



Representatives gather Tuesday night for President Obama's address.

news.xinhuanet.com

Memorable program hosted by the NAACP

Ebonee Roston
 Senior Staff Writer

It is Black History Month and events are taking place on Jacksonville State University's campus to honor, learn and celebrate the achievements of African American men and women throughout history.

Student organizations have planned different things for students around campus to get involved in and bond with other cultures, races and ethnicities. The NAACP hosted a Black History Program this past Tuesday, February 12, at the Leon Cole Auditorium.

The NAACP was founded on February 12, 1909, the centennial anniversary of President Abraham Lincoln's birth.

The program involved a variety of interesting acts, performances and educational speeches. Packed with plenty of life and culture, the Leone Cole Auditorium offered standing room once the seats had all been filled.

Jacksonville State University's choir created such moving music, people stood with one another and together created a unified spirit filled with smiles from everyone.

One of the crowd favorites was a song called *I Just Can't Stop Praising His Name*.

Komplex Royalty, a dance group danced to a song called *Brown Skin by India Arie*. The performers wore African attire as they performed.

A taste of fashion was on display as members of Forever Young Modeling Troupe modeled fashionable clothing.

The NAACP presented *A Dream Come True*, in which the characters portrayed were Barack and Michelle Obama and Martin Luther and Coretta Scott King discussing and honoring accomplishments.

Expect more upcoming events coming soon. Students can be updated about events by going to JSU's website and looking in the events calendar. The NAACP is going to be doing a lot of community service.

They will be doing community service at the Boys and Girls Club at 4:30 on Thursday, February 14 and at the Skate Country skating rink in Anniston on Friday, February 15.

Obama advocates investment in jobs, education in SOTU address

Michael Torruella
 The Daily Free Press
 Boston U.

U.S. President Barack Obama addressed the nation Tuesday night in his fifth State of the Union speech, focusing on growing the middle class, expanding domestic clean energy production and enacting stricter gun control laws.

Obama opened his speech reflecting on the last four years, saying the nation had come a long way economically.

"Together, we have cleared away the rubble of crisis, and can say with renewed confidence that the state of our union is stronger," he said.

Then the economy took center-stage as Obama spoke of continuing job growth, recognizing that employment numbers are coming back to America.

"Our economy is adding jobs — but too many people still can't find full-time employment," he said. "It is our generation's task, then, to reignite the true engine of America's economic growth — a rising, thriving middle class."

Proposing a partial solution

the economic struggles of the middle class, Obama turned to the minimum wage, advocating for a large jump from the current \$7.25 limit.

"I want to raise the federal minimum wage to \$9 an hour," he said. As expected, Obama addressed the deficit, assuring Americans that progress is being made to reduce the national debt.

Obama then shifted toward the environment.

Obama said growth within the clean energy industry is crucial, not only to secure a healthy environment for future generations, but also to keep America globally competitive.

"Last year, wind energy added nearly half of all new power capacity in America," he said. "Solar energy gets cheaper by the year — so let's drive costs down even further. As long as countries like China keep going all-in on clean energy, so must we."

In light of the numerous gun tragedies that have occurred across the country in recent months, Obama closed his State of the Union with a focus on



President Obama

gun control.

"I know this is not the first time this country has debated how to reduce gun violence," he said. "But this time is different."

Despite the looming challenges in the months ahead, Obama closed the address with a call for unity among all Americans.

"We are citizens," he said. "...doesn't just describe our nationality or legal status. It describes the way we're made."

Postal Service to drop Saturday mail delivery in August

Ayan Choudhury
 Daily Collegian
 Penn State U.

The United States Postal Service will no longer deliver mail on Saturdays to cut costs by \$2 million annually. The Postal Service will continue to deliver packages six days a week.

"[The USPS] simply doesn't have the cash to run a six-day mail delivery schedule," said Tad Kelley, a spokesman for western Pennsylvania district for The United States Postal Service.

The scheduled cutback, which does not change the total volume of mail delivery, will go into effect in August.

Mail will still be delivered to P.O. Box addresses, and offices that are currently open on Saturdays will remain open after the new plan is implemented.

Kelley also said the decision



Indianapublicmedia.org

has been made after five years of dialogue and surveys around the nation that showed that Americans do not use the Postal Service as they did in the past.

Mail delivery has seen a 25 per-

cent drop since 2006 compared to an increase of 14 percent in package delivery, Kelley said.

The five-day delivery schedule will not affect the background operations of the postal service

because they will continue to run mail transportation and processing at their centers, Kelley said.

Along with declining mail delivery, the U.S. Postal Service has been struggling financially due to increasing costs for mandatory expenses to cover future medical costs for the organization's retirees.

The Postal Service is the only government agency that is required to cover these medical expenses that constituted \$11.1 billion of losses in 2012.

Kelley also said the changes in the delivery schedule would affect 35,000 positions nationwide. The Postal Service cut about 200,000 positions in the last decade and provides assistance for outgoing employees to make a transition, Kelly said.

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Upcoming events at JSU Spring 2013

Author/Photographer/Outdoor Adventurer David Haynes

March 4, 7 p.m., Houston Cole Library
Author/Photographer/Outdoor Adventurer David Haynes, along with his canine companions Bailey and Roscoe, will be featured at the Friends of the Houston Cole Library spring speaker event. Haynes has seen Alabama by land and by water and shares it all in print and photo. His first book, *Motorcycling Alabama, Fifty Ride Loops Through the Heart of Dixie*, was researched along Alabama's most beautiful highways and byways, often with Bailey and Roscoe riding shotgun in their own sidecar. Last spring, he and the dogs traveled by canoe on 631-mile, 45-day float down the Alabama Scenic River Trail. The book about this adventure is forthcoming.

Annual Ayers Lecture Featuring Diane McWhorter

March 14, 1 p.m., Stadium Tower
This is a major annual event that brings nationally known journalists to campus. Ms. McWhorter is an Alabama native who won the Pulitzer Prize in 2002.

Holocaust Remembrance Featuring Holocaust Survivor Max Steinmetz

April 11, 7:30 p.m., Ernest Stone Center Theatre
31st annual Remembrance of the Holocaust of World War II. Holocaust survivor Max Steinmetz of Birmingham is the keynote speaker. Between 1942 and 1945, Steinmetz was held in German captivity in at least five ghettos or camps, including both Auschwitz and Dachau.

Gary Sinise and the Lt. Dan Band

May 18, Time and Location TBA
We are thrilled to welcome Oscar nominee Gary Sinise and his band to campus this May for a major event in support of our wounded warriors. Although Sinise is most known for his acting, perhaps his life's best work is accomplished through his Gary Sinise Foundation, which supports our nation's defenders, veterans, first-responders, and their families.

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Come meet Coach Clark this Monday!

On Monday night February 18, JSU new head football Coach Bill Clark will visit SGA Senate during the regularly scheduled meetings which takes place each Monday night at 6 pm in the TMB Auditorium. This will be one of the first chances to see and hear Coach Clark since he was named JSU head coach back in December. The Senate wishes to extend, as always, a welcome to this exciting meeting!



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Arts & Entertainment

The Grammys award a league of music all its own

Kara Coleman
Editor-in-chief

The 55th annual Grammy awards were held this past Sunday night, Feb. 10th, at the Staples Center in Los Angeles.

The show aired live on CBS and was hosted by LL Cool J, who will probably be remembered for the number of times he used the word "hashtag" before artists' names during the night.

The show was heavy on performances and light on the distribution of actual awards.

There didn't seem to be as many theatrical antics at the Grammys as there were at the American Music Awards in November, though.

Standout visual elements of the night were the changing projections on Carrie Underwood's dress while she sang "Two Black Cadillacs", and the running track projection during Frank Ocean's performance of "Forrest Gump".

Taylor Swift opened the show with a performance of "We Are

Never Ever Getting Back Together", in which she wore a ringmaster outfit and shared the stage with a white rabbit and circus performers.

Needless to say, that moment made U.S. News' list of "Seven Weird Moments From the 2013 Grammys".

The night did not see Swift rack up on

awards, however. She won one this time, as part of the team who received Best Song Written For Visual Media, "Safe & Sound" from The Hunger Games.

The Grammys proved that they are not just the older sibling of the AMAs, which showcased the likes of Justin Bieber, Nicki Minaj, Ke\$ha,

and even Korean rapper Psy, but that they are in a league of music all their own.

One of the most talked-about performances of the night was a mash-up of "Girl On Fire" and "Daylight" performed by Alicia Keys and Maroon 5.

And even though Carly Rae Jepsen was nominated for an

award, the audience didn't have to hear "Call Me Maybe" for the millionth time in the past year.

Instead, Sunday night's show saw bands who were not in the spotlight at the AMAs and who bring a little indie sound to the cookie-cutter pop scene: The Black Keys, The Lumineers, Fun., and Mumford &

Sons, who took home the Album of the Year award.

A complete list of winners, including ones who were not highlighted on the broadcast, is available online at www.grammy.com, but here are some highlights:



Record of the Year: Somebody That I Used to Know - Gotye feat. Kimbra

Song of the Year: We Are Young - Jack Antonoff, Jeff Bhasker, Andrew Dost & Nate Ruess, songwriters (Fun. feat. Janelle Monae)

Best New Artist: Fun.

Best Pop Vocal Album: Stronger - Kelly Clarkson

Best Dance/Electronic Album: Bangarang - Skrillex

Best Rock Song: Lonely Boy - Dan Auerbach, Brian Burton, & Patrick Carney, songwriters (The Black Keys)

Best Rock Album: El Camino - The Black Keys

Best Alternative Music Album: Making Mirrors - Gotye

Best Rap Album: Take Care - Drake

Best Urban Contemporary Album: Channel Orange - Frank Ocean

Best Country Song: Blown Away - John Kear & Chris Tompkins, songwriters (Carrie Underwood)

Best Country Album: Uncaged - Zac Brown Band

Album of the Year: Babel - Mumford & Sons

Above and left, lead singer for Fun. Nate Ruess addresses the audience after accepting the Best New Artist award; at left, Mumford & Sons' Marcus Mumford accepts the award for Album of the Year.

Foothills Piano Festival begins with four hands

Kara Coleman
Editor-in-chief

Dr. Wendy Faughn has been playing the piano for over 35 years. For the past six years, she has organized the annual Foothills Piano Festival, a series of concerts, presentations, and Master Classes involving the piano.

Originally, events for the festival were held at a variety of locations in the area: the Anniston High

School auditorium, the Anniston Museum of Natural History, and JSU's Mason Hall.

"It started out as a three-day event, with concerts, master classes, and workshops for youth," says Faughn. "It's turned into more of a series, all held here at JSU; a series of three concerts and master classes throughout the year. I've learned that the community prefers to have things

spaced out instead of coming out each night for three nights in a row."

Although all of the concerts are focused on the piano, each one has had its own unique flavor. The concert tomorrow night, Feb. 15th, will feature two performers playing the same piano.

Past concerts have showcased jazz pianists, classical pianists, and chamber music featuring pia-

no, violin, and cello. But there has also been plenty of non-traditional fare.

"There have been works that are very avant-garde and cutting edge, written in the last five years, which involve using different types of electronics," said Faughn. Nintendo's Wii gaming console has even been used in past performances.

One of the pianists performing on Friday night is an Associate Dean at Florida State University, one of the biggest and best music schools in the southeast. He will be speaking with Music majors at JSU on Friday about careers in music, and how to apply for music graduate schools.

At the end of this month, Jeremy Samolesky will give a recital and teach a master class. Faughn explains that a master class is like a public lesson. "It's where three or four pianists are chosen to play,

they get their pieces up to performance-level, and then they play them in front of this artist. Then he gives them further input on how they can improve them, teaches them, and has them try these new suggestions in front of the audience."

Faughn and another piano professor at JSU, Dr. Gail Steward, select some of their best students to participate in the master classes.

There have also been times when Faughn has opened the opportunity to members of the Alabama Music Teachers Association, who select some of their students as candidates.

In past years, some thirteen and fourteen-year-olds have participated in the master classes.

Faughn, who is president of the Alabama Music Teachers Association as well as a professor at JSU, is also an active performer. She just fin-

ished a mini tour last week, giving three concerts across the south.

She encourages all students to attend the concerts that the Foothills Piano Festival has to offer. "I think some spectacular concerts have been offered over the years, and that these upcoming concerts are going to be terrific," said Faughn. "I think that our students, even if they have limited experience with attending classical music concerts, will find such an event to be relaxing."

This week's concert featuring Seth Beckman and Gail Steward will be held on Fri., Feb. 15th, 7:30 p.m. at the Mason Hall performance center. The concert should last slightly over one hour.

Details on all the Foothills Piano Festival events can be found on the David L. Walters Music Department web page, www.jsu.edu/music.



WLJS Top 10 for the week of February 10th, 2013

1. Mr. Envi - Don't Wait
2. Jenn Alexander - All At Once
3. P.O.S. - Weird Friends (We Don't Even Live Here)
4. Skinny Lister - Forty Pound Wedding
5. Norwegian Arms - At the Formerly British Council Supported English
6. Paper Parlour - Brand New
7. Ariel & The Undertow - Lovely Girl
8. Duck Duck Punch - Words Like Salt
9. Drgn King - Holy Ghost
10. Pillowfight - Get Down

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Op/Ed

The true state of our union

Zach Tyler
A&E Editor

Would you say that the state of our union is strong? Our President seems to think so. I have to disagree.

President Barack Obama delivered his fourth State of the Union address on Tuesday to 33.5 million American viewers—the lowest viewership for any of his State of the Union speeches yet.

By way of contrast, twice as many Americans—67 million of them, to be exact—tuned in to watch the first Presidential debate between Obama and Mitt Romney.

According to TV ratings company Nielsen, Obama's address was the least-watched since Bill Clinton gave his final State of the Union in 2000 to 31.4 million American viewers.

Nielsen's numbers don't take into account how many people watched Obama's speech online or streamed it to a mobile device, though.

In his address to the Houses of Congress and the American people, Obama claimed that "together, we have cleared away the rubble of crisis, and we can say with renewed confidence that the state of our union is stronger."

But if our democratic republic is as strong as Obama believes, why did so few of its citizens care

to tune in to its progress report? Maybe it has some-



thing to do with the polarized political climate in America. The complete lack of compromise and fellow-feeling among politicians in our government has led to a trend of what Obama called "manufactured crises."

He'd like all the blame for those crises to be placed at the feet of the GOP. And while Republicans in Congress represent the biggest obstacle to any political action taken by the Democratic Party, both parties can be accused of political brinkmanship.

That game is an exhausting and harmful one to play in such a delicate economic atmosphere. In the last three months of 2012, America's G.D.P. shrank 0.1 percent—the worst contraction since 2009—due to sharp cuts in military spending that came as a result of the expected "fiscal cliff."

Incidentally, instead of reaching an agreement on the package of federal spending cuts and

changing tax rates, Congress just postponed the entire issue until March 1, setting up another possible fiscal cliff scenario.

Knee-jerk reactions to the problems facing our nation aren't going to get us anywhere. Rahm Emanuel, President Obama's ex-Chief of Staff, is famous for having said that you "never want to waste a good crisis."

What he meant was that after some horribly tragic or catastrophic event, politicians should try to harness the collective fear and anger of the people and use it to get political change.

Lately, America has been through one crisis after another. Some of those crises were created by the very people we elected to lead us.

And despite signs that bipartisan compromise on issues like gun control and immigration might be just over the horizon, I can't help but feel like we don't have anything to show for our suffering yet.

Here's to hoping that our leaders will keep faith with us, learn to see things from each other's perspective and deliver enlightened public policy on the issues that we just can't afford to put off or play around with any longer.



I look quite nice in that picture

Emily Hayes
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I was blessed to spend the last week of January at Disney World with my husband and daughter, and I couldn't have asked for a more magical vacation. But during the week, I caught myself doing something I haven't done in awhile: judging myself in pictures.

After all, it's Disney World. Pictures are being snapped left and right, and with the Disney official photographers everywhere, ready to snap at every opportunity, why not take advantage?

Almost two years ago, I wrote about spending the day with my best friends, and listening to at least one of us complain after every picture. You know what I'm talking about, because (a) if you're a woman, you probably do this yourself, and (b) if you're a man, this habit more than likely annoys you.

Thanks to the digital camera, we can instantly view ourselves, and then make the self-degrading remark about fat thighs, big bellies, saggy breasts and double chins. And then comes the phrase

heard 'round the world: "I look terrible in that picture."

Why do women do this? You will almost



never hear a man say, "Look how jiggly my arms look in that shirt."

I spent five days with my husband and daughter in one of the happiest places on earth. And as I said, cliché as it sounds, it was magical. We had 70 degree weather and no wait times. We shot through Space Mountain, escaped a Yeti in Animal Kingdom, went on a mission to Mars in Epcot and joined the Rebel Alliance in Hollywood Studios.

We didn't drive 10 hours south for a glamour shot session, and we certainly didn't spend hours getting ready each morning. We went to make memories, and along with that, to capture them.

For the past few

years I've been hyper-aware of the impression I'm making on my daughter. Right now she loves being in front of the camera—the girl can pose, y'all. I want to hold off the day, for as long as possible, when she looks at herself and thinks, "Yuck."

So it was that thought, along with a self-check of my own self-esteem, that brought me back into focus while I looked through the pictures—all 300 of them. And instead of focusing on whether or not I'd sucked in my gut, I looked to see if my level of happiness—which was off the charts—was reflected back at the camera.

And, of course, it was.

We are always reading and hearing about body image and self-esteem, so much that it's become white noise. But it's never too late to start appreciating ourselves, especially in the meaningful moments we are lucky to capture. I feel blessed that my husband and I were able to share such a magical time with our daughter, and extremely thankful for those Disney official photographers around every corner.

www.jsu.edu/chanticleer

Mixed reaction to papal resignation

Zohra D. Yaqhubi
Harvard Crim-
son, Harvard U. via
UWIRE

Harvard Divinity School professors reacted with surprise—and, in some cases, comprehension—to Pope Benedict XVI's historic announcement Monday that he will resign as head of the Roman Catholic Church at the end of this month.

In an announcement delivered in Latin to a crowd of cardinals, the 85-year-old German pontiff said that he no longer has the strength to carry on in his position. He will officially step down on Feb. 28, ending an eight-year papacy that was often rife with controversy.

For many, including Divinity School professor Kevin J. Madigan, the news came as a shock.

"I do not think anyone saw this com-

ing, including bishops and archbishops around the world," Madigan wrote in an email.

Yet other faculty members were less surprised. Divinity School professor Francis S. Fiorenza, who is a former student of the pope, said that her old teacher had "dropped hints" of an impending resignation in previous public statements.

"In several interviews, he said if he felt he was too frail or too sick to do the job that he would resign... So for him to retire at 85 makes perfect sense," Fiorenza said.

Divinity School professor Francis X. Clooney wrote in an email that, although Benedict's decision to step down seems shocking and novel, the act of resignation was "not in itself very significant."

"There was/is no

rule that a pope has to serve for life. Benedict is a sober and sensible man; we all live longer these days, and he seems to have recognized his mortality, and the limits of his strength," Clooney said.

Though Benedict is the first pope to have stepped down in almost 600 years, many—including Benedict's late predecessor Pope John Paul II—have faced deteriorating conditions in their final years. Madigan speculated that this history may have influenced Benedict's decision.

"I am sure that, having witnessed John Paul II's slow physical and mental decline, even as he continued to hold the office of pope, he did not wish to decline in the same way, publicly and while holding the highest office in the church," Madigan

wrote.

Professors also said that Benedict's resignation inevitably raises questions about the path of succession.

While Fiorenza voiced doubt that an American will fill the position, saying he believes that the next pope will be someone who has had extensive Vatican experience in the last few years, Clooney suggested that the transition could prompt renewal.

"It is always notable when there is the prospect of a new pope coming into office, since this makes possible new ideas and change in the Church," Clooney wrote.

Clooney added that he expects that the swiftly approaching selection process, which slated to be complete before Easter Sunday on March 31, will leave the Vati-

can in flux.

"That the election of a new pope will happen on relatively short notice, without much preparation, creates an uncertain situation, possibly a dramatic one," Clooney said.



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Sports



Clark lands strong recruiting class in first year with JSU

Jordan Smith
Senior staff writer

The Jacksonville State football team welcomed 21 new members on February 6.

This was the signing class under new head coach Bill Clark. Clark, who was only hired on December 19, had to work fast to maintain commitments from recruits upon arrival. The short recruiting period did not discourage Clark, as he is pleased with the quality of the class. Several of the signees had two or three star rankings on recruiting websites such as Rival and Scout.

“Just from our evaluations, we did not say ‘well, we’re Jax State and somebody is this. We can’t get this guy.’” said Clark.

One of those players is two-star linebacker Ramar Dennis from Orlando, Fla. Dennis had scholarship offers from Pittsburgh, Cincinnati, Syracuse, Southern Mississippi, Illinois, and Northern Illinois.

Coach Clark had been recruit-

ing Dennis while he still served as defensive coordinator at South Alabama. “We developed a relationship with him at South Alabama and we just continued that relationship here.” He is expected to compete for playing time early.

Coach Clark spoke about evaluating the needs for the team by position. He targeted size and depth for his wide receivers in this signing class. The Gamecocks brought in five wide receivers, four of which are at least six-foot tall. Jarren Johnson is only five foot eleven, but is a three-star recruit and expected to also compete for playing time early.

The Gamecocks also went for size for his defensive backs. Michael Davis and Darius Jackson are six-foot-one and six-foot-two respectively. Jackson is reuniting with his former high school teammate and current Gamecock Brandon Bender. Bender and Jackson played at McAdory High School.

JSU also brought in some size and depth for its offensive line.

The Gamecocks signed five offensive linemen; none bigger than three-star six-foot-five 305 pound Brett Steverson from Fitzgerald, Ga. “Looking at this group of linemen, they’re not sloppy, they’re in good shape,” said Clark.

Clark also spoke highly of Austin Bishop, a six-foot-four 276-pound offensive lineman from Piedmont, Ala. “If he walked in the door he looks like a college offensive lineman,” he said. “I like his attitude” This class brought in a player at every position except quarterback and kicker. The Gamecocks signed quarterback Jayce Barber last fall and his signing went on the 2012 class.

Clark is committed to recruiting local players. He signed two players from Calhoun County, Justice Owens from Alexandria and Austin Bishop. According to the Anniston Star, Oxford wide receiver Jarrius Orr will be coming to JSU as a walk-on.

Gamecock ranks/standings

NCAA Rifle Top 15

1. West Virginia
2. TCU
3. Kentucky
4. Jacksonville State
5. Alaska- Fairbanks
6. Army
7. Air Force
8. Nebraska
9. Memphis
10. Murray State
11. Ole Miss
12. Nevada
13. Navy
14. NC State
15. Ohio State

OVC M. Basketball standings East division

- Belmont (11-1) [20-5]
 Eastern Kentucky (8-3) [19-6]
 Tennessee State (8-4) [14-11]
 Jacksonville State (7-5) [15-8]
 Morehead State (5-6) [11-14]
 Tennessee Tech (3-8) [9-14]

West division

- Murray State (9-2) [18-5]
 SE Missouri St. (5-7) [13-13]
 SIUe (4-7) [8-13]
 Eastern Illinois (3-7) [7-18]
 UT- Martin (3-7) [6-16]
 Austin Peay (1-8) [5-18]

OVC Softball standings: East Div.

- Jacksonville State 2-2 (0-0)
 Tennessee Tech 2-2 (0-0)
 Belmont 2-2 (0-0)

West Div.

- SIUe 2-1 (0-0)
 UT- Martin 2-2 (0-0)
 SE Missouri St. 2-3 (0-0)

OVC Baseball standings: (Preseason projections)

- Austin Peay 0-0 (0-0)
 Belmont 0-0 (0-0)
 Jacksonville State 0-0 (0-0)
 Eastern Kentucky 0-0 (0-0)
 Eastern Illinois 0-0 (0-0)

Upcoming Action:

- Thursday: MBB @ Morehead St.
 Friday: M/W Tennis @ Ala. St.
 M/W Tennis @ Ala. A&M
 Softball vs USM Invitational (Sam Houston St./South. Miss.)
 Baseball @ Kennesaw St.
 Saturday: WBB @ ECU
 MBB @ ECU
 Softball @ USM Invitational
 Baseball @ Kennesaw St.
 Sunday: Softball @ USM Inv.
 Baseball @ Kennesaw St.
 Rifle @ NCAA Sectionals

Did You Know?

Last month former Jax State receiver Alan Bonner took part in the Raycom Classic All-Star Game. Now later this month he will take part in the NFL combine, the most recent Gamecock to do so in over a decade.

Compare Jacksonville State's men's basketball record of the Div. I teams in the state of Alabama.

- Jax State (15-8)
 Alabama (15-8)
 South Alabama (14-9)
 UAB (11-13)
 Troy (10-15)
 Auburn (9-14)
 Alabama A&M (8-15)
 Samford (8-17)
 Alabama State (8-17)

JSU rifle takes aim at NCAA sectionals

JACKSONVILLE – After winning the 2013 Ohio Valley Conference Rifle Championship last weekend, the Jacksonville State rifle team turned in its second-best score of the season against Mississippi on Saturday at the Gamecock Rifle Range.

The match, which was scheduled to take place while both teams were visiting West Point, N.Y a couple a weeks ago, was rescheduled for Saturday on the JSU campus.

The Gamecocks compiled an aggregate score of 4670, while the Rebels turned in a 4620. JSU's mark enhances its NCAA Championship standing

with the NCAA Sectionals on the horizon on Feb. 17 in Murray, Ky. Jax State carded a 2313 in the small-bore portion of the match, while adding a 2357 in air rifle.

“It was a good match, and I’m glad that we decided to have this (unplanned) match,” said JSU head coach Ron Frost. “Unfortunately, when we traveled to West Point two weeks ago, the airline misrouted our rifles and we had to cancel one of the two matches planned there with Ole Miss. So, in order to not disadvantage our two teams in the qualifying for the National Championships, we decided to have this additional, unscheduled match here at JSU. This was very fortunate, since it was good enough to move us up in the standings,” added Frost.

Jax State's Cole Tucker shot a personal best in both smallbore and air rifle to claim medalist honors in both sections. Tucker, from Wye Mills, Md., shot a 586 in smallbore and a 592 in air rifle. Freshman Samantha Bullard was just five points back of Tucker in smallbore with a 581. Bullard placed third in air rifle with a 588 to record a season-best aggregate score of 1169.

JSU's Monica Fyfe continued her stellar aim by finishing second in air rifle with a 589 and registered a 579 in smallbore, which placed her fourth. Sam Muegge tallied a 588 in the air rifle competition and a 578 in smallbore.



JSU's Cole Tucker

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Softball splits opening tournament

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Last weekend the Jacksonville State softball team opened their season at the Southeastern Louisiana hosted “Lion Classic.”

The Gamecocks were scheduled to play five games, but only played four as the final game on the third day against host school Southeastern Louisiana was rained out. JSU split the opening tournament going 2-2.

On the first day the Gamecocks opened their season against St. Louis. Junior Tiffany Harbin took the mound, her 15 strikeouts were a personal best, and just one shy of the school record, but a four run second inning did in Harbin as the Gamecocks couldn't get the offense going. JSU left nine runners on base against the Bilikens in a 5-2 loss.

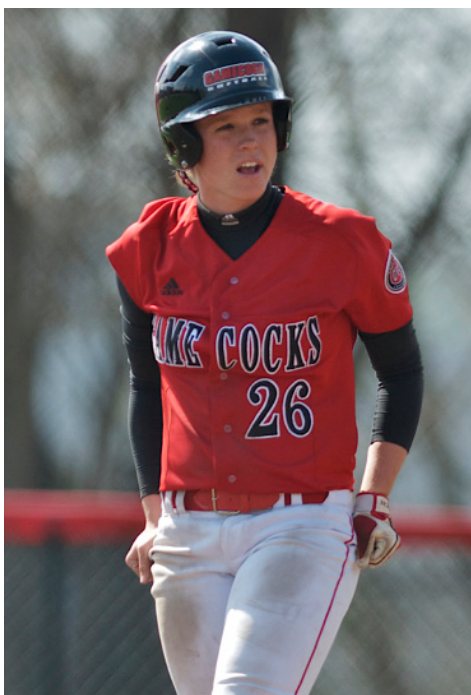
The nightcap of day one was much better for Jax State as freshman Casey Akenberger made her colligate pitching debut. Akenberger shutdown the Louisiana

Tech's lineup and was aided by more offense than Harbin previously received. JSU left only one on base in a five inning mercy rule win over the Bulldogs, 11-1. Senior Kelci Johnston and junior Kalee Tabor each had five RBIs.

The second day started as the first ended with the Gamecocks taking a blow-out win, 7-0, over Southern. Harbin bounced back from her outing the previous day pitching a shutout. The seven JSU runs came from six different players with at least one RBI.

Day two ended not as bright as the Gamecocks may have costs themselves a win. JSU allowed two unearned runs to Nicholls State in a game Jacksonville State ultimately lost, 4-2.

Day three was rained out and the Gamecocks headed home



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Senior Kelco Johnston had 5 RBIs in JSU's 11-1 win over LA Tech

with an even record looking ahead to this weekend when they play in the Southern Miss. Invitational.