

The Chanticleer

WEATHER: High 73, Low 48, Clear

FORECAST PG. 3

President Meehan: 'We will do our best to keep our promise not to increase tuition this fall'

Zach Tyler
Associate Editor

Last Thursday, Alabama's House of Representatives approved a \$5.93 billion Education Trust Fund (ETF) budget for the fiscal year of 2015 that will leave JSU scrambling to cover increased insurance costs.

The budget was the result of congressional compromise, with

two options on the table: either give teachers a pay raise of two percent, or cover the increased healthcare costs of the Public Education Employee Health Insurance Program (PEEHIP).

The Republican supermajority in the House of Representatives chose to forego the raise in favor of paying for the healthcare costs, which amounted to about \$200 million.

The compromise meant that the state would fund the increased cost of healthcare for education employees, but only in grades K-12. Two universities in Alabama participate in PEEHIP, JSU and Athens State. They will receive no additional funding to cover the increase in costs.

According to President Meehan, the legislature's budget means "costs will be going up \$66 per

employee" at JSU. He said in an interview Tuesday that the university "really only has two steady sources of income," the state appropriations provided through the ETF and tuition collected from students.

If state appropriations won't cover increased PEEHIP costs, Meehan has said that JSU's Board

See TUITION, page 2

First Mentoring Session presented by JSU Gospel Choir



Vallean Jackson/The Chanticleer

JSU's Gospel Choir invited Emily Studdard, mother of American Idol Ruben Studdard, to their first-ever gospel mentoring session.

Vallean Jackson
Staff Writer

The Music Department's Gospel Choir on Thursday, March 20th welcomed Emily Studdard, mother of American Idol star Ruben Studdard, to its first ever mentoring session. The event was held in the TMB auditorium.

The main focus of the mentoring session was youth involvement in chorale groups. Choir singer Rachel White said that the session was "created to encourage the youth towards excellence."

Before introducing Studdard, Gospel Choir member Camila Dean introduced the other members of the choir in attendance.

In line with the theme of youth involvement, the session's opening performance consisted of praise dancers, ages seven to 19, dressed in angelic white robes.

The performer that followed the dancers — Jackie Young — made clear with the passion in her voice that she loves the gospel, and she loves what she does.

Young is a former servicewoman currently taking online classes at JSU. She thinks people shouldn't underestimate her. "I am glad to be 42 years old, because it was only a miracle that I stand here today, because I was lucky to have been discharged from the military two months before 9/11," she said.

Later, Studdard told the audience at the mentoring session that Young was clearly "in the right place at the right time." She

See MENTORING, page 2

Autism speaks to the women of Alpha Xi Delta

Alexandra Black
Staff Writer

If you were to ask any member of JSU's Alpha Xi Delta chapter what cause they are most passionate about, you will likely get the answer of Autism research, awareness, acceptance, and treatment.

With over 135,000 members across the country, Alpha Xi Delta has a long history of supporting child-focused issues.

Alpha Xi Delta officially partnered with Autism Speaks in 2009. With April being designated Autism Awareness month, you probably have seen "Light It Up Blue" signs around campus and town, as the ladies of the JSU Epsilon Pi Chapter of Alpha Xi Delta pour of all their collective energy into promoting this cause.

Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) is a complex and increasingly prevalent brain disorder, and according to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), one in 68 children are affected.

Most individuals know of someone in their family or circle of friends who have a family member on the Autism spectrum. With no



Alexandra Black/The Chanticleer

Morgan Raines and Katelyn Brasher working the Alpha Xi Delta/Autism Speaks table at the TMB.

known cause and no cure, boys are four times more likely to have the disorder than girls, and the diagnosis of ASD has more than doubled since 2002.

The financial cost to the patient, their

See AUTISM SPEAKS, page 2

Justice and Civil Rights Initiative hosts panel on 'Stand Your Ground' laws

Danielle Moss and Samaiyah Steward
Staff Writers

JSU's Justice and Civil Rights Initiative presented on Wednesday, April 2nd an outstanding panel on "Stand Your Ground" laws.

Founder and President Ed Moore III collected a panel that consisted of two police officers, an Anniston City council member and the District Attorney.

The panel discussed the many different situations in which "standing your ground" would be necessary. The group answered questions and gave advice on the right thing to do when the threat of violence looms.

One might ask, what is "stand your ground"? According to Marcus Reid, Chief Deputy District Attorney of Etowah County, "stand your ground is the right to defend your home and family."

Stand your ground does not only affect regular civilians but it also affects politicians and other people of the law. "Judges have to think about how this [decision] will affect me during the next election", says Councilman David Reddick.

According to him, the "political aspect" of enforcing the law can sway a judge's decision. Councilman Reddick's example was the Trayvon Martin case. In his opinion the case would not have made it were it not for the political backlash it generated. Reddick said "they have a duty as a judge but an obligation as a constituent."

Stand your ground is more popular in the South because more people are gun owners as opposed to those in places like California or Seattle.

"Stand your ground" in situations involving

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TUITION, from page 1

of Trustees will have to consider raising tuition. That would break the pledge not to increase tuition that Meehan gave to students at the SGA’s public forum on Higher Education Funding back in October of 2013.

However, President Meehan stressed that the proposed budget isn’t law—yet. “We don’t have a budget yet. We won’t until the Governor signs it,” he said. Bentley has until the 13th to do so; if he chooses not to, the budget will be pocket vetoed.

President Meehan may be hoping that is exactly what happens.

The budget awaits Governor Bentley’s signature. It’s possible that Bentley will veto the budget because it didn’t include the two percent pay raise he wants for teachers and support personnel.

Bentley promised the pay raise in his State of the State address in January. That same month, he proposed an ETF budget that covered both the pay raise and increased insurance costs.

However, lawmakers in the House of Representatives refused to pass the Governor’s budget, accusing Bentley of going around the ETF spending cap he signed into law in 2011. It’s interesting to note that the version of the ETF budget that passed the House of Representatives Thursday also violates the spending cap, although by a lesser amount.

Some state legislators called on JSU and Athens State to pass the increase in PEEHIP costs on to their employees, but that’s something President Meehan doesn’t want to see happen.

“We haven’t been able to give a raise to some employees,” he explained. Teachers received a two percent raise last year, but over the past five years, both they and support personnel—the people who maintain the campus grounds and make sure students have running water—have only received “about a five percent raise.

“We don’t want to pass those costs on to our employees because they would be a higher percentage of their salary. It would mean a significant cut in their take-home pay compared to other employees,” Meehan stated.

Whatever happens with Alabama’s ETF budget, President Meehan says that he and the Board of Trustees “will do our best to keep our promise not to increase tuition this fall.”

AUTISM SPEAKS, from page 1

families, and society is not insignificant. Most traditional insurance policies will not cover the costs for testing, counseling, and treatment, so these costs must be paid out of pocket. Many autistic individuals also struggle with being misunderstood or left out of social situations.

The Autistic spectrum includes a wide range of forms, from the milder forms such as Asperger’s S y n d r o m e , where a person exhibits repetitive or obsessive behavior and some difficulty with communication and social interaction, to more severe cases, where the individual is totally non-communicative and needs assistance with everyday tasks.

Autism Speaks was founded in 2005, merging with the National Alliance for Autism Research and Cure Autism Now. As the nation’s leading autism awareness organization, the group works not just to raise awareness and funding, but to fight for legislative policy changes in support of autistic citizens on the state and federal level.

Over 100 bipartisan members of the U.S. Congress have formed the Congressional Autism Caucus to draft federal policies

aimed at improving services and research to assist patients and their families. Autism Speaks focuses most of their funding on campaigning, raising

by accepting and loving autistic people. Ignoring them only makes matters worse. You don’t have to raise \$10,000 to make a difference. Just

awareness and acceptance. Raines also explains, “We visit a local school called The Learning Tree where Autistic



Alexandra Black/The Chanticleer

Sisters Brooklyn Patty and Holly Cova at Alpha Xi Delta’s Color Run for Autism Speaks, held last fall.

awareness, and research.

The Alpha Xi Deltas at JSU feel passionately about the autistic community and work year-round to promote this cause. Their Philanthropy Chair Morgan Raines takes charge of planning the sorority’s activities. She explains that autistic people are capable and talented individuals that should not be looked down upon: “First off, people can help

being proactive and caring can change everything.” This past fall, the Epsilon Pi chapter of Alpha Xi Delta at JSU hosted a color run and raised more than \$13,000 in one morning. In the spring, the Alpha Xi Deltas set up a table in the TMB and sold candy, bracelets, buttons and more to raise money for Autism Speaks. They wear blue and don puzzle pieces to symbolize Autism

children attend. We bring cupcakes, hang out with the students and just have a good time.” This school year alone, the Epsilon Pi chapter of Alpha Xi Delta at JSU has raised more than \$15,000 for Autism awareness, and they hope to raise even more.

If you would like to know more about Alpha Xi Delta, Autism Speaks, or how to help and get involved, contact Morgan Raines at Mraines1@jsu.edu.

MENTORING, from page 1

said that was the same thing she told Ruben when he was selected to move to the next level on “American Idol.”

After Young’s performance, the youth continued their musical selections. Dr. Myrtice Collins, Director of the JSU Gospel Choir, then handed the floor over to the session’s special guest.

Emily Studdard is from Birmingham, Alabama. She’s a graduate of Alabama A&M and the University of Montevallo. She is a retired educator and now directs the Ruben Studdard Foundation for Advancement of Children in Music and Arts.

She has received awards for her involvement in various organizations, which has brought her in contact with celebrities like Oprah Winfrey. She’s been seated two rows away from President Bush. However, her main topic was her foundation and the influence it has on the people it touches.

The program accepts children ages 12 to 19 “because those are the ages that their voices change the most,” says Studdard.

She goes on to say that she has “people come in from the industry to the camp to teach the children the different aspects the program has to offer. It is truly a great opportunity for children.”

Even though Studdard is the director of foundation, she believes that achieving dreams takes time and real effort. She said it helped her son Ruben to set goals that he felt he could achieve.

Before opening the floor to questions, Studdard said, “preparation determines your destination”—great words of inspiration, not just for the young, but for people of any age.



Vallean Jackson/The Chanticleer

JSU student and gospel singer Jackie Young gave one of several performances at the Mentoring Session.

STAND YOUR GROUND, from page 1

domestic violence is a very different case. In domestic violence cases, at least one party must be arrested for at least twelve hours so that the other party can have a break.

In high profile cases, such as the Melissa Alexander case, “stand your ground” was brought back to the table because of the outcome of the Trayvon Martin case. Alexander’s case was different from Martin’s because one contained a dead body while the other one did not. Both cases were high profile but only one gets a re-trial.

It will still be difficult for a jury to set aside their own beliefs in “stand your ground” cases because they are still human. As

citizens, we have to depend on the jury’s judgment on a case. “The jurors are people and they bring their experiences with them to the court room; this process isn’t perfect,” said Deputy District Attorney Reid.

The last question is how can more lives be saved and not taken as a result of stand your ground? According to the panel, if everyone knows the law and each section, then they would better protect themselves from being arrested.

Part of the culture of the South is the ability to protect one’s self, even with violence. Gun owners exercising their legal rights still need to know where those rights end.

Got a news tip for us? Drop us a line!
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A waffling disappointment

Zach Tyler
Associate Editor

When I first found out Taco Bell was going to begin selling breakfast months ago, I got unreasonably excited. Taco Bell’s faux Mexican food has been a weakness of mine since childhood, though I try to avoid it now. I love breakfast, too, especially waffles. So when I heard Taco Bell would be selling tacos made out of waffles, I couldn’t wait to try them.

My first effort to taste the new-fangled breakfast item was a bust. I drove through Jacksonville’s Taco Bell drive-thru and asked for one Waffle Taco, a delicious-looking love triangle of breakfast foods for \$1.99.

I pulled up to the window. I was told that because they’d run out of waffles earlier that morning, Taco Bell would be making a fresh one just for me. Awesome, I thought—a fresh Waffle Taco! There’s no better way to try something for the first time, right?

But after I paid and the man running the drive-thru window handed me my bag, the supposedly fresh Waffle Taco felt suspiciously burrito-shaped. I was already running late, though, so I just drove to work.



Zach Tyler/The Chanticleer

There I discovered I’d been duped—what waited in the bag was definitely not a fresh waffle. It was a common breakfast burrito.

Instead of taking this as a sign that the Waffle Taco and I weren’t meant to be, I gave it another shot Monday morning. This time, Taco Bell’s employees managed to unite me with the thing I’d been dying to try.

After paying \$1.99 again, I was handed a bag containing a small, rectangular cardboard box. The box is about the perfect size for burying a dead rat in, if you were wondering. It informed me that if I smelled waffles, it was going to be a good morning.

Any hope Taco Bell had of making my morning better was shattered into a million jagged pieces when I opened the tiny cardboard coffin. Inside the box, the object of my anticipatory desire glumly sat. Its guts were splayed out like the subject of a biology class dissection. It was a

travesty, a breakfast food-Franken-stein: a lopsided sausage patty, “eggs” and “cheese” folded into a greasy, too-thin waffle shell.

I took my first bite without the syrup that Taco Bell offers with its breakfast items. I chewed thoughtfully, like Chef Ramsay on “Hell’s Kitchen,” but I tasted... nothing. Like tofu, the Waffle Taco is a culinary blank canvas; if you want flavor, you can help yourself to the syrup or salsa.

Like I said, the waffle itself is too thin and crispy to be considered a real waffle. It’s waffle-like, maybe in the same surrealist way any fast food resembles the dish it was inspired by. It’s like if Salvador Dali had painted melting waffles instead of clocks; the waffle shell even dripped grease. It tasted mostly like frying oil.

There are two variants of Waffle Taco, sausage and bacon. I went with sausage, thinking it’d have

more taste and substance. Boy was I wrong on that first count: the patty was completely tasteless. There seemed to be some kind of pepper in the meat—I hope it was pepper in the same way I hope it was meat—but it made no difference. The sausage was filler more than anything else.

A pale yellow amorphous mass covered in orange goo nestled in the sausage. I assumed it was supposed to be scrambled eggs and cheese. The eggs were fluffy and dry, as if they were in powder form just before being nuked into my Waffle Taco. The “cheese” melted over the top was just more grease with no flavor.

All this leads me to the question: Why do we put this junk in our bodies? I once joked to my dad about how someone could survive off of Taco Bell’s dollar menu for almost nothing. “You could starve to death eating at Taco Bell,” he replied. While that may not be true, the “food” that many fast food joints churn out isn’t healthy; in my opinion, it’s barely even edible. Next time you think about hitting the drive-thru, consider getting a salad instead. By all means, stay away from the god-forsaken Waffle Taco.

Campus crime report

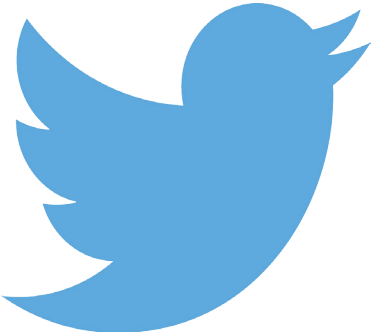
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Crow Hall Parking Lot
- 03/31/2014
Automobile Accident
Logan Hall Parking Lot
- 03/21/2014
Theft of Property
Dixon Hall
- 03/20/2014
Theft of Property
Stephenson Hall
- 03/20/2014
Medical Emergency
Curtiss Hall
- 03/19/2014
Criminal Trespass
Crow Hall
- 03/19/2014
Theft of Property
Mason Hall

Upcoming SGA events:

April 18th-19th
Last days of class

April 21st-25th
Finals Week

May 2nd
Graduation!!!



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Chicken Scratch

Money means nothing to me. If you don’t believe me, ask me for money. You’ll get nothing.

Why do teenage girls always hang out in odd-numbered groups? Because they can’t even.

In the morning you beg to sleep more, in the afternoon you are dying to sleep, and at night you refuse to sleep.

I have ADHD. It’s like ADD, only the picture quality is phenomenal.



7-day weather forecast



TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
Clear	Clear	Partly cloudy	Partly cloudy	Rain	Chance of rain	Clear
High: 73	High: 76	High: 78	High: 81	High: 73	High: 62	High: 67
Low: 48	Low: 51	Low: 54	Low: 61	Low: 51	Low: 41	Low: 45

Arts & Entertainment

Daughter of survivor to speak at Holocaust Remembrance

Holocaust survivor Elie Wiesel said, “I decided to devote my life to telling the story because I felt that having survived I owe something to the dead. And anyone who does not remember betrays them again.”

Preserving the memory of her father, Roger Nathan Blum, is something to which Denise Lewis has devoted herself.

Carrying a torch of remembrance, she is the daughter of a Holocaust survivor and will be the featured speaker for Jacksonville State University’s annual Holocaust Remembrance this week.

Born in Brumath, France in 1920, Roger Nathan Blum was sent to Birmingham, Ala. at the age of nineteen to live with some relatives during the initial European upheavals leading up to World War II. However, back in France, his remaining family members were captured by Nazi forces and later went into hiding after being released.

While in America, Blum joined the United States Army and returned to his homeland of France in 1942. With the assistance of the American Red Cross, Blum was able to successfully locate his immediate family while in France.

“It was a lot of series of ironic events that he was able to go back to France,” explains Lewis. “He never really told us these stories until about 1995. I never was aware of these stories. The more we talked to him and the more research we did, we were able to piece together these stories.”

Growing up in Birmingham, Lewis was not taught French and feels that it was her father’s way of acclimating their family to being American. When Blum finally began talking about his experiences during World

War II, Lewis was interested to learn of the family history of which she knew so very little.

Lewis explains that her father was rather surprised to find that people were interested in his story and he began to publically speak about his experiences during World War II.

Blum passed away in 2007, but Lewis has taken up the mantle to keep her father’s story alive, and ultimately, contribute to the resounding voice of the millions of Jews who were affected by the Holocaust.

“I just wanted to keep his stories alive,” states Lewis. “...As horrible as the things were, there were some happy endings and some things that weren’t all bad...I think this is more of a success story through determination... I think my core purpose in sharing his story and my grandparents’ story is to share the story that there were people out there that helped, and that helped save my family.”

Feeling deeply the responsibility to care for the memory, Lewis states, “The reason I keep doing this is, it is not only sharing my story, but it is letting people know that there are many, many stories out there and if we don’t continue asking and getting them to share, this is going to be a generation that will soon be gone. We won’t have these stories.”

Kim Stevens, chair of the JSU Holocaust Remembrance Committee, states, “The annual JSU Holocaust Remembrance is an opportunity for the community to reflect on the Holocaust, remembering those who died and honoring those who survived. Hearing someone’s Holocaust story provides a personal connection to the past. The United States Holocaust Memo-

rial Museum’s theme for the 2014 Days of Remembrance is ‘Confronting the Holocaust: American Responses.’ Ms. Lewis’s story about her father should dovetail nicely with this year’s theme.”

The JSU Holocaust Remembrance first began in 1982 as a project of the JSU Wesley Foundation and has since grown to from the size of twenty-five attendees to several hundred attendees made up of students, faculty members, and the surrounding community.

In addition to Kim Stevens, the JSU Holocaust Remembrance Committee is comprised of Dr. Joe Delap, Ms. Bethany Latham, Dr. Russ Lemmons, Ms. Esta Spector, Dr. Steve Whitton, and Ms. Jade Wagner (SGA president).

This year’s event will also include special music by Matthew and Heather Headley (JSU music department alumni), a candle lighting, a commentary by JSU history professor Dr. Russ Lemmons, readings from the “Imagining the Holocaust” writing competition, and a Kaddish. About thirty minutes prior to the event, there will be a screening of a JSU documentary film featuring Holocaust survivor Max Steinmetz.

The JSU annual Holocaust Remembrance will take place on Thursday, April 10 at 7:30 p.m. in the Ernest Stone Theater. Admission is free. For more information about the JSU Holocaust Remembrance, please email Kim Stevens or call (256)-782-5762. There is also a contact form available on the JSU Holocaust Remembrance website which can be used for more information, questions, or comments: <http://www.jsu.edu/holocaust/contact.html>.

-JSU Newswire



Upcoming events on and around campus

- April 10, 2014**
Annual Holocaust Remembrance will begin at 7:30 p.m. at the Ernest Stone Center stage.
- April 11, 2014**
The Spring Jazz Showcase will be in the Mason Hall Performance Center and will begin at 7:30 p.m. Free concert.
- April 12, 2014**
JSU Field Schools will host BUunny-Palooza at the JSU Little River Canyon Center beginning at 10:30 a.m. Free. Pre-registration for some events are encouraged
- Second Saturday Space Safari** will begin in the Martin Hall Planetarium at 4 p.m. The theme is Stars of the Pharoahs. \$5 per adult and \$2 per child.
- April 13, 2014**
The Gospel Chior Concert begins at 6 p.m. in the Leone Cole Auditorium. Free Concert.
- April 14, 2014**
JSU Community Orchestra will perform in the Mason hall Performance Center beginning at 7:30 p.m. Free concert.
- April 15, 2014**
There will be a Symphonic Band Concert in Mason Hall Performance Center beginning at 7:30 p.m. Free concert.
- April 16, 2014**
A robotics paintball competition will be held in the Ayers Hall bus barn beginning at 4 p.m. All are invited to attend.
- April 17, 2014**
Encore! presents its 25th anniversary concert in Mason Hall Performance Center beginning at 7:30 p.m. Free concert.
- April 26, 2014**
JSU Field Schools sponsors Earth Day at Little River Canyon stating at 10 a.m. Free event.

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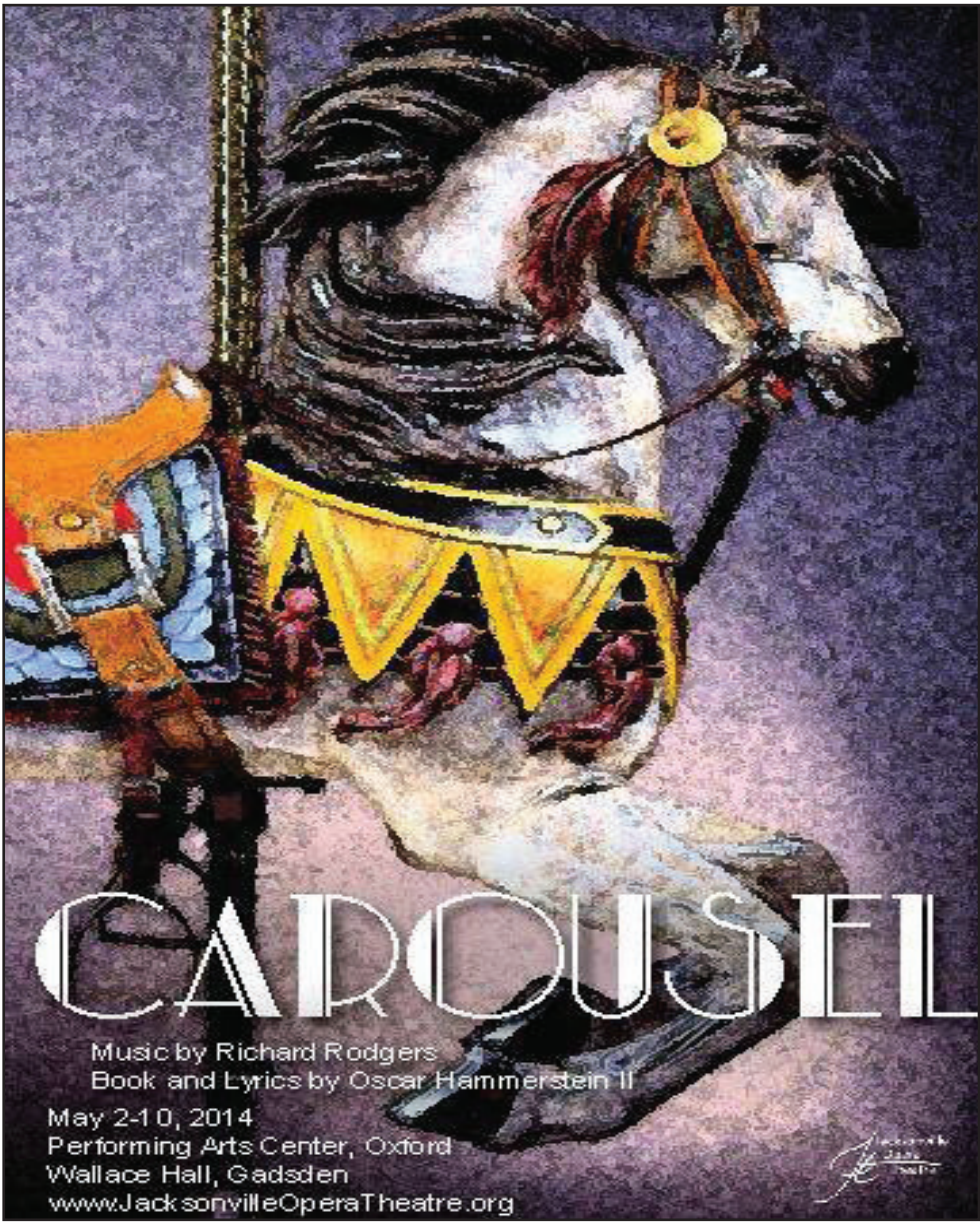
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Review: The finale of How I Met Your Mother

Jessica Graham
Staff Writer

It was going to be the mother of all finales. Goodbye is one the hardest things to say to a show that has touched us in some way, and How I Met Your Mother has left the imprint of a little yellow umbrella on our hearts. I spent this entire semester preparing for March 31: speculating with friends about the ending, wondering what that adorable brunette was named, and worrying about ways the show could break my umbrella-stamped heart into pieces. And, in the end, it did hurt my heart. But not in the way I thought it would. Let's think about what makes this show so important and far-reaching. Ted's journey connects with the audience because he emphasizes how the small moments in life are what lead to the big moments. The small moments hold no less significance than the rest, because without them, Ted would never have met his future wife. But if we take a look at the finale, it's as if Ted and the writers decided that didn't matter anymore. We spent a whole season stretching out one wedding sequence, and in a one hour finale sprinted through 16 years worth of major life events. If you haven't watched the episode, please be warned that there will be spoilers in what follows. I had no problem with the idea of this one week-end lasting a whole season before the finale. Why? Because we got so many flash forwards of Ted with The Mother, showing us major moments in their lives while still maintaining the small moments that led to their meeting during the wedding weekend. When we got to the finale, we saw the premise

of the whole season fall apart within minutes of the opening. Why waste our time? An abbreviated story arc of the wedding would have made much more sense. If that had happened, think of all the time we would have been able to spend on the events that were crammed into one hour! Think of how Ted's relationship with The Mother wouldn't have seemed to be sitting on the sidelines of the finale. Think of how we could've seen why Robin became so estranged from everyone. Think of how there could have been time spent on Ted dealing with the death of his wife. We were able to see Marshall grieving over his father. We were even able to see The Mother moving on from her boyfriend that had died years before. Why couldn't we see this from Ted? Wasn't that hugely important? I will admit I'm okay with the ending. I'm not upset about Ted and Robin. It's obvious that's what Craig Thomas and Carter Bays always wanted. But after the brilliant, beautiful, and engaging writing of all nine seasons, couldn't the finale have done justice to the titular relationship? I invested so much time in the story of how Ted Mosby met Tracy McConnell. That's what I wanted to see. Despite this, the finale will never ruin my love for this show. Never have I found a show that resonates with me so easily. How I Met Your Mother is truthful, hopelessly romantic, and real to life. And even though the show is now over, it will never stop being something that helps us appreciate our own stories, whether they involve ducky ties, Canadian pop stars, or a good slap to the face. Arrivederci, How I Met Your Mother.



Album review: Himilayan

Zach Tyler
Associate Editor

The American actor Martin Mull is said to have once quipped that “writing about music is like dancing about architecture.” I’m inclined to agree with him. But the British trio Band of Skulls just released what is, in my opinion, their strongest and most diverse album to date, and I would be failing the readers of The Chanticleer if I didn’t draw their attention to it. An alt-rock group from Southampton, England, Band of Skulls consists of lead singer and guitarist Russell Marsden, bassist Emma Richardson and drummer Matt Hayward. Chances are, you’ve heard at least one Band of Skulls song, even if you didn’t realize that’s who you were listening to. Their music has been featured on several popular TV shows, like Friday Night Lights

and more recently, True Detective. A single called “Friends” even made it onto The Twilight Saga: New Moon’s soundtrack. But the first time I listened to Band of Skulls was back in 2010, right after I started attending JSU. Ford used the song “Light of the Morning” in a commercial for the 2011 Mustang. “Light of the Morning” was the second single off the Skulls’ first album, Baby Darling Dollface Honey, which was released in 2009. Since then, the trio has put out two studio albums, the latest of which—“Himilayan”—dropped on March 31st. I heard the band was working on a new album months and months ago; waiting for it to be released felt like a painful eternity. It was April 1st before I got my hands on “Himalayan,” but Band of Skulls’ third offering is no April fool’s joke. The album is a

blues-infused, rock-and-roll romp. It opens with the first single released from the album, “Asleep at the Wheel.” The track propels the listener into the album with a pounding tempo, and brings to mind a fever dream of driving at late at night. The chorus, belted by Marsden, lets one know that where the Skulls are going “is anyone’s guess.” Track number two, “Himalayan,” is probably the best song on the album. It differs from most of the other music Band of Skulls has put out; it’s definitely still alternative rock, but instead of being heavy and deep and almost sluggish, it’s light and a little funky. It also features the three members of the band harmonizing really beautifully toward the end. If you’re looking for something reminiscent of the blues rock of the 1960s and ’70s but with a modern twist, check out Band of Skulls new album, “Himalayan.”

A review: A night at the opera

Patrice Greene
Staff Writer

Last month, several students from Jacksonville State University attended The Atlanta Opera’s March 2014 production of Charles-François Gounod’s Faust, held at the Cobb Energy Center for Performing Arts in Georgia. The performance was divided into five acts, each act showcasing the strength of the human voice in dramatic, but also delicate ways. The plot involved an older gentleman by the name of Faust who made a deal with the devil to reinstate his youth in an effort to gain the affections of his beloved Marguerite. The actors and actresses sang in French, and the performance was accompanied by English subtitles to increase the crowd’s comprehension of the plot. Opera is the absolute height of drama; all dialogue is expressed



An oil painting by Matt Hughes entitled ‘Faust’
Matt Hughes/The Atlanta Opera

in song, and as expected, there is a live orchestra. Involved in the orchestra was the JSU’s very own Eryn Oft of the David L. Walters Department of Music. Along with special research projects, Oft teaches courses in music history, reed making, private lessons, chamber music and master classes for the Double Reed Studio. She was also the force behind JSU’s Double Reed

Day earlier this year, where students were able to get hands-on experience with the everyday maintenance and proper playing techniques of their instruments. Her experience with the Atlanta Opera began in January of this year. “I was called in as Auxiliary Principal Bassoon,” says Oft. Not only were her students amazed by the facility, but she was just as satisfied with such a marvelous performance space. “The Cobb Energy Center is beautiful,” she says. “The pit, where the orchestra is located—just below and in front of the stage—allows for a brilliance of sound. I was surprised by how much I could truly “play out”—meaning fortissimo. I had created light reeds, or feathers, as I call them, just for the occasion. But I ended up playing on heavier, darker, louder reeds because the space and the ensemble could handle it!” Like many of her colleagues,

Oft believes that students should get to see their teachers or instructors perform, and they should attend any live performance of music to strengthen their understanding of such an intricate craft. “I think it is important for students to go to as many live performances of high quality productions as possible. It helps music students in particular to develop their ‘ear’ or listening skills. It helps them put music in a historical context and gives deeper meaning to their studies,” says Oft. “But most importantly, it can inspire, and being inspired keeps students curious, creating lifelong learning.” The Atlanta Opera’s next production, to be held in late April and early May, is entitled The Barber of Seville,” by Gioachino Rossini. For more information on the Atlanta Opera or the next production, visit <http://www.atlantaopera.org/>.

Opinion & Editorial

JSU budget falls short

Brett Johnson
Staff Writer

The 2014 legislative session is over! And guess what? They did it again. Our legislators dropped the ball on maintaining funding for JSU.

In fall of 2013, President Meehan promised there would be no increase in tuition if the legislature gave JSU the same amount of money as it did this year.

The Education Trust Fund (ETF) will receive \$134 million more than last year which has allowed the legislature to increase higher education funding by 1 percent. Sounds great, right? Well, maybe. However, not every higher education institution has the same needs.

While most universities self-insure, JSU and Athens State are the only two universities who participate in the Public Education Employees Health Insurance Program (PEEHIP). Other than JSU and Athens, PEEHIP mostly encompasses k-12 institutions.

Because of this program, JSU is able to provide exceptional health care plans at lower costs to its employees. This allows the university to attract quality faculty and staff at lower salary costs than self-insuring universities.

This year's PEEHIP premiums increased, which increased the costs for all PEEHIP institutions. Because of this, the legislature chose to allocate more to k-12 institutions to cover their increased costs for PEEHIP... But guess who got left out? JSU.

Prior to spring break, the ETF budget included some additional funding toward JSU's PEEHIP costs. However, university officials determined after the break there had been changes to the legislature's agreements which left JSU out of the loop on PEEHIP funding.

The student government association and other university officials made attempts to reach our state

senator, Del Marsh (R-Anniston) who is the President Pro Tempore of the State Senate (a.k.a. the most powerful man in the legislature). However, most students got a response placing the blame on U.S. President Barack Obama.



Moreover, Senator Marsh said he didn't think it was the state's obligation to pick up the costs (although they picked up the costs for k-12). One can assume this was reflective of the idea that 'universities can charge tuition.'

Although Senator Marsh chose not to fight for the sole university in his district, we did receive some support from Jacksonville's state representative K.L. Brown (R-Jacksonville) when he chose to break from the Republican caucus and voted 'no' on the final passage of the ETF budget. Unfortunately, Rep. Brown's vote did not keep the budget from passing, but we should show some appreciation for his willingness to speak up for his district.

So where does that leave us? More importantly, where does that leave tuition? Well, once the governor signs the budget into law, the burden shifts to the JSU administration to figure out how to maintain quality education while keeping costs to students as low as possible.

Is an increase in tuition likely? It's possible. However, I personally know President Meehan and university officials want to be able to keep their promise to the students, so it will be a last resort. If that last resort becomes reality, the blame is on those who had the power to keep it from happening in the first place: the Alabama legislature.

Another lesson learned in why state and local politics is important to college students. What happens in Montgomery is just as, if not more important as what happens in Washington; it's just easier to blame the president, right?

Crunch time has arrived

Kara Coleman
Editor-in-Chief

When I was growing up, Halloween was sometimes an all-day affair. More than once, my brothers and I would literally decide hours before festivities or trick-or-treating began what we would wear that night. And more than once, my mother would question why we waited until the last minute as she painted makeup on our faces or sewed patches onto our jeans. But it was almost an adrenaline rush that came from waking up on October 31st and digging through every theater prop and article of clothing in the house to piece together a costume. We were creative and resourceful, we learned how to make something comprehensive out of the chaos in our closets, and we created lasting memories.

Now that spring break has passed and finals are less than two weeks away, we students are feeling the adrenaline rush that accompanies crunch time. Freshmen will be frantically trying to cram for comprehensive exams. Seniors don't remember what exams are, because they're too busy applying for jobs and scheduling exit interviews to care about much else. And everyone is spending just a little more time on Buzzfeed than they need to.

In the midst of this rush this working on three major projects for school, hunting for an apartment 10 hours away, managing a school newspaper, and preparing for graduation-my computer crashed last week. Thus is applied Mur-

phy's Law of college: if it can happen to make crunch time more difficult, it will happen to make crunch time more difficult. This is the time of the semester when laptops crash, wifi routers suddenly stop working, and inevitably when you get a stomach virus.



Before I succumbed to the idea that my work was gone forever, I called my IT guy. He calmly assured me that while he can't fix the hard drive, he can extract data that I need from it.

Buying a new laptop is future Kara's problem, but for now, I'm able to pick up where I left off on these school projects and am not having to start from scratch. (Thank goodness!)

So before you have a meltdown while making flashcards, camping in the library, or writing a 12-page research paper the night before it's due only to find that your printer is out of ink, take heart. Remember that it's not the end of the world; it's just intermission. At the end of this stressful road lies a glorious summer. Your reward may be parading across the football field on the night of graduation, or perhaps relaxing by the pool while you work on the tan you lost from sitting in a classroom all year.

In other words, if you are a follower of the traditional college-kid method of procrastination, the last week of class is your Halloween. You wake up one morning and realize that time has snuck up on you, and you've got stuff to prepare for.

But it's alright. Just open another pack of Skittles, down another latte, and keep working. You've got this.

Payment Dates for Summer 2014

Students, to avoid having your Summer 2014 classes and housing assignment cancelled (if applicable), you must pay your account balance in full, be enrolled in the payment plan, or have enough financial aid applied in your account by close of business on the last day to register for each term.

Summer 2014 payment due date(s) are as follows:
May 6, 2014 - May Four Week, May Six Week and May Twelve Week
June 3, 2014 - June Four Week
June 17, 2014 - June Six Week
July 2, 2014 - July Four Week

View <http://www.jsu.edu/bursar/PaymentPlan.html> for complete details on the Summer Payment Plan.

Direct deposit available

Be first in line for your student refund without going to the mail center!

JSU is pleased to announce that we offer Electronic Direct Deposit (EDD) of student account refunds.

To sign up, view details and instructions at: <http://www.jsu.edu/bursar/re->

[fundpolicy.html](http://www.jsu.edu/bursar/re-fundpolicy.html). In order to receive your Summer 2014 refund by EDD you must enroll no later than May 6, 2014.

If you have already enrolled in EDD, please verify that your payment profile is correct to prevent delay of your electronic deposit.

One Day without Shoes



4.16.14

Jacksonville State University

Freshman Forum is excited to announce that the fifth-annual One Day without Shoes at JSU will be held Wednesday, April 16 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on the TMB Lawn. This day of awareness will be filled with activities on the lawn including barefoot relays, one-for-one crafts, inflatables, and more! The day will culminate with our "barefoot parade" around Trustee Circle at 3 p.m., where students, staff, and faculty can join and get a first-hand experience of what going barefoot daily would feel like.

Want to see your face on these pages? Got a complaint about campus parking, or a deep musing on the origins of life, the universe and everything? Send it to chantynewstips@gmail.com and you could be published in The Chanticleer's Opinion & Editorial page!

Sports

Softball slips, drops pair to Murray State over weekend

Marvel Robinson
Sports Writer

JSU Softball lost a pair of games on Sunday at Murray State.

Murray State didn't have much trouble defeating the Gamecocks in the first game as they won 5-0. However, the second game was a lot closer as it ended in Murray State favor 6-5.

In the first game of the two, JSU senior Tiffany Harbin and Murray State freshman Mason Robinson battled early in the pitching game. It wasn't until the bottom of the fifth when Murray State's Taylor Odom scored the first points of the game. Cayla Levins and Morgan Harrell would then score in the same inning to make it 3-0. Murray State would score their last two runs in the sixth inning with help from Mallory Young scoring and Erica Howard's fly out to score Casey Castile.

In the first loss, Jacksonville State's Amanda Maldonado led the team with two hits while Stephanie Lewis, Cadi Oliver and Sara Borders all singled. Mo Ramsey led Murray State with two hits while Cayla Levins led with two RBI's.

In the second and last game on Sunday, Murray State jumped up to an early lead. Odom doubled to center field in the first inning scoring Castile, Bridges and Becker to give Murray State a 3-0 lead. JSU returned with three scores of its own in the third inning. Kaylee Tabor hit a home run to center field also scoring Oliver and Borders.

Becker from Murray State would score off a Ramsey single to left field making it 4-3 Murray State's way. However, Tabor would hit another home run in the seventh inning scoring Oliver once again to regain the lead 5-4.

Murray State's Harrell and Ramsey would then come back in the same inning and score the last two runs to win the game with a final score of 6-5.

Kaylee Tabor drove in all five runs for JSU and her two homers gave her the teams lead as well as the OVC lead with 10 on the year.

In pitching, Murray State's CheyAnne Gaskey (8-10) earned the win despite allowing five runs on seven hits and eight walks in the seven innings of play. She struck out seven and forced the Gamecocks to strand 11 runners in the game. JSU's Freshman Taylor West (3-1) suffered her first loss of the season after giving up the two runs in the seventh inning. She pitched 1.1 innings, allowing two runs on three hits and a walk. Logan Green pitched the first 5.1 innings and gave up four runs on five hits and three walks.

The Gamecocks overall record now stands at 26-11 while 10-4 in the Conference. The next three games of JSU Softball will be at home and will be OVC games against Morehead State. The first two of the three will be a doubleheader starting Saturday, April 12 at 1 p.m. They will end the series that Sunday in a single game at 1 p.m.

Gamecock Sports Sidebar

Upcoming Action:

Friday: Track @ Tennessee
BB vs Murray State
Saturday: Track @ Tennessee
Tennis vs Morehead State
SB vs Morehead State (DH)
BB vs Murray State
Sunday:
SB vs Morehead State
BB vs Murray State
Tuesday: SB vs Georgia State

2014 NCAA Rifle championships results:

1. **West Virginia**
(back-to-back titles)
2. **Alaska**
3. **Kentucky**
4. **Memphis**
5. **Nebraska**
6. **TCU**
7. **Jacksonville State**
8. **Army**

Congrats to Softball Coach Jana McGinnis on her 700th career win and Baseball Coach Jim Case on his 400th career win both earlier this season.

OVC Softball standings:

East:
Jacksonville State (10-4) (26-11)
Eastern Kentucky (8-4) (18-14)
Belmont (5-8) (11-22)
Tennessee State (4-9) (16-25)
Tennessee Tech (4-10) (12-31)
Morehead State (3-9) (7-23-1)

West:
UT-Martin (9-3) (21-16-1)
SIUE (9-3) (15-18)
Eastern Illinois (7-4) (26-11)
Murray State (8-5) (19-18)
Austin Peay (6-7) (17-21)
SE Missouri State (2-9) (7-22)

OVC Baseball standings:

SE Missouri State [13-2] (21-10)
Jacksonville State [9-3] (19-12)
Tennessee Tech [9-6] (25-8)
Murray State [8-7] (14-15)
SIUE [8-7] (10-19)
Morehead State [7-8] (15-16)
Eastern Kentucky [5-7] (14-17)
Belmont [5-7] (13-18)
Austin Peay [5-7] (12-20)
Eastern Illinois [4-8] (9-22)
UT-Martin [2-13] (3-26)

2014 Football Schedule:

Aug. 29 at Michigan State
Sept. 6 at UT Chattanooga
Sept. 13 Open
Sept. 20 vs West Alabama
Sept. 27 at Murray State*
Oct. 4 vs UT-Martin*
Oct. 11 at Tennessee State*
Oct. 18 Open
Oct. 25 vs Tennessee Tech*
Nov. 1 vs Austin Peay* (HC)
Nov. 8 at Eastern Kentucky*
Nov. 15 vs Eastern Illinois*
Nov. 22 at SE Missouri St.*
*OVC Game

OVC Men's Tennis Standings:

Jacksonville State (6-1)
Belmont (6-1)
Austin Peay (6-2)
Morehead State (4-3)
SIUE (3-3)
Eastern Illinois (3-3)
Tennessee Tech (3-4)
Eastern Kentucky (3-5)
Murray State (1-6)
Tennessee State (0-7)

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Strain-ger than fiction

Sisters reunite to play for Jax State

Daniel Porter
Sports Editor

Earlier this year Woodland High School stand-out Leah Strain committed to Jacksonville State to play basketball for Incoming JSU Freshman Coach Rick Pietri. It was a huge land for the Gamecocks who will receive the talents of one of the most explosive high school players in Alabama. In February, Strain led the Woodland Bobcats to their second-consecutive 2A state title capping a 34-1 season.

But you can double the excitement because by the time next season rolls around, Leah won't be the only Strain on the Gamecocks' roster. Her older sister, Courtney Strain, decided last month to also join the Gamecocks and is transferring to Jacksonville State from Auburn. The sisters will reunite and play together again for the first time since the 2009-10 season when Courtney was a senior and Leah an eighth grader on Woodland's team.

Coming out of Woodland the older Courtney set the mark as the highest scoring player in Alabama high school history with 5,283 points over her career. She originally chose Auburn as her school to attend, but injuries sidelined her at various stages as she battled with concussions and leg injuries.

The most recent being a hamstring injury that was originally misdiagnosed causing surgery to be delayed until this past August; the start of basketball season. Courtney's rehab spanned into January and she opted to sit out the remainder of the season to potentially later appeal for a sixth year of eligibility. She will appeal for a second year at JSU following this season.



AL.com

Incoming JSU Freshman Coach Rick Pietri. It was state title for Woodland in February.

For now, she is guaranteed at least one season with the Gamecocks after graduating from Auburn and enrolling in Graduate courses at JSU. Courtney said the opportunity to play alongside her sister again made Jacksonville State and extremely attractive choice.

The two worked well together previously as Leah playing point guard was able to assist Courtney on her way to the top of the all-time state scoring list. But while Courtney sits at the top of that list, you don't have to go far to find her sister's name. Leah is second all-time with 4,561 points of her own.

Yes, after Courtney officially signs with Jax State this month, the Gamecocks will field the top two all-time scorers in Alabama high school history on its roster.

The Strain sisters join a team that went 14-18 and reached the Semifinals of the OVC Tournament this past season in Pietri's first year at the helm. An incredible feat considering the year prior the program won just a single game.

Jacksonville State returns the majority of this year's team next season and along with Leah, Courtney and the other new additions Pietri brings in, the team that was predicted to finish last in the Ohio Valley Conference in 2014 may just have a chance at winning it in 2015.

JSU Men's Tennis leading OVC

NASHVILLE, Tenn. – The Jacksonville State men's tennis team moved into a tie for first place in the Ohio Valley Conference standings with two matches left after handing Belmont its first conference loss on Sunday with a 4-2 win over the Bruins.

In the men's match, Jax State got off to a good start by winning the doubles point. It marked the fifth time that it has claimed the doubles point in conference play. JSU's top pairing of Pedro Wagner and Jaryd Reese edged Belmont's team of Mauricio Antun and Marko Lovrinovic, 8-6. JSU

cruised at No. 3 doubles as Jefferson Wendler-Filho and Felipe Wenzel blanked BU's Hans Nardelli and Martijn Verberne, 8-0.

The Gamecocks were dominant at the lower half of the line up as they clinched the match by winning at No. 4, 5 and 6. The win by Felipe Diaz at No. 6 was by default. Wendler-Filho dispatched Nardelli in straight sets, 6-3, 6-1. Mathias Chaim topped Henrik Claesson, 6-1, 6-3 at No. 5.

~ Sportswire

JACKSONVILLE STATE

Petrongolo powers Gamecocks past New Mexico

ALBUQUERQUE – Paschal Petrongolo went 5-for-5 and drove in a pair of runs to lead Jacksonville State to a 9-2 win over New Mexico in the final game of a three-game series on Sunday.

The Gamecocks improve to 19-12 on the season, while the Lobos fell to 22-11-1.

Adam Polk (3-1) allowed just two hits and had three strikeouts in 6 2/3 innings on the mound to earn the win, while Josh Walker gave up 10 hits in six innings to suffer the loss for New Mexico.

The Gamecocks took the lead after scoring four runs in the third inning after Gavin Golsan and Michael Bishop had back-to back hits before Griff Gordon loaded the bases after getting hit by a pitch.

Petrongolo drove in the first run of the day with a single to left field, while Stephen Bartlett extended his hitting streak to 13 games with a double to center field to drive in two more runs. Petrongolo later scored on a Lobos’ error as the Gamecocks built a 4-0 lead.

Jax State extended the lead to 5-0 in the fifth inning after Gordon scored on Petrongolo’s third hit of the day, before putting the game out of reach in the eighth inning after scoring three more runs.

Joe McGuire, Tyler Gamble and Golsan each had singles, while Eddie Mora-Loera drove in two runs with a single through the right side, and Michael Bishop scored on a sacrifice fly as the Gamecocks built an 8-0 lead.

JSU added an insurance run in the ninth inning on a RBI single by Bishop for a 9-0 lead, before the Lobos scored two runs in the bottom of the ninth for the final margin.

All nine Gamecocks in the starting lineup recorded a hit behind five from Petrongolo, three from Michael Bishop, while Golsan, Gamble, Mora-Loera and Gordon each had two hits to lead the Gamecocks’ 19-hit attack.



JSU Sportswire
Petrongolo (17) went 5-5 in Sunday’s 9-2 victory over New Mexico.

~ Sportswire

Grass and Gamecocks prepare for J-Day, 2014 season

Daniel Porter
Sports Editor

Coming of the most successful season in the program’s division I era, Jacksonville State football looks to only improve as a new season arrives.

First-year head coach John Grass was



JSU Sportswire
Coach John Grass prepares for his first season as a college head coach.

tabbed as the Gamecocks’ head man following the departure of Bill Clark to UAB. Grass served as offensive coordinator last year for a team that shattered the school records for most yards and points scored in a single season.

The Grass era will begin in East Lansing, MI as the Gamecocks take on the defending Rose Bowl and Big Ten champions Michigan State in Spartan Stadium. Last week the game was bumped up from Saturday to Friday night on August 29 setting the stage for an incredible atmosphere and game to kick off the 2014 season.

The scheduling change that follows how MSU has opened the past three seasons on Friday night rather than Saturday, benefits JSU as the Gamecocks will have an extra day to prepare for the second opponent before hitting the road for a second straight week when they renew a historic rivalry versus Chattanooga the following Saturday.

The Gamecocks will get a chance to catch their breath with a bye in week three before hosting West Alabama in another old rivalry rematch on September 20. The last time the two team met was during the 1992 season where JSU went on to claim the di-

vision II national championship.

Jax State will then enter conference play in the OVC where they will likely be around the top of preseason conference polls after Eastern Illinois and Tennessee State loses several key players from a year ago. JSU will hosts UT-Martin, Tennessee Tech, Austin Peay and Eastern Illinois while making road visits to Murray State, Tennessee State, Eastern Kentucky and Southeast Missouri State.

The 2014 squad will hope to make a return trip to the FCS playoffs after reaching the Quarterfinal round a year ago. The first look at that 2014 squad can come Saturday at Burgess-Snow Field at 6:00 for the annual J-Day Spring Game.

Coach Grass has decided to divide his teams with one having the first team offense and the second team defense and the other with first team defense and second team offense. A year ago, Freshman Eli Jenkins had a standout performance during the J-Day game and became the lead quarterback during the playoff stretch.

One player that won’t be on display will be Telvin Brown after an injury during last Saturday’s scrimmage has sidelined him for the remainder of the spring.

JSU Men’s Golf capture fifth consecutive Grub Mart Intercollegiate title

GLENCOE – Franco Grillo and the Jacksonville State men’s golf team ran away from the field in Tuesday’s final round of the Grub Mart Intercollegiate, with the Gamecocks winning their fifth-straight title in their home event and Grillo picking up his first career individual win.

In an event that was shortened to 36 holes after torrential rains on Sunday night and Monday morning, the Gamecocks made the most of their time on their home tract at Silver Lakes Golf Course on the Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail. They carded a 291 to start on Monday and then turned in a 289 on Tuesday to win the event by 14 shots. Its their fifth-straight Grub Mart title and their eighth in the past 11 years.

Grillo, a junior from Buenos Aires, Argentina, entered JSU’s final regular season event with a second- and a third-place finish in his career, and finally added his first medalist honor to his trophy case on Tuesday. After an opening round 68 left him one shot back of Chattanooga’s Zac Stolz with 18 holes to play, Grillo carded a three-under 69 on the par-72, 6,886-yard layout on Tuesday. His 36-hole 137 was one off the tournament’s 36-hole record but was one better than Stolz, who shot 71 on Tuesday to finish one stroke back.

Grillo’s 11 birdies in two rounds were two more than anyone else in the field, leading

the Gamecocks to a tournament-high 32 birdies.

Freshman Jamie Mist turned in his best career finish, as well, using an even-par 72 on Tuesday to cap a two-under 142 and tie for fifth. The Hayling Island, England, native played his final eight holes at one under to claim his first career top five finish in the 55-player field.

Junior Tomasz Anderson finished tied for 22nd after a final-round 76 gave him a 36-hole score of 151. Freshman Pablo Torres wrapped up the event with a Tuesday 76 and a total score of 154 to tie for 30th.

The Gamecocks also played a B Team in the event and tied OVC foe Morehead State for fourth. Junior Dylan Shephard led that group with an 11th-place

tie after a final-round 76 gave him a 146 for the tournament. Sophomore David Weeks’ even-par 72 on Tuesday tied him for 15th with a 149, while sophomore Zac Contris finished tied for 22nd after a final-round 80 gave him a 36-hole 151. Sophomore Bo Hayes shot 75 on Tuesday to tie for 37th, while freshman Thomas Lawton’s 80 tied him for 40th.

The Gamecocks now turn their attention to the OVC Tournament in two weeks. The 54-hole, three-day event will be held on the Fighting Joe at The Shoals in Muscle Shoals, Ala., from April 25-27. ~ Sportswire



JSU Sports Info
The Grub Mart win was the 8th in the past 11 years for JSU.