

THE CHANTICLEER

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Telling our stories

Pulitzer Prize winner Connie Schultz encourages JSU students to write about their personal experiences

EMILY HAYES
NEWS EDITOR

"Each of us are our stories," according to Pulitzer Prize winning columnist Connie Schultz. When she first began writing her column nearly a decade ago, her editor gave her this advice.

"He said, 'You've got to mix it up. You've got to write personal columns, too. Because even if they hate your position on reproductive rights, they're going to love how you are as a single mom to your kids.'"

Schultz said it was the "best advice, single piece of advice I ever got in column writing. You want to close the distance."

And it seems she has.

While waiting in the airport last Wednesday, sipping a cup of coffee and writing a column, a man approached Schultz and addressed her recent appearance on "The Rachel Maddow Show," where she spoke about Rush Limbaugh.

"I hate what you said on Rachel Maddow. I hate all your opinions," he said.

"I love the dog, though. Franklin, right?"

The man was referring to the newest addition to Schultz' and her husband, U.S. Sen. Sherrod Brown's, family. Franklin is a rescue dog they adopted following the death of their 14-year-old pug Gracie. Schultz has written about the dog in several columns.

Said Schultz, "If you can write about your relationship with your dog, people are going to be a lot

more patient with you when you want to talk about why Rush Limbaugh can't get away with something he said."

After all, each of us are our stories.

A product of two working-class parents, Schultz described her mother as a feisty four-foot-eleven-inch lady with a beehive hairdo and a love of playing softball. Her father worked for 36 years at a job he hated, once telling Schultz, "They could teach a monkey to do my job."

Her mother raised Schultz and her two sisters with the philosophy, "Don't marry him until you see how he treats the waitress."

"Because of course what she meant was," said Schultz, "how we treat people we're allowed to mistreat is the measure of who we are, particularly when no one's watching."

Schultz keeps her father's Hard Hat and lunch pail and her mother's hospice badge in her office. They serve as daily reminders of how hard they worked to give her and her siblings a better life.

And so she refuses to answer to the name "Sherrod Brown's wife" or "Nut-job columnist."

Her philosophy comes from African-American poet Lucille Clifton. "What they call you is one thing. What you answer to is something else."

According to Schultz, "What I answer to, first and foremost, always is, 'I'm Chuck and Janey's kid.'"



Jason McClure/SPECIAL TO THE CHANTICLEER

Connie Schultz delivers the 2012 Ayers Lecture last Thursday at the Houston Cole Library.



creators.com

What I answer to, first and foremost, always is, 'I'm Chuck and Janey's kid.'
-- Connie Schultz

Q & A with Schultz

KARA COLEMAN
A&E EDITOR

"What was the biggest challenge you've ever faced during your career?" "Which story has touched you most over the years?" "What are some of the things you did to prepare while you were in school?" These were just some of the questions that students in the Communication department asked of Connie Schultz, guest speaker for the Ayers Lecture last Thursday.

That morning, Schultz had a question-and-answer session with students and teachers, to give them a chance to speak with her before she delivered her lecture to the general public.

"As a writer, have you ever had to write a story that you were just totally against, but you had to push it because it was news?" asked Zandra Hall.

"You get sent on some stories that you don't necessarily think are your stories," Schultz acknowledged. "It was my job to figure out, what is the story? You can ask anyone that was my editor, and they can tell you that they would tell me to my face what they thought the story was going to be, until I got there and started reporting it."

"I'll tell you what the story is, if you give me time to get my feet on the ground and start talking to people. You gain a reputation pretty quickly if you do that, if you do it conscientiously and you do it well. They come to trust your instincts."

Because Schultz is a columnist whose job is to express her opinions, she is often faced with criticism. When asked about dealing with that issue, she shared a story.

"I can't tell you how many people I talked to yesterday at the airport alone, because I was stuck there for eight and a half hours," she said. "This one guy walks up to me and says, 'I hate your writing. I just hate your opinions.'"

"I just looked at him and he said, 'But I like your dog. Franklin, right?' Because I also write for Parade and I had written a piece about our puppy."

Schultz stated that one thing she likes about writing is being able to show people that they have more in common with one another than they had thought.

During the Q & A forum, that lasted roughly one hour, Schultz was asked by Jason McClure, "Being married to a U.S. Senator [Sherrod Brown], how hard is it for you to separate your work from your personal life? How many times have you wanted to pick up a pen and go after the people attacking your husband?" With a laugh she replied, "Oh, I don't worry about my husband. He can take care of himself."

Schultz was also asked what she did while in college to prepare for her career. "It was all paper, all the time. Once I started working at the Daily Kent Stater, the bug bit. I never wanted to do anything else."

She went on to say, "When I went to Kent State, it was 1975, five years after they had killed four students on campus. So every year on May 4th, on the anniversary, we were swarmed with national media. We had a big controversy during my tenure there, when they wanted to build a gym that would be partially on the site where one of the students had been killed. I ended up being a stringer for The New York Times while I was there, because it was such a hotbed of activity."

Zach Tyler took the final question of the session. He raised his hand and said, "So, how is Franklin?"



The new addition to Stephenson Hall features top of the line strength training equipment, a cardio room, a Cybex machine weight room and group fitness classes.

All photos by Kyrsten Taylor/
THE CHANTICLEER

Hours of operation for Stephenson Hall

Monday through Thursday:
6 a.m. to 9:45 p.m.

Friday: 6 a.m. to 5:45 p.m.

Saturday: 11 a.m. to 4:45 p.m.

Sunday: 4 p.m. to 8:45 p.m.

The wait for weights is over

The new addition to Stephenson Hall officially opens Wednesday, February 29th, and doesn't go unnoticed

EMILY GLASER
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

According to the Assistant Director of Recreational Sports, Eric Brasher, over 100 people went into Stephenson on that first Saturday and Sunday following the opening. That's more than double the normal weekend crowd of around 40 to 50 visitors per day. And the numbers have remained high.

Student workers Meredith Conduff and Katie Herin worked at the sign-in desk, and have really noticed the larger numbers coming in. They said that some nights are crazy because of all the people coming through.

"I try to come in here everyday for at least an hour after class," said Senior Towanda Kirksey-Stan. "I'm glad there are dumbbell weights in here and that there's so much more room. I wish I lived in Jacksonville so I could be here even more."

Top of the line strength training equipment from Hammer Strength and Life Fitness fill the new 4,500 square foot room.

In addition, Stephenson Hall has a cardio room with treadmills, ellipticals, stair climbers and sta-

tionary bikes. There is also a Cybex machine weight room, for those who would rather not lift free weights.

For those interested, group fitness classes are offered four days a week and are open and free to students.

Step aerobics is offered Monday through Thursday at 4:45 p.m. and cardio kickboxing is held Monday and Wednesday evenings at 6:15.

Brasher said classes are always more popular in the spring because many students are trying to get in shape for spring break. Most group fitness classes this semester have seen between 25 and 30 participants.

If everything goes as planned, the HPE department hopes to have multiple weight training classes beginning this fall. Just last week, the HPE Beginning Weight Training class moved from the weight room in the Coliseum to the new addition.

Also in the works for Stephenson are televisions in the workout areas. In the past, the cardio room contained two above the treadmills, but they have yet to be installed since the move.



"We are working on putting them back up," Brasher said.

Music may be in the future in the new free weight room, as well. They are considering it, according to Brasher, but it's just new and loud and they will see where it goes.

Brasher also said that Stephenson will be looking for more student workers for the 2012 fall semester work study program.

Construction first began on Stephenson's new addition in April 2011. Brasher thanks Dr. Meehan, Dr. Hammett and David Thompson of the Physical Plant for getting the project finished in less than a year.

CAMPUS & LOCAL

COMMUNITY, CAMPUS AND SOCIAL NEWS YOU CAN USE

PHOTO OF THE WEEK



Kyrsten Taylor/THE CHANTICLEER

BRIEFS

First Presbyterian Church in Anniston the JSU A Cappella Choir and Chamber Singers will present their Spring Concert on Sunday, March 18, 2012 at 3:00 p.m. Both choirs are under the direction of Dr. Patricia Corbin, JSU Director of Choral Activities, and will be accompanied by Meg Griffin. First Presbyterian Church is located at 1701 Henry Road. This concert is free and open to the public. For further information, please contact the JSU Choral Activities office, (256) 782-5544 or Dr. Corbin.

Circle K International is a fun, new, community service organization in search of new members. Meetings are every other Monday including March 12 and 26 at 6:30 p.m. in the Stone Center room 120. From its website: "Circle K International (CKI) are organized and sponsored by a Kiwanis club. It is a self-governing organization and elects its own officers, conducts its own meetings and determines its own service activities. Projects include the Six Cents Initiative, CKI's International fundraiser that aims to provide water to the 2.2 billion children worldwide who lack safe drinking water.

The JSU Honors Program is again selling business discount cards for \$5. New businesses are included and good until March 13. To purchase a card, please email Janet Whitmore at the Honors House or see any of the Elite Honors students. To view businesses featured on the card, visit JSUNews.com.

CAMPUS CRIME

Monday, March 5

- Violation of Student Code of Conduct, Fourth Avenue
- Violation of Student Code of Conduct, Wal-Mart
- Lost Decal, Ramona Wood Parking Lot
- Information Report, Salls Hall
- Missing Property, Stone Center
- Information Report, Fitzpatrick Hall

Tuesday, March 6

- Information Report, Ayers Hall
- Assault, Jack Hopper Cafeteria
- Possession of Marijuana, Stadium Tower

Wednesday, March 7

- Lost Decal, TMB Parking Lot
- Medical Emergency, Pannell Hall
- Automobile Accident, Merrill Hall
- Theft of Property, Curtiss Hall

Thursday, March 8

- Information Report, Bibb Graves
- Arrest for Obstruction of Governmental Operations & Possession of Marijuana, Kennamer Hall Parking Lot

Friday, March 9

- Information Report, Crow Hall
- Arrest for Possession of Marijuana, Colonial Arms Apartment

CALENDAR

Thursday, March 15

SGA Applications Due TODAY

Where: Office of Student Life
Contact: Alex Rainwater at sgavpsa@jsu.edu

Sue Walker - Ala. Poet Laureate

Where: 1103B Houston Cole Library

When: 7 - 8:30 p.m.

Sponsored by Friends of Houston Cole Library

<http://www.jsu.edu/library/friends/programs.html>

Contact: Lynn Varcak at lvarcak@jsu.edu or (256) 782-5255

Friday, March 16

Central East Regional Technology Fair

Where: Leone Cole Auditorium

When: 7 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Sponsored by Technology & Engineering

Contact: Terry Marbut at matthews@jsu.edu or (256) 782-5294

SGA on Ice

Where: TMB Auditorium

When: 7 - 10 p.m.

Sponsored by SGA

Contact: Alex Rainwater at sgavpsa@jsu.edu

Saturday, March 17

St. Patrick's Day Paddle at Terrapin Creek

Where: Terrapin Creek Outdoor Center

When: 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Fee: \$30/person (rental kayak included); \$25/person rental canoe

(double only); \$25/person to bring your own canoe or Kayak

Pre-registration is required

Contact: Renee Morrison at rmorrison@jsu.edu or (256) 782-5679

*Bring drink/snack/lunch. Not recommended for children under 12 years.

Monday, March 19

SGA Candidate Speeches

Where: TMB Auditorium

When: 7 p.m.

Sponsored by SGA

Contact: Alex Rainwater at sgavpsa@jsu.edu

Wednesday, March 21

Women's History Month: Managing Stress & Good Mental Health

Where: TMB Auditorium

When: 6 - 7 p.m.

Sponsored by STA/Multicultural Programming

Contact: Debbie Taylor at dbtaylor@jsu.edu

Reggae Mixer

Where: Leone Cole Auditorium

When: 7 - 11 p.m.

Sponsored by African American Assoc.

Contact: Chad Rhodes at crhodes@jsu.edu or (678) 326-0902

OPINION

CASUAL CONVERSATION. TRENDY TOPICS

Romney's woman problem

CONNIE SCHULTZ
CREATORS.COM

On the evening of Super Tuesday, a radiant Ann Romney stepped up to the microphone at a Boston rally and took her best shot at changing the subject.

"Do you know what women care about?" she said. "Women care about jobs. Women care about the economy. They care about their children, and they care about the debt."

Translation: Please, please, please stop asking my husband about Rush Limbaugh.

I hear you, sister.

As all of the country knows, Limbaugh called 30-year-old law student Sandra Fluke a "slut" and a "prostitute" and asked her to post online video of her sex life. Mitt Romney's response — "it's not the language I would have used" — didn't exactly close the distance between him and the millions of mothers whose hair was on fire.

We wanted fatherly outrage. He gave us a CEO's shrug.

I still am trying to figure out what exactly Republican presidential candidates think they're going to lose if they criticize Limbaugh for publicly trash talking a woman young enough to be their daughter. What part of their base are they afraid to alienate? Or claim, even?

Now, it could be I'm just spoiled — being from Ohio and all.

Here in Cleveland, Dan Gilbert

— the majority owner of the Cleveland Cavaliers and the founder and chairman of Quicken Loans — was one of the first to drop his advertising on Limbaugh's show after the pundit's vile. Yes, it's fair to ask what took him so long, but I always have told my kids you can't ask someone to change and then not give him the chance to do it. Living the lecture here.

Secondly, I grew up with a dad who liked to sit on the front porch with a baseball bat on his lap whenever a boy showed up to date one of his daughters. He never used it. Then again, he never had to. He laid the ground rules early. It used to drive me crazy, of course, to have every boy be so afraid of my dad. Still, I did feel that special brand of ain't-I-special teenage confidence born of fatherly love and boyfriend paranoia.

In retrospect, a blissful time.

Anyway.

Back to Ann Romney. She's right, of course. Women do care about the economy. And children. And debt. And it's nice to hear at least one Republican acknowledge that.

However, we women are complicated creatures, capable of holding any number of thoughts in our heads. At the same time, too. Nothing but trouble for the



FACEBOOK.COM

Romneys of the world.

We're also good at connecting the dots. I'll go so far as to say we're annoyingly good at it, which is why our concern for the economy (dot) fuels our demand for affordable health care (dot) that includes low-cost contraception (dot), which is way cheaper than a full-term pregnancy (dot), not to mention what it costs to raise a child to 18 years of age (dot).

Dot. Dot. Dot. Dot. Dot.

Oh, and the majority of us believe abortion should remain legal (dot) because we trust women (dot) to

make their own decisions (dot) about their bodies (dot).

Dot. Dot. Dot. Dot.

We're on fire, I swear.

And I'm just talking about the women in Ohio, where we've had it up to here with the state Legislature's attempts to reclassify us as branded cattle. I appreciate Mrs. Romney's attempt to focus on jobs, but we already heard that campaign promise in 2010. Two months later, we had pregnant women exposing their bellies for ultrasound "testimony" in the Republican-controlled state House.

They're all yours, Mitt Romney. Welcome to the circus.

One more thing you should know before you come back to Ohio. We're big on dogs here, and I'm afraid we know all about poor roof-strappin' Seamus.

I think you know where I'm going with this. I'm not going to harp. I leave that to New York Times columnist Gail Collins, a fellow native Ohioan.

She's done our state proud, with her Midwestern connect-the-dots stick-to-it-ness.

There I go again, braggin' about our women.

Connie Schultz is a Pulitzer Prize-winning columnist and an essayist for Parade magazine. To find out more about Connie Schultz (con.schultz@yahoo.com) and read her past columns, please visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com.

Thank you, Connie Schultz

EMILY HAYES
NEWS EDITOR

We've obviously devoted a great deal of this issue to last week's Ayers Lecture and its speaker, Connie Schultz. But for good reason. The woman was fabulous.

I listened to her lecture twice this weekend as if it were an audiobook, and the point that most struck a chord with me was this: We all have something in common.

As someone who's been blogging for the past several years, I've always tiptoed around all things political and religious. Facebook is another story, but with my blog I've built a decent readership. Quite simply, I don't want to lose that.

It never occurred to me that

people might stick with me because they like my posts about my fear of turning 30, being left on the side of the road while waiting in line at Bonnaroo, and working through the grief over the loss of my 12-year-old cousin. If they like these personal stories, they probably won't mind the occasional rant.

The point being, when I hold back beliefs simply to keep readers, I'm not giving my full self. And how many of us do that on a daily basis?

You and I have something in common. You may not agree with me that Rick Santorum's a lunatic, but I bet you know the feeling of losing someone you love.

We may not agree on the interpretation of Leviticus, but we might agree that a Mac is better

than a PC. You may hate sushi and edamame, but can't wait — seriously can't wait — for Spring Break.

So thank you, Mrs. Schultz. Thank you for pushing me to express myself completely. We should all be free to express ourselves — all of ourselves. But most importantly, thanks for reminding me that I have something in common with everyone. Even those who love Rick Santorum.



Missed Last Week's Online Edition?

Find it in the chanticleeronline.com Archives!

- Topics for Obama, candidates
- Jillybean's sweetens community
- Republicans vs. Conservatives
- A winning year for Muegge

THE CHANTICLEER

The Student newspaper of Jacksonville State University since 1934

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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



Ben Nunnally/THE CHANTICLEER

James Green discusses one of his paintings with a visitor to his exhibit at Gadsden State.

“One man’s pursuit of greatness”

BEN NUNNALLY
STAFF WRITER

James Green arrived Thursday at the Gadsden State Community College library in a car, but he brought along planes, trains, and other automobiles for the ride. Well, paintings of them, anyway.

The college featured Green’s works in a special event they called “One Man’s Pursuit of Excellence: A Solo Exhibition of the Art of James Green.” The exhibit featured several of Green’s works, each one bright and colorful, to invoke a sense of nostalgia for an optimistic time in American history, when having lived through the ordeal of World War II wasn’t such a rare trait.

“Why do something that isn’t going to be uplifting?” asked Green. His centerpiece for the exhibit, *Widge*, is an oil and acrylic painting that shows Ian “Widge” Gled smiling from the cockpit of his Hawker Hurricane World War II fighter jet. Rather than depict Widge in the middle of a dogfight, Green has him on his way home, safe for another day.

Green’s art is often informed by his own experience in the military; when Green points out the cordite stains around the firing ports of Widge’s aircraft, it’s because he knows how it should look from experience. He joined the military in 1977, only days after graduating high school.

“I graduated from Lee High on May 30th, and on June 1st I reported for duty down at the Military Entrance Processing Station in Montgomery,” Green said. His career in the Army lasted 22 years, taking him into the first Gulf War and then to Washington State, where he eventually retired before returning to Alabama.

His love of aviation goes back much further, to his childhood. “I got interested in entertaining myself after school building model airplanes,” he said, recalling that model kits cost only 75 cents at the time. Printed on the assembly instructions in each kit would be a brief history for the type of plane being modeled. Green read those mini-biographies and ended up in the library, hunting

for more facts about his planes.

“Then I’d sit in class in elementary school and junior high drawing pictures in the back of my notebooks of airplanes. And cars. And trains. And all that other neat stuff,” he said.

Mario Gallardo, an art professor at Gadsden State, said “as an illustrator, [Green] does some great work.” Gallardo had several selections to choose from, and tried to create a theme through Green’s work. He chose a patriotic mix of war planes, eagles and scenes of Fort Payne, where Green lives and keeps his studio, a converted garage he remodeled himself.

Gadsden State students in attendance had a chance to speak with Green about his art. Former Marine and current art major James West found Green’s work to be inspiring, especially his attention to detail.

“There are veterans out there who will say he really did his homework, this is really what it looks like,” West said. “I really respect him because he’s a veteran, too.”

J.E.T. rocks Jacksonville

MEGAN GARGIS
STAFF WRITER

Jacksonville State University has an up and coming music scene, with one of those bands being Jean Ellison and the Treatment (J.E.T.). The trio is made up of Jean Ellison on vocals, Steven Ellison on percussion and Aron Thompson on keyboard and bass. They refer to their sound as a mixture of jazz and pop. “Something people can dance to, it’s a different sound than anything around here,” stated Steven Ellison.

The band has been performing together for a year. They started at a JSU financial convention at Little River Canyon after the jazz band that Steven and Aron were part of broke up.

The band brings a new level of music to JSU. “Not only do we enjoy music, it’s our career, our passion and our job,” says Jean Ellison. “It reflects in our music.”

Jean has a bachelor’s degree in music education with an emphasis in voice, and she’s currently finishing her master’s degree in music. Steven has a bachelor’s degree in music education with an emphasis in percussion and a masters in music. Aron is a music major with an emphasis in jazz studies.

The music has a different feel than most things on the radio these days. According to Thompson, “When the music comes together, it all comes from different

backgrounds. It’s new music.”

On Thursday nights, they host open house rehearsals. “So they [the audience] can hear what we’re working on. You know, jam out and have a good time,” explained Jean.

The band hasn’t played many shows in Jacksonville, but fans may have seen them opening for *Th’ Burning*. The band plays in places like Murphy, North Carolina, Knoxville, Tennessee, and Gadsden, Alabama. They opened for Nappy Roots in Murphy, North Carolina. They do plan on playing more shows in the Jacksonville area.

“We’re making music as a treatment. It’s music for your soul,” stated Jean.



Megan Gargis/THE CHANTICLEER

Members of Jean Ellison and the Treatment, from left to right: Steven Ellison, Jean Ellison and Aron Thompson

Jax Opera presents Romeo et Juliette

COURTNEY RAY
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

The Jacksonville Opera Theater is in the final stages of preparing for its upcoming performances of Charles Gounod’s *Romeo et Juliette*.

The production, sung completely in French, is an opera in five acts based on Shakespeare’s *The Tragedy of Romeo and Juliet*.

For many of the cast members, much of the preparation for their roles has been in perfecting diction.

“There’s a lot of language work, and when you’re doing French especially,” said Eric Wilcox, who is playing Romeo. “In French, there are a lot of sounds that don’t exist in English, so it’s kind of a culmination of the training I’ve had here and outside sources, too. This role is really heavy, and it’s hard. It’s easy for me now, but it would have been impossible for me a year ago.”

Eric Wilcox is a senior and music major at JSU.

Kaylon Gilley, a senior and Music Education major at JSU is playing the role of Tybalt, Juliet’s cousin and enemy of Romeo.

Gilley says that balancing the time with learning the opera, school, and work has been a challenge for everyone.

“I have reason to believe, though, that this will be the best production that JOT has ever produced,” said Gilley. “Even though we have so much to do in such a little time, we have students in this show who have the energy and willingness to learn and put this show together. I have a lot of faith in them and the production staff, as well as all the ones who are contributing so much to putting this together.”

As fate would have it, the role of Juliette is played by Estefania Wilcox, the real-life wife of her onstage Romeo.

Estefania Wilcox graduated with a B.A. in Voice from JSU in spring 2010, began her graduate work in the spring of 2011 and is taking a break this semester.

“My favorite part about doing this show is probably getting to sing absolutely beautiful music and getting to sing it with

my husband!” said Estefania Wilcox. “This music is very moving. There are many instances when I can just listen and get teary-eyed.”

Eric Wilcox knows that an opera might be a tough sell, but encourages people to “keep an open mind.” “You’ll enjoy it,” added Wilcox. “The story is moving, it’s warm, and it’s gorgeous.”

This is a collaborative effort between the Jacksonville Opera Theatre, the Etowah Youth Orchestra of Gadsden, Ars Nova School of the Arts in Huntsville, and the Downtown Dance Conservatory in Gadsden, and is the biggest show that JOT has brought to life.

Performances will be at 7:00 pm, March 23rd and 24th at Wallace Hall on the campus of Gadsden State Community College in Gadsden.

Ticket prices range from \$12-\$20, and they may be purchased online at wallacehall.org or by calling the Wallace Hall Ticket Center at 256-543-2787.

The show is directed by Dr. Nathan Wight.

So come out and support this amazingly talented cast and production crew. You won’t be disappointed.



JSU News Wire

Eric and Estefania Wilcox portray Romeo and Juliette.

Chili contest heats up Martin Hall

ALEX LANG
STAFF WRITER

The aroma of chili filled Martin Hall last Wednesday as contestants competed in the 6th Annual Martin Hall Chili Cook-Off.

For a \$5 donation, people were allowed to sample all 14 contestants’ chili recipes and vote for their favorite. They voted by ranking their top five choices on a ballot slip and circling their favorite one.

Drinks were also provided and a dessert was available for an additional cost. Anyone was allowed to enter the contest.

The cook-off brought students, faculty and the general public. All proceeds went to the Calhoun County American Cancer Society Relay for Life.

Relay for Life was formed with the sole purpose of raising money to help find a cure for a disease that has taken the lives of millions.

“We used to donate our proceeds to the American Heart Association,” said Karen Gregg, faculty member and event coordinator. “But with the growing number of people affected by cancer in our community, we decided to donate to the American Cancer Society this year.”

Gregg loves being a part of the event every year because she is one of many who have been affected by cancer.

“I am a cancer survivor,” said Gregg. “We all just love to have

fun in Martin Hall and what better way to have fun than to do something that will help save lives.”

Awards were given to the top three contestants immediately following the cookoff, as well as an award to a contestant whose name was randomly drawn from a hat.

First place went to Dr. Joe Morgan, assistant professor of geography, who found it exciting to have the best-tasting chili.

“I tried each and every contestant’s chili and they were all great,” said Morgan. “This is my third time to compete here and it feels good to finally go

home a winner.”

Second place went to Tracy Casey, a department assistant who also helps lead the event.

When asked if she was dis-

appointed she had not won, Casey said, “Absolutely not. It was never really about winning, just helping those in need.”

Graduate student Courtney Wesker took third place, while Jonathan Herbert, assistant professor of geography, was the lucky drawing winner.

Hand-made ceramic bowls, created by professor of ceramics Steve Loucks, were given to the winners.

Students passing through were more than happy to help the cause, while also getting a tasty lunch.



Alex Lang/THE CHANTICLEER

The chili cook-off raises cancer awareness.

SPORTS

Coach Carlson introduces new defender

JACKSONVILLE – Head coach Julie Davis Carlson has announced the addition of Nicole Heiser to the list of incoming players for the 2012 soccer season. Heiser joins the Jacksonville State program after spending the 2011 season at Georgia Southern University in Statesboro, Ga. The 5-foot-6 defender is a native of Strongsville, Ohio and attended Strongsville High School. Heiser, who red-shirted for the Eagles last year, played four seasons at SHS for Jon Felton. She helped the Mustangs finish fifth in the nation and reaching the state final four in Ohio.



Heiser Sportswire

Heiser started all 21 games as a senior with 11 shutouts and just ten total goals. She earned All District and All Conference honors along with being selected as a Greater Cleveland All Star. On the club level, Heiser was a member of the 2009 National Champion Super Y Team. "We are delighted that Nicole (heiser) has chosen to pursue her career at JSU. We initially had been recruiting for our 2011 class, so it nice to see her coming over to us with a year of experience and four years left to play," said Carlson. "We feel that she will add to our midfield and defensive style in areas that we continue to improve and strengthen. She came from a dominant and talented club soccer environment with the Internationals. We know she is well coached and well versed in her soccer knowledge." A multi-talented athlete at SHS, Heiser also played two years of basketball and participated in track. Heiser becomes the seventh newest Gamecock to join the soccer program. Carlson added six freshmen during the Spring signing period.

- Sportswire

Gamecocks finish fourth at Argent Financial Classic

CHOUFRANT, La. – The Jacksonville State men's golf team carded its best round of the week on Tuesday, when a final-round 288 earned the Gamecocks a fourth-place finish in the Argent Financial Classic. The Gamecocks finished behind No. 20 LSU, host Louisiana Tech and No. 46 Middle Tennessee in the 54-hole tournament on the par-72, 7,105-yard layout at Squire Creek. JSU ended the three-day event with a 16-over 880, bouncing back after an opening round 303 put them in eighth place.



Otoy Sportswire

JSU senior Alfonso Otoy tied for sixth place in the individual field of 56 players. The Buenos Aires, Argentina, native finished the three days with a two-under 214 after his final round 71. He finished three shots behind medalist Hunter Green of MTSU, who fired a final-round 66 to claim the individual crown. Junior Andres Schonbaum had his best round of the week on Tuesday, when he shot a two-under 70. The Cordoba, Argentina, native bounced back from an opening round 83 to shoot 73-70 over the final two days and tie for 35th. JSU's next tournament is scheduled for March 19-20, when they travel to Springfield, La., for the Carter Plantation Intercollegiate.

- Sportswire

Georgia State wins doubleheader over JSU

DANIEL PORTER SENIOR STAFF WRITER

The Gamecocks had their hands full with Georgia State in a softball doubleheader this past Thursday. The Panthers of Georgia State entered the day having won nine out of their last 10 games, that included wins over OVC opponents Morehead State and Tennessee Tech. In the first game, 2011 OVC Freshman of the Year Tiffany Harbin started her second game of the season. She had been sidelined for the first part of the season with a hand injury.

Harbin struck out four in four innings, however allowed four runs off of six hits. The Gamecocks could only get four hits total in game one and Junior Jessica Guy was responsible for half of those after her 2-3 game. Harbin was charged with her first loss of the season as the Panthers continued their win streak in a 2-4 victory over JSU. The night game was just as exciting. Hilary Phillips out of Ider, AL, made her return to the pitching circle after also sitting for a few weeks with an arm injury. Phillips fell behind early giving the Panthers a 3-0 lead

after one inning. The Gamecocks would fight back and put two on the board in the second and would tie the game at three in the third off of Freshman Shelby Holley's RBI single. In the sixth the Panthers would strike again for two runs and hold the lead for a 5-3 victory in the night game. The Panthers improved to a five game win streak and winners of 11 of their last 12. The Gamecocks would begin preparing for the start of OVC action.

JSU vs EIU



Sophomore Tiffany Harbin struck out 13 batters during the first game Saturday.

Driven! JSU has no problem with EIU

JORDAN SMITH SENIOR STAFF WRITER

Jacksonville State swept Eastern Illinois in Saturday's double header at University Field to begin conference play. The Gamecocks drew first blood. Sara Boarders scored after a sac-fly from Shelby Holley in the bottom of the first inning. JSU led 1-0. In the bottom of the third, freshman Savannah Sloan hit a grand slam to put the Gamecocks up 5-0. It was Sloan's first career home run. The Panthers would draw closer in the top half of the fourth. A double by Ashleigh Westover drove in Bailey O'Dell and Morgan Biel. JSU led 5-2. The Panthers would not score another run and JSU won 5-2. Tiffany Harbin stole the show in the first game as she pitched a complete game and recorded 13 strikeouts. Harbin made her first star of the season after battling a hand injury. "It felt good to be back," said Harbin, a sophomore from Hazel Green Alabama. "I know my defense is behind me so I didn't feel pressure at all." The Gamecocks would strike first again in game two. In the bottom of the second, Jessica Guy and Kelci Johnston scored on a pair of sac-flies by Hayden Crawford and Sara Boarders. JSU led 2-0. The Panthers answered quickly. In the top of the third, Carly Wilbert scored on a sac-fly by Abby Wood. JSU led 2-1.

Harbin earns OVC Pitcher of the Week Honor

BRENTWOOD, Tenn. – Sophomore Tiffany Harbin made her return to the Jacksonville State softball team count last week and earned Ohio Valley Conference Pitcher of the Week honors, the league office announced on Monday. After missing the first four weeks of the season with an injury to her pitching hand, the Hazel Green, Ala., native eased her way back into the rotation during the week. By the weekend, she guided the Gamecocks to a sweep of Eastern Illinois to open OVC play. She started the week with a two-inning outing in a 6-5 win at UAB and then tossed the first four innings of a Thursday doubleheader against Georgia State. Once the 2011 OVC Freshman of the Year got to the weekend, she was ready to lead JSU to a three-game sweep of the defending OVC regular season champions. Harbin started the first game on Saturday and went the distance, limiting the Panthers to one earned run while striking out 13 batters. She capped the series with a four-hit shutout of EIU on Sunday that saw her strike out seven batters. Over the two starts, she posted a 2-0 record and a 0.50 earned run average to go with her 20 strikeouts.

- Sportswire

JSU would score the go ahead run in the bottom half of the third. Freshman Shelby Holley hit her 11th home run of the season. JSU led 3-1. The Gamecocks tacked on insurance runs for the remainder of the game. In the bottom of the fifth, Tyris Branford scored on a wild pitch and Kristin Graham scored on a single by Jessica Guy. In the bottom of the sixth, Hayden Crawford scored on a single by Kaycee Crow. Crow scored after a single by Kristin Graham. JSU would not allow another run and won 7-1. Shelby Holley snapped her home run drought. She had not hit a homer since March 2 vs. UNC Greensboro. "The thing about Shelby," said Head Coach Jana McGinnis, "she's not getting pitched to very much either." "I was real proud of the way our girls played. The only negative thing I can really point out is the runners left on base." JSU left 10 runners on base in game one and seven in game two. "One positive is we're getting them there. Earlier in the year we weren't getting them there."

Southern Illinois dominates JSU twice

CARBONDALE, Ill. – Southern Illinois used big innings in both games as the Salukis claimed two wins over Jacksonville State on Saturday, winning 13-5 in the opener and 10-5 in the second game. Cameron Maldonado scattered six hits and had four strikeouts in seven innings on the mound to earn the win in the opener. Daniel Watts gave up nine hits and seven runs in 3 2/3 innings to suffer the loss for the Gamecocks. Jax State (2-11) took an early lead after Coty Blanchard scored on a Kyle Bluestein sacrifice fly in the first inning and Kyle Stone scored on an Erik Underwood RBI single in the second inning as the Gamecocks took a 2-0 lead, but SIU quickly answered. Southern Illinois (11-5) scored a run in the second on a sacrifice fly by Brian Bajer, before Chris Serritella hit a 3-run home run in the third inning to give the Salukis a 4-2 lead. Serritella finished the game with four hits and also drove in four runs.

SIU scored four more runs in the fourth, highlighted by a two-RBI double by Austin Montgomery, to build an 8-2 advantage, before Ben Waldrip hit a solo home run for Jax State in the fifth inning to slice the lead to 8-3. The Salukis added a run in the fifth, two in the sixth, one in the seventh and eighth innings to hold a 13-3 lead, before Jax State pushed across two runs in the ninth inning as Waldrip and Bluestein each knocked in a run for the final margin. Waldrip, Bluestein and Blanchard each had two hits, while Waldrip and Bluestein each added a pair of RBI to lead the Gamecocks. In the second game, Austin Montgomery had four hits as SIU claimed a 10-5 lead to sweep the Gamecocks in the night cap. Bradley Raulston suffered the loss for the Gamecocks after giving up just five hits in three innings. The Gamecocks jumped out to a 2-0 lead in the first inning after Wal-

drip drove in two runs with a double to right field, but SIU took the lead in the second inning after Luke Mottashed drove in two runs with a double and Donny Duschinsky singled in another run to give the Salukis a 3-2 lead. Southern Illinois extended the lead in the fourth on a RBI single by Harding for a 4-2 lead, but the Gamecocks scored in the fifth when Waldrip drove in his third run of the game. The Salukis answered by scoring three runs in the home half of the fifth to build a 7-3 lead, but Jax State plated two runs when Erik Underwood and Sam Eberleboth scored on infield grounders to cut the lead to 7-5. Southern Illinois sealed the game by scoring three runs in the eighth inning for the final margin. Andrew Bishop and Blanchard led the Gamecocks with two hits, while Waldrip finished with three RBI.

- Sportswire

Gamecock Sports



JSU's Track and Field Team went from indoor to outdoor competition.

JSU Basketball: Morrow, Vaughn earn postseason accolades

JACKSONVILLE – Jacksonville State's Briana Morrow claimed another postseason honor by earning College Sports Madness.com's Ohio Valley Conference Freshman of the Year honor, released by the sports web site this week.

Morrow was also selected to the Madness Third Team.

Junior Danielle Vaughn was named to the Second Team after a solid 2011-12 campaign.

Morrow, a 5-foot-11 forward from Nashville, Tenn., led the Gamecocks in scoring with an 11.4 scoring average.

The Glencliff High School graduate made a smooth transition from the prep level to intercollegiate action by starting in 26 of the 28 games played as a first-year player.

Morrow ranked second on head coach Annette Watts' squad in rebounds per contest at 7.5.

In OVC games alone, she poured in double figures in the scoring column at 11.1 points per OVC contest and pulled down 7.3 rebounds per game.

She concluded her first season in the Red and White with five double-doubles, including two against her hometown school, Tennessee State.

Along with her outing at Pete Mathews Coliseum against TSU, Morrow registered 19 points and 10 rebounds in Nashville on Feb. 18.

Morrow ranks 13th in league in scoring and seventh in the OVC in rebounding.

She is listed among the OVC leaders in offensive rebounds as she averaged 4.0 offensive boards per game.

In the 16 conference games, Morrow pulled down 4.6 offensive rebounds.

Vaughn's final number were just shy of Morrow's with 10.8 points per game and the team leader in rebounds at 9.2 per game.

The Huntsville, Ala.-native turned in 11 double-doubles as a junior and posted double digits in the scoring column 17 times.

She recorded 20-plus points in three games, including a new career high of 26 points against Le Moyne-Owen.

Gamecocks vaulted towards success

BIRMINGHAM - The Jacksonville State track and field team made the transition from the indoor season to outdoor competition pretty smoothly on Saturday in the squad's first outdoor meet at the Birmingham Southern Invitational.

The Gamecocks, two weeks removed from claiming third place at the Ohio Valley Conference Indoor Championships, turned in top marks in many of the sprints and distance competitions.

The highlight of the day came from JSU freshman distance competitor Giselle Slotboom. After a stellar cross country and indoor season, the Sassenheim, The Netherlands-product shattered the meet record in the 800 meter run.

Slotboom clocked a time of 2:14.96 in the event and finished

almost three seconds ahead of the next competitor. The previous meet record of 2:15.60 was previously held by Lauren Fayen of UAB. JSU junior Kailey Jensen finished tenth with a mark of 2:33.26.

Junior sprinter India Boyd claimed gold in the 200 meter dash with a mark of 25.22. Later in the day, the Louisville, Ga.-native finished third in the 100 meter dash 12.40. JSU has three top-10 finishers in the 400 meter run, led by sophomore LeCresha Horton, who posted a time of 59.53 to place sixth. Horton, from Athens, Ala., finished the day with a time of 26.07 in the 200 meter event. Kevyn Tracy and Whitley crossed the finish line ninth and tenth respectively in the event.

Senior Shira Butler rounded out the sprints competition with a

seventh-place marking in the 400 meter hurdles. Butler clocked a time of 1:09.61 in her first outdoor activity of the season.

Junior Ericka Stam finished fourth in the 5,000 meter run after posting a time of 18:35.35.

In the field events, senior Andrea Hoke won the javelin with a toss of 129-10. In the pole vault, Jax State had two top 10 finishers, paced by junior Ericka Markiewicz. Markiewicz placed fourth with a leap of 9-06.25. Freshman-Samantha Strange claimed sixth after a mark of 9-00.25.

JSU returns to action next weekend as it travels to Memphis, Tenn. to compete in the Rhodes College Open Invitational.

- Sportswire

Gamecocks finish seventh at NCAA Rifle Championships

COLUMBUS, Ohio - The Jacksonville State rifle team finished seventh at the 2012 NCAA Rifle Championships on Saturday after completing the air rifle portion of the event, hosted by Ohio State University.

Jax State, making its 11th appearance in the NCAA Championship event, slipped one spot in the team standings after Friday's smallbore competition.

After posting a 2304 in smallbore on the opening day, the Gamecocks turned in 2341 air rifle mark. The point total was fifth-best in the eight team field. JSU finished with an aggregate score of 4645.

Leading the way for JSU on Saturday was junior Monica Fyfe. The Winnipeg, Canada-native carded a team-best 590 to claim seventh in the individual air rifle standings.

Her mark was one point off of her personal best, which she set earlier this season in the Gamecock Invitational.

Sophomore Sam Muegge posted a 588 to place 13th on the individual list. Muegge also placed 13th in smallbore on Friday. Freshman Dan McCall



This was the 11th appearance for JSU in the NCAA Tournament.

lost some ground to others. In the end, we came in to this competition in eighth and we finished seventh. We were able to compete with some of the power houses."

TCU overcame a five point deficit after smallbore to top defending champion Kentucky. TCU tabulated a 2353 air rifle mark to win the 2012 NCAA Rifle crown with a final tally of 4676. TCU has won two of the last three titles, having won the 2010 edition.

UK finished 15

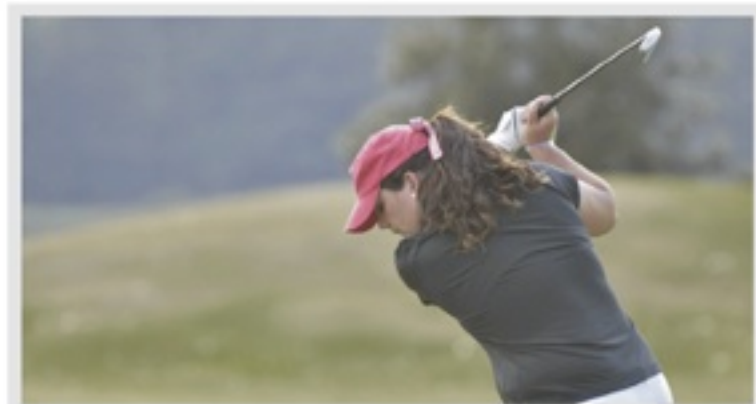
points back of the Purple and White of TCU.

Alaska Fairbanks claimed third place, while Army and UTEP rounded out the top five teams.

"I'm proud of the team for making it to nationals and especially proud that they shot at or above average in a high pressure situation," added Frost.

The 2012 season saw Jax State make its second consecutive NCAA Championship appearance and claimed the program's sixth Ohio Valley Conference Championship.

- Sportswire



Women finished better than rival Murray State.

Women Golf finish third at USM Lady Eagle Invitational

HATTIESBURG, Miss. - The Jacksonville State women's golf team finished third in the Southern Miss Lady Eagle Invitational after a final-round 314 in the final round of the 36-hole event on Tuesday.

Senior Lucia Fernandez-Valdes and sophomore Lourdes Lopez Caballo tied for eighth place to lead JSU in the 14-team field. The Gamecocks finished 11 shots behind team champion Troy and two shots behind second-place and host Southern Miss.

They were one shot better than Murray State, the only other Ohio Valley Conference school in the field and the favorite to win the 2012 conference

title.

Lopez Caballo led the Gamecocks on the final day at the par-72, 6,143-yard Hattiesburg Country Club with a 77 that gave her a two-day total of 152. Fernandez-Valdes was tied for the lead after Monday's opening round but a second-round 80 dropped her into the eighth-place tie.

Junior Luz Armijo Fernandez tied for 12th with a 155, thanks to a 78 on Tuesday, while Senior Astrid Parsson used a 79 to tie for 32nd in the 75-player field. Junior Ornella Arrizon rounded out the JSU lineup in 52nd after an 85 on Tuesday gave her a 36-hole score of 168.

- Sportswire

Eastern Kentucky sweeps Jax State Tennis

GADSDEN - The Jacksonville State men's and women's tennis teams dropped Ohio Valley Conference matches to Eastern Kentucky on Sunday at the Gadsden Tennis Center. The JSU men fell 5-2 to the Colonels, while EKV blanked Jax State in the women's match, 7-0.

In the OVC opener for both men's squad's, JSU (3-9, 0-1 OVC) lost the doubles point, but battled back in singles play to claim its two points at No. 2 and 3 singles. Junior Igor Santos returned to the win column at No. 2 after dropping his first match of the season at the spot on Saturday against UAB.

Santos dropped the first set 7-5 to EKV's Niklas Schroeder, but battled back to win in straight sets - 6-2, 6-1. The Campo Grande, Brazil-native moved to 8-3 on the season in singles play. At No. 3, Nenad Marcec recorded a quick 6-4, 6-1 win over Philip Janz. Marcec also stands at 8-3 on the season in singles activity.

The Gamecocks have had a makeshift line up in the last few matches, but have battled the opposition at the lower half

of the line up. Joshua Bourke was moved to the No. 5 spot against EKV and put together a strong effort before falling to Joao Maio, 6-4, 7-5. Freshman Felipe Wenzel took EKV's Carles Pons to three sets before falling in a tie-breaker in the final set.

After Pons took the first set, 6-3 - Wenzel bounced back to post a 6-4 win in the second to force the third and deciding set. Pons out-dued Wenzel, 7-6 (5).

EKV claimed wins at No. 1 and 4 over JSU's Axel Sundberg and Felipe Watanabe respectively.

In the women's match,

EKV out-lasted Jax State in doubles and then cruised in singles play to notch an OVC win on the road. In doubles, EKV's tandem of Amandine Faouzi and Saioa Oscoz turned back the Gamecock duo of Zoe Bizinos and Rafaela Wenzel, 8-4. JSU's pairing of Raisa Guasti and Raphaela Lima fell to EKV's pairing of Melissa Gerritsen and Kristina Labeja, 8-6.

In singles, Faouzi edged Guasti 7-6 in the first set before claiming the point with a 6-0 win in the second set. Lima dropped a straight sets match to Labeja, 6-1, 6-3 at No. 2. Wenzel started

strong after topping Oscoz 6-2 in the first set, but could not withstand a comeback from Oscoz as she fell in the next two sets, 6-1, 10-6.

EKV picked up three wins at the bottom three courts in the lineup to complete the sweep.

The JSU women will host in-state rival South Alabama on Wednesday, March 14 in Jacksonville. Match time is set for 12:30 p.m. Both squads return to OVC action on March 18 as they host Morehead State in Gadsden, Ala. The JSU-MSU tilt will get underway at 10 a.m.

- Sportswire



Marcec stands at 8-3 in his singles competition.

Sportswire