win at No.2 with a 9-8 victory over AUM's Kveta Hajkova and Tiffany William.

JSU's pairing of Danielle Kerindi and Kelly Tomlin won by default.

In singles, AUM's line up featured three of the top 15 players on the NAIA level and swept all singles matches played. JSU registered a win as Tomlin won by default at No. 6.

- Sportswire

Struggling: Samford owns JSU

JORDAN SMITH
STAFF WRITER

Jacksonville State's struggles continue as the Gamecocks fall to Samford 4-2 in Wednesday's tennis match.

Samford jumped ahead by securing the point in the doubles matches.

On court three, Samford's Fernando Costa and Carson Kadi defeated JSU's Joshua Bourke and Felipe Wenzel 8-2

On Court two, Samford's Elliot Barnwell and Ryan Shidler defeated JSU's Igor Santos and Felipe Watanabe 7-5 in a tie-breaker.

JSU salvaged one win in doubles. On court one, JSU's Nenad Marcec and, Axel Sundberg de-

feated Samford's Zac Dunkle and Alexander Sajonz in a 7-5 tie-breaker.

Samford sealed the victory by winning three of the six singles matches.

Samford's Zac Dunkle defeated JSU's Axe Sundberg 6-1 on court one. Sundberg retired in the second set.

JSU's Igor Santos defeated Samford's Kadi Carson 6-3 and 6-2 on court two.

JSU's Nenad Marcec defeated Samford's Elliot Barnwell on court 3. Barnwell won the first set 6-3. Marcec won the second set 6-0. Barnwell injured his ankle midway through the third set. He continued before eventually retiring.

Samford's Fernando Costa defeated JSU's Felipe Diaz 6-0 and 6-2 on court four.

The match on court five between JSU's Felipe Watanabe and Samford's Alexander Sajonz was suspended due to darkness. Sajonz won the first set 7-6. Watanabe won the second set 6-3.

On court six, Samford's Ryan Shidler defeated JSU's Joshua's Bourke. Bourke won the first set 6-2. Shidler won the second set 7-5 and the third set 6-2.

Steve Bailey, head coach of the Gamecocks, was "pleased with the team's effort."

"If they keep that effort up, we'll be fine," said Bailey. "Today we were all over the ball. This was a very good Samford team today."

Crow, Lady Gamecocks swing past Lady Lions

JORDAN SMITH
STAFF WRITER

Jacksonville State used the long ball to grab its elusive first win against Southeastern Louisiana on Saturday at the annual Jacksonville State Invitational.

The Gamecocks jumped out in front with a 3-0 lead in the first inning.

Hayden Crawford was the first to score on Kristin Graham's single. Sara Borders scored on Krystal Ruth's groundout to second and Graham would score again on Ab-

bey Stepp's single to left field.

The Lions put up two runs in the bottom half of the first. Ariell Van Hook drew a walk, and Meghan Gomez hit a home run to cut the lead 3-2.

The Gamecocks answered with two runs of their own in the second inning. Kaycee Crow and Crawford each homered increasing the lead to 5-2.

The Lions came roaring back, when Ariell Van Hook hit a 2-run homer that cut the lead to 6-4 at the bottom of the third. Trish Bliss



Crow was key in the Gamecocks 15-10 win over SE Louisiana.

scored on a single down the left field line from Kayla Elswick tying the game at five.

The tie was broken after Megan

McCollum singled to right field allowing Lauren Coniglio and Katie Matthews to score.

With the game tied at seven, due to

Borders' home run, Sam Snow came into the game to replace the struggling Savanna Hennings in the bottom of the fourth.

A powerful hitting game resulted in the Lions reclaiming the lead and the Gamecocks were held scoreless and hitless in the top of the 5th.

Aided by the long ball, the Gamecocks rallied back with an eight run inning. Kelci Johnston hit a pinch-hit 2-run homer to make the score 10-9. Crawford then scored on Borders' single to right field and Ruth singled up the middle to bring in Hilary Phillips and Borders. Crow hit a 3-run homer to left field to make the lead 15-10 JSU.

Hennings returned to the game taking over for Snow in the bottom of the fifth inning. The Lions would not score again as the Gamecocks sealed the win.

Crow went 4-4 with 2 HR and 4 RBI. "It felt good," said Crow, "It's about time."

"We've been needing that out of her," said Head Coach Jana McGinnis. "That's what a senior does, step up and play that way."

Snow was the winning pitcher after coming in the game as a reliever.



Player of the week Kaycee Crow in action.

Kaycee Crow named OVC Softball POTW

BRENTWOOD, Tenn. – Jacksonville State catcher Kaycee Crow has been named the Ohio Valley Conference's Player of the Week after her efforts in guiding the Gamecocks to a 1-1 weekend in the rain-shortened JSU Invitational.

Crow, a senior from Ringold, Ga., went 5-for-7 for the Gamecocks in their home tournament, including a 15-10 JSU win over Southeastern Louisiana on Saturday. Against the Lions, she racked up 11 total bases in a 4-for-4 afternoon that saw her homer twice, double and drive in four runs.

She was the key in an eight-run sixth in-

ning that erased a 10-7 deficit and propelled the Gamecocks to a 15-10 win. She opened the big inning with a lead-off double and capped it with a three-run home run, her second of the day after belting a solo blast to lead off the second inning.

In JSU's first game of the week against defending Missouri Valley champion Southern Illinois, she went 1-for-3 with an RBI single.

She and the Gamecocks will return to the diamond this weekend, when they play in the Georgia Southern Eagle Classic in Statesboro, Ga. They open play Friday against Kentucky at 12:30 p.m.

- Sportswire

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