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 $5.9 billion Education Trust Fund (ETF) budget for the fiscal year of 2015 that will leave JSU scrambling to cover increased mentoring 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 forgo the raise in favor of adopting the PEEHIP 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, JSU and Auburn State. They will receive no additional funding to cover the increased 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 of Trustees will have to find other sources of income to avoid raising tuition.

See TUITION, page 2

First Mentoring Session presented by JSU Gospel Choir

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 awareness, acceptance, and treatment.

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

JSU’s Gospel Choir invited Emily Studdard, mother of American Idol star Ruben Studdard, to its first ever mentoring session.

Valiani 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 choral groups. Choir singer Rachel White said that the session was “created to encourage the youth towards excellence.”

Before introducing Studdard, Gospel Choir member Camilla 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 family.

The Chanticleer

See AUTISM SPEAKS, page 2

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

Danielle Moss and Samaiah 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 “standing 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 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

See STAND YOUR GROUND, page 2

Autism speaks to the women of Alpha Xi Delta

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 doubled since 2002. The financial cost to the patient, their family or circle of friends who have a family member on the Autism spectrum. With no research, awareness, acceptance, and treatment.

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See AUTISM SPEAKS, page 2
Tuition, from page 1

Of Trustees will have to consider raising tuition. That would break the pledge not to raise tuition that President 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 is not—yet. “We don’t have a budget yet. We won’t have a budget until the Governor signs the bill,” he said. Bentley has until the 13th to do so; if he chooses not to, the budget will bePocket vetoed. President Meehan may be hoping that is exactly what happens.

The budget adds up Governor Bentley’s signature. Last year, he and the Board of Trustees “will not increase any employee’s take-home pay compared to other employees,” he explained. 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 much lesser amount.

Some state legislators called on JSU and Athens State to pass the increase in the present year. However, certain Representatives will pass both bills regardless of what the Governor decides. The present ETF budget this passed that the House of Representatives Thursday also violates the state spending cap, although by a much lesser amount.

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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. I heard 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 for $1.99, I couldn't wait to try them.

My first effort today was a fangled breakfast item was a bust. I drove through Jacksonville's Taco Bell drive-thru and asked for the Waffle Taco, a delicious-looking love triangle of breakfast foods. I pulled up to the window, I was told that because they're not fresh they'd run out of waffles earlier that morning, Taco Bell would be making a fresh one just for me. Awesome, I thought, 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 supposed breakfast tacos had suspiciously burrito-shaped. I was already running late, though, so I just drove to work. There I discovered what in the world was definitely not a fresh waffle. It was a common breakfast burrito.

Instead of taking this as a sign that the Waffle Taco and my waffling suspicions were on to something, I gave it another 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 carrying 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 box and met my eyes on a tinfoil coffee. Inside the box, the object of my anticipatory de- sire glumly sat. Its guts were splashed out like the subject of a biology class dissection. It was a travesty, a breakfast food-Frankenstein: a lopsided sausage patty, “eggs” and “cheese” folded into a greasy, too-thin-waffled shell.

I've been duped—what in the bag was definitely not a fresh waffle. It was a common breakfast burrito instead. Instead of taking this as a sign that the Waffle Taco and my waffling suspicions were on to something, I gave it another 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 carrying 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 box and met my eyes on a tinfoil coffee. Inside the box, the object of my anticipatory desire glumly sat. Its guts were splashed out like the subject of a biology class dissection. It was a travesty, a breakfast food-Frankenstein: a lopsided sausage patty, “eggs” and “cheese” folded into a greasy, too-thin-waffled shell.

I took my first bite without the syrup that Taco Bell offers with its breakfast fast 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 Salvador Dali's amorphous mass resembles the dish it was inspired by. It's like if Salvador Dali had painted melting waffles instead of clocks; the waffle shell was more tasteless. I suppose it was thoughtfully, like tofu, the Waffle Taco was inspired by. It's like if Salvador Dali had painted melting waffles instead of clocks; the waffle shell was more tasteless. I suppose it was inspired by. It's like if Salvador Dali had painted melting waffles instead of clocks; the waffle shell was more tasteless. I suppose it was inspired by. It's like if Salvador Dali had painted melting waffles instead of clocks; the waffle shell was more tasteless. I suppose it was...

Waffle Taco was so bad, my dad about how someone could survive off of Taco Bell's dollar menu 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 hating the driver Taco Bell, consider getting a salad instead. By all means, stay away from the gold-for-saken Waffle Taco.

I just drove to work. I was already runny burrito-shaped. Taco felt suspiciously fresh in my bag, the supposed breakfast tacos were wondering. It was going to be a good morning. If I smelled waffles, you can help yourself to the syrup or salsa.

The “cheese” melted into my Waffle Taco.

The “cheese” melted into my Waffle Taco.

For almost nothing. Someone could survive off of Taco Bell’s dollar menu 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 hating the driver Taco Bell, consider getting a salad instead. By all means, stay away from the gold-for-saken Waffle Taco.

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 are dying to sleep, and at night you refuse to sleep.

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

In the morning you are dying to sleep, and at night you refuse to sleep.

I have ADHD. It’s like ADD, only the picture quality is worse.
Daughter of survivor to speak at Holocaust Remembrance

Holocaust survivor Ellie Wiesel said, “I decided to devote my life to telling the story because I felt that hav- ing survived I owe one thing to the dead. And any- one who does not remember betrays them again.”

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

Carrying a torch of remem- brance, she is the daughter of a Holocaust survivor and will be the featured speaker for Jacksonville State Uni- versity’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 World War II. However, back in France, his remaining family members were captured by Nazi forces and later went into hiding after being re- leased.

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 lo- cate his immediate family who were 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 Birming- ham, Lewis was not taught to French and feels that it was his father’s way of ascen- ding his family to being American. When Blum fi- nally began talking about his experiences during World War II, Lewis was interested to learn of the family history of which he knew so very little.

Lewis explains that her father was rather surprised to find that people were in- terested in his story and he began to publicly 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 remaining 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 hap- py endings and things that weren’t all bad...I think people need to hear stories of success sto- ries through determination...I think my core purpose in doing this is to keep the mem- ory of the millions of Jews who were affected by the Holocaust alive,” states Lewis. “The reason I keep doing this, it is not only sharing my story, but 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 responsi- bility to carry on the memori- es, Lewis states, “The reason I keep doing this, it is not only sharing my story, but it is letting people know that there are many, many sto- ries out there. If we don’t continue asking and getting them out, 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 Remem- brance Committee, states, “The annual JSU Holocaust Remembrance is an oppor- tunity 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 connec- tion to the past. The United States State Memo- rial Museum’s theme for the 2014 Days of Remembrance is ‘Confronting the Holo- caust: American Responses.’ Ms. Wiesics story about her father should dovetail nicely with this year’s theme.”

The JSU Holocaust Re- membrance 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 surround- ing community.

In addition to Kim Stev- ens, the JSU Holocaust Re- membrance Committee is comprised of Dr. Joe Delap, Ms. Bethany Latham, Dr. Russ Lemmon, 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 depart- ment 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 min- utes prior to the event, there will be a screening of a JSU documentary film featur- ing Holocaust survivor Max Steinmetz.

The JSU annual Holocaust Remembrance will begin 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 Remem- brance website which can be used for more information, questions, or comments http://www.jsu.edu/holo- caust/contact.html.

-JSU Newsroom

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 B'Nai Mee- Palouza at the JSU Little River Canyon Center beginning at 10:30 a.m. Free. Pre-registration for some events is en- couraged.

April 16, 2014
The Gospel Choir Concert begins at 6 p.m. in the Lione Coliseum 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 Con- cert 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 staging at 10 a.m. Free event.

Art & Entertainment
It was going to be the mother of all finales. Goodbye is one the hardest things to write, but in the end, wondering what that adorable brunette was up to, I left the imprint of a little yellow umbrealla on my heart.

I spent this entire se- mester writing about the March 31: speculating with the final ending, wondering what that adorable brunette was up to, and, while wonder- ing about ways the show could break my umbrel- la-stamped heart into pieces...

And, in the end, it did hurt. But not in the way I thought it would.

Let’s think about what makes this show so im- portant and far-reaching. Ted’s journey connects with so many people because he emphasizes how the small moments in life are what lead to the big moments. The small moments hold no signifi- cance than the rest, because as long as there will always be love, there will always be a way to make it work.

But if we take a look at the finale, it’s as if Ted and the writers decided that didn’t matter any- more. We spent a whole season leading to this one last wedding, and the whol- e episode stretched 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.

Let’s think about what this one idea of this week- end lasting a whole sea- son brings forth. Why Ted? Why the finale? Why JSU? What if a different band, different album had been picked...?

The plot involved an older man’s struggle to find the right woman in his youth. The reader is faced with a choice of two women, and in the end, he chooses the one that is left behind.

We were able to see Marshall grieving over the sea- son. We were able to see Ted and Robin. It’s obvious that’s what Craig Thomas and Carter Bays always wanted.

I will admit I’m okay with the ending. I’m not sorry that Ted and Robin. It’s obvious that’s what Craig Thomas and Carter Bays always wanted.

The album review?

I spent this entire sea- son wondering what was going to be the big moments. The American actor Martin Marsden is said to have once quipped that his favorite song is “like dancing about architecture.” I’m in agree- ment with him. The British trio Band of Skulls just re- leased their third album. The track number two, “Himalayan,” is proba- bly the best song on the album. It differs from most of the other albums that Band of Skulls has put out in a way that is definitely still heavy rock, but instead of being heavy and deep and almost slighly, it’s light and a little funky. It also fea- tures the three members of the band harmoniz- ing really beautifully.

If you’re looking for something that statifies the blues rock of the 1960s and ’70s but with a modern twist, check out Band of Skulls new album, “Himalayan.”
JSU budget falls short

Late in fall of 2013, President Derek Dooley and the Board of Trustees approved the proposed 2014-15 budget for JSU. The board approved the budget with a $1.5 million reduction in the amount of revenue the university would need to operate.

The budget is the result of the Board of Trustees approval of the university’s financial plan for fiscal year 2014-15. The budget includes a reduction of $1.5 million from the original budget of $251.5 million.

The reduction in revenue is due to a decrease in state funding, which is expected to decrease by $3 million from the previous year. The university is also facing a decrease in the number of students enrolling, which is expected to decrease by 500 from the previous year.

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OVC Softball standings:


OVC Baseball standings:


NASHVILLE, Tenn. - The Jacksonville State Mountain Tiger tennis team is looking for a first place finish in this year's Ohio Valley Conference standings with two matches left after handing Belmont its first conference loss Sunday with a 6-2 win over the Bruins.

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

In the women's match, JSU State jumped up to an early lead. Odom doubled in center field also scoring Oliver and Borders. After scoring the first point of the game, Jackson State's Amanda Maldonado led the team with two hits while Stephanie Lewis, Cadil Oliver and Sara Borders all singled. Murray State led Jax State with two hits in the sixth inning with hitting up Malory Young scoring and Erica Howard hitting a fly out to center.

In the first loss, Jackson State's Amanda Maldonado led the team with two hits while Stephanie Lewis, Cadil Oliver and Sara Borders all singled. Murray State led Jax State with two hits in the sixth inning with hitting up Malory Young scoring and Erica Howard hitting a fly out to center.

In the second and last game on Sunday, Murray State jumped up to an early lead. Odom doubled in center field also scoring Oliver and Borders. After scoring the first point of the game, Jackson State's Amanda Maldonado led the team with two hits while Stephanie Lewis, Cadil Oliver and Sara Borders all singled. Murray State led Jax State with two hits in the sixth inning with hitting up Malory Young scoring and Erica Howard hitting a fly out to center.

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Petrongolo powers Gamecocks past New Mexico

ALBUQUERQUE – Paschal Petrongolo swung for a pair of runs in the third inning to help lead Jacksonville State to a 9-2 victory over New Mexico in the final game of a three-game series on Sunday.

The Gamecocks improved to 13-12 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 the final inning to suffer the loss for New Mexico.

The Gamecocks took the lead after scoring four runs in the third inning after Aaron Taylor, Steven Bartlett and Dylan Shephard loaded the bases after hitting a three-run home run.

Petrongolo drove in the first run of the game in the first inning after a sacrifice fly by Taylor, while Stephen Bartlett extended his hitting streak to 13 games with a single to left field, while Golsan had back-to-back hits before Griff Gordon scored on a sacrifice fly as the Gamecocks built an 8-0 lead.

JSU added an insurance run in the fifth inning after Gordon scored on a sacrifice fly by Petrongolo, three from Michael Bishop, while Golsan, Gamble, Mora-Lorea and Gordon each had two hits to lead the Gamecocks' 19-0 victory.

JSU Sportswire

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

Grass and Gamecocks prepare for J-Day, 2014 season

Grass and Gamecocks prepare for J-Day, 2014 season

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

Glencoe – Franco Grillo and the Jacksonville State men’s golf team wrapped up the season in the final round of the Grub Mart Intercollegiate with a second-place finish, securing their fifth-straight 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 first-team national championship but shattered the school records for most yards and points scored in a single season.

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

JSU Sportswire

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

The 2014 squad will hope to make a return trip to the NCAA championship but will be Telvin Brown after an injury during last Saturday’s scrimmage will sidelined him for the remainder of the spring.

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 division I national championship.

Jax State will then enter conference play in the OVC where they will likely be around the top of the preseason conference polls after Eastern Illinois and Tennessee State loses several key players from a year ago. JSU will host 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 Burgos-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 will sidelined him for the remainder of the spring.