

# The Chanticleer

WEATHER: High 34, Low 13, Partly Cloudy

FORECAST PG. 3



## One and done

Steve Latham/JSU

Head coach Bill Clark signed a coaching contract with UAB on Tuesday after a single season at JSU, during which he and the Gamecocks set 49 school records, 13 Ohio Valley Conference records and three NCAA records on the deepest Division I playoff run in school history.

After a determined push for the playoffs, Coach Clark accepts head coaching position at UAB

**Daniel Porter**  
Sports Editor

Just 13 months after hiring alumnus Bill Clark to the position, Jacksonville State University again found itself on the search for a head football coach. Fortunately, the job wasn't open long.

Former coach Bill Clark was hired as the new head coach at UAB on Tuesday afternoon. Clark replaces Garrick McGee, who left to take a job on Bobby Petrino's new Louisville staff. McGee was 5-19 in his two seasons in Birmingham.

Clark assumed his role as the Gamecocks' head coach on December 18, 2012. Over the next year, Clark re-energized a once lively fan

See **COACH**, page 2

## Student Senate to vote on continuation of Homecoming Pageant tradition

**Alex McFry**  
Staff Writer

While most of the student body at Jacksonville State is settling back into their daily routines, members of the Student Senate are preparing to make a decision regarding one of the most sentimental traditions on campus: Homecoming elections.

Since the beginning of last semester, members of the Student Senate have been contemplating how to ensure that students can get the most out of the experience that is Homecoming week. Surprisingly, this could mean the end of the Homecoming pageant.

Each fall, Homecoming week symbolizes the "official" start of a new academic year. New

faces finally start to get a little more familiar, freshmen start to break out of their shells, and everyone begins to enjoy the scenery that fall brings. Flyers for door decorating competitions, dress-up days, and other activities meant to encourage every student to get into the spirit of JSU can be seen posted all over campus. It is the banners, though, that really mean that Homecoming is near. When the banners go up, things are really getting good.

The race for Homecoming King and Queen has been in place for as long as most people at Jacksonville State can remember. Propaganda trying to persuade passerby to vote one way

See **HOMECOMING**, page 2

## Shed winter weight in Scale Back Alabama with the Wellness Center

**Alexandra Black**  
Staff Writer

*This is the first in a series of stories chronicling the journey of some of our fellow students participating in an exciting weight loss challenge.*

Over the next ten weeks, a transformation will be taking place on the campus of JSU. For the seventh year in a row, our students are joining in the "Scale Back Alabama" weight loss challenge. Teams of four can register to participate and will have the chance to win money and other prizes for meeting certain

See **SCALE BACK**, page 2



## JSU awarded \$12 million grant for application to I3

Photo credit: JSU

**Ashley Colvin**  
Staff Writer

Jacksonville State University is to receive \$12 million in grant money thanks to Dr. Alicia Simmons and her knowledge of effective teaching.

The University launched "The Red Balloon" project in 2010. About 30 discussion groups of students and teachers were asked to

answer questions on improving the learning experience in their classrooms.

The responses were then evaluated with the hope of finding the key to instilling a passion for learning into students. Using that data, JSU faculty and staff have been working toward becoming a "learning centered university."

During the same time frame, Piedmont City school system was advancing technology in its classrooms as well, with initiatives like

providing Apple products to students. This led to a partnership with the University. News of the partnership spread throughout the community and before long, numerous school systems wanted to get involved.

Soon, Dr. Simmons and her team realized that professional training for teachers should

See **GRANT**, page 2

One Large one topping pizza **\$6.99** (256)-435-7272  
702 S Pelham Rd



Order online @ [www.papajohns.com](http://www.papajohns.com)  
Promo Code JSU699



Delivery, Dine in, or Carryout

Delivery Charges may apply. Customer pays all applicable sales taxes





**COACH, from page 1**

fan base that became dull after repeated seasons of just over .500 records under the previous coach. Following his hire, Clark reeled in an impressive recruiting class, despite the late start his staff got off to.

Clark took over a squad that went 6-5 the previous season and led the Gamecocks to a record-setting 11-4 season including a trip to the NCAA Quarterfinals; the deepest Division I playoff run in school history. In his lone season at his alma mater, Clark's team set 49 school records, 13 Ohio Valley Conference records and three NCAA records.

His success didn't go unnoticed. When the UAB job became available, Clark was targeted as a top candidate. Last Wednesday, UAB's Director of Athletics, Brian Mackin, contacted JSU about speaking with Clark. On Friday morning, Clark met with UAB officials.

They reportedly also interviewed Cincinnati offensive coordinator Eddie Gran, former Wake Forest coach Jim Grobe and Atlanta Falcons' assistant coach Chris Scelfo. There was also interest in Bethune-Cookman's Brian Jenkins and South Alabama's Joey Jones.

Clark met with officials for several hours again Monday working out a contract, and then returned on Tuesday to finalize the deal. The news broke that he had signed his contract around 4:00 Tuesday afternoon, shortly after JSU Athletic Director, Warren Koegel, received a call from Clark saying he was resigning from JSU.



Photo credit: JSU Athletics

Former offensive coordinator John Grass was named head coach after Clark's departure.

Clark did return to campus Tuesday night and addressed the players and the news in a private meeting. UAB introduced him as the head coach of Blazer football during a press conference Wednesday afternoon.

Clark's base salary was just under \$175,000, while McGee was making over \$500,000. While Jax State could compete with the FBS university in stadium and fan support, JSU couldn't touch what UAB had to offer financially. UAB will pay Clark's \$400,000 buyout which will either go toward paying off previous bills, or be used to give JSU's next coaching staff higher salaries.

Late Tuesday night Jacksonville State announced the promotion of offensive coordinator John Grass to become the fourteenth head coach of the Gamecock football program.

**SCALE BACK, from page 1**

weight loss goals.

From now until April 11, between 80 and 100 students will weigh in weekly at the JSU Wellness Center, charting both their individual and team progress toward the goal of weight loss. The winners will be announced April 25 during a live webcast.

Gina Mabrey, Physical Education and Recreation Instructor and Interim Department Head, is the JSU liaison for the state program. She says the program is a great way for students to shed some of those extra holiday pounds while also developing a healthier lifestyle.

The program has a 20 to 30 percent attrition rate, which is typical of most weight loss programs. Mabrey says JSU students who participate in the challenge have historically done well, because they've encouraged one another with positive peer pressure.

JSU student Diamond Ford is excited about the program. While some participants set specific weight loss goals, she is simply looking for a new way to stay in shape. "After being in class all day, it's hard to force myself to work out, especially when I just want to go home and nap," says Ford.



Early-morning classes, combined with late-night study sessions and the occasional road trip to Taco Bell can make it more difficult for college students to stick with a healthy daily routine. The program teaches students how to make small, reasonable, lifestyle changes to increase their chances of achieving their weight loss goals.

In addition to the obvious benefits of wearing a smaller size pair of jeans, participants are also entered in a random drawing for prizes. Teams in which every member loses at least 10 pounds will be eligible for the grand prize of \$1,000 per member, or \$4,000 per team. The second place team earns \$500 per member, or \$2,000 for the team, and the third place team receives \$250 per member, or \$1,000 for the team.

Each participant who loses 10 pounds will also be eligible for a random drawing of \$100 each, regardless of their team's overall results. Even participants that lose just one pound have a chance to win a \$50 cash prize.

Both Mabrey and Ford think the prizes will help keep students motivated. To find out how you can take part in the "Scale Back Alabama" challenge, contact Gina Mabrey at 256-782-5059 or by email at gmabrey@jsu.edu.

**HOMECOMING, from page 1**

Traditionally, candidates for King and Queen get sponsored through an organization of their choosing for a small fee. Then, the JSU Homecoming Pageant is held to determine the top ten candidates. From there, students select the top five candidates from a voting process, and then finally the King and Queen are selected through the same means. This process, many people have noticed, can take quite a lot of time and effort for everyone involved. Several other public universities across the nation have done away with a Homecoming pageant, simply because it only elongates the process.

"We started planning the pageant last year when I took office in mid-April," says Brett Johnson, the vice president of the Student Senate. "That time spent on the Homecoming pageant could be focused on the rest of the week's activities. It could

also keep the students from getting even more bogged down from the election scene."

Kalyn Carbal, the head of the Homecoming committee, stated, "I thought the pageant wasn't all that necessary. Why have judges when the students should be the ones picking their King and Queen? Some people say that the judges limited the 'popularity vote', but we're in college. Popularity isn't necessarily a pretty face. In college, popularity is getting involved, standing up, and being the voice of the people."

"The bill also limits the number of participants that organizations could sponsor from four to two, reducing the need for the judges in general. On several occasions, the pageant portion of the campaign is what held people back from running," Carbal said in regards to the upcoming bill.

The new bill is tentatively set to be voted on by the JSU Student Senate during their meeting on Monday, February 3rd.

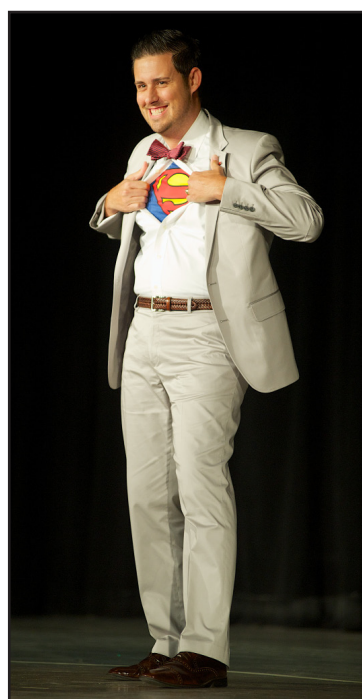


Photo credit: JSU Athletics

Last year's Homecoming Pageant King and Queen, Kenneth Smith, Jr. and Kayla Haynes. Some members of the Student Senate feel the pageant is an unnecessary ordeal, and that the student body should choose the King and Queen.

**GRANT, from page 1**

school systems wanted to get involved.

Soon, Dr. Simmons and her team realized that professional training for teachers should be similar, whether elementary education or secondary education. From this theory CORE, or Collaborative Regional Education, was created. CORE has now been in place for 3 years and represents 72,600 students.

The CORE model was submitted to Investing in Innovations (I3). I3, a U.S. Department of Education

program, is determined to help students meet the evolving demands of the everyday working environment.

After reviewing the programs submitted, the Department of Education announced Jacksonville State's model was among the 25 highest rated applicants, and will receive \$12 million in grant money this year.

Dr. Simmons is excited about the work she does at JSU. She says she can't help but be passionate about her job because she knows she is making a positive change in the community that she loves.

**CORE concentration**

Dr. Alicia Simmons is responsible for the development of the CORE model, which contains six areas of concentration:

- Partnership building, or working with others for a more positive end result.
- Technology that "drives today's economy."
- Project-based learning, where interaction is important and getting the students involved can help them grasp the information.
- Classroom support and the ability to share electronic objects, lessons, and media between instructors.
- Change management, or "identification of stress areas within a school system."
- Dual enrollment, which offers high school students the ability to obtain college credits before graduating high school.
- Participation of students as well as staff in trying to be a learning-centered university.

Got a news tip for us? Drop us a line!  
chantynewstips@gmail.com

**The Chanticleer Staff**

**Kara Coleman**  
Editor-in-Chief



**Zach Tyler**  
Associate Editor



**Christiana Tyler**  
A&E Editor



**Daniel Porter**  
Sports Editor





# A look at the new traditional student

**Ashley Ossenfort**  
Staff Writer

Society has its idea of the traditional college student: mom and dad spend their whole lives pinching pennies to save for for their child's college education, that child becomes a student and makes his or her work earning a college degree, and then that student graduates and becomes a contributing, income-earning member of society. National and regional trends show that this "traditional" student is not so realistic.

Junior Billy Dunn began his college education nearly twelve years ago. Dunn graduated high school in 2003 and began taking classes at Gadsden State Community College. After quitting school to earn a high income and recovering from a surgery, Dunn began his education at JSU several years after graduating high school. Dunn is now in his junior year at JSU and expects to graduate in the summer of 2015.

Taking more than the traditional four years to earn a college degree is becoming more and more common. Recent graduation reports from Jacksonville State University show that less than ten percent of full-time, first-time freshman graduate in four years or less.

Extra time spent in school can be detrimental to a student in terms of years of career experience and salary lost, as well as adding to a student's overall financial debt.

Tuition has increased every year at JSU for the last six years. In 2007, students were charged \$5,070 per semester for 15 credit hours. In 2013, the tuition had climbed to \$7,950 per semester for 15 credit hours.

"I think that if it's taking [students] longer than [four years to graduate], that's usually indicative that there's some sort of struggle interfering with their ability to graduate on time and that could be a myriad of things," said Dr. Betsy Gullede, Director of the BSN Program at the College of Nursing. "It does seem that there's a correlation between students that do have to request alternate 're-tracking'

and taking a little bit longer to finish the program and their ability to successfully complete the program."

Finding a student who spends his or her time earning a college degree and focusing only on the completion of that degree is rare.

"I know that when we designed our degree programs, all of them are designed to show that they may be completed in four academic years," said Dr. Jordan Barkley, the Associate Dean at the College of Education and Professional Studies. "However, I've been at JSU long enough to know that most students don't take 16 to 18 hours every fall and every spring."

Students at JSU are required to complete between 120 and 129 credit hours in order to earn a bachelor degree.

If a student is to complete his or her degree in eight semesters, that student would need to take between 15 to 17 credit hours per semester.

A survey of JSU Communication students in level 300 classes or above showed that less than 36 percent of students take between 15 to 17 credit hours every semester.

"We have reports that show that the number of credit hours that each student takes each term decreases each year the longer they've been here," said the Executive Director of Planning and Research at JSU, Dr. Alicia Simmons, "You can imagine that life is happening."

According to the survey, 60 percent of JSU Communications students work in addition to going to school with 90 percent of working students working fifteen hours or more every week.

The burden of paying for a college education has shifted from the parents and the state with students now paying for the a large portion of their education.

For the 2012-2013 school year, 85.7 percent of students who applied for financial aid qualified. Out of those students 52.1 percent qualified for need-based financial aid such as the federal Pell Grant.

"I think that since I was an undergrad, student are relying more on financial aid now than 10, 15, 20 years ago. There are limits in terms of how many classes a student can take, how many they have to take and how much you can take and then you've exhausted your financial aid for the year. So that's certainly a roadblock, if a student is relying solely on financial aid. There's not enough money to pay for everything they need," said Barkley

Two years ago, Federal Pell grants were allotted to fund education for students whose family earned a combined family income of 32,000 dollars or less.

For the 2013-2014 school year, Pell Grants will only be awarded to students whose combined family income is 23,000 dollars or less.

"Changing majors really held me back," said Senior Jason Whitfield. "I just couldn't continue to do something that I hated. It was something I could not see myself doing for the next ten years."

Out of the Communications students surveyed, 66 percent stated that they had changed majors before begging communications courses.

"I waited until about three years into technology before I decided to change [majors] and, of course, that added on another three [to four] years," said Whitfield.

Many faculty and administrators say that planning is the best way for a student to improve his or chances on completing a college degree in four years and graduating.

"I never trusted anyone to be in charge of how quickly I would be out of school," said Barkley. "My advice to students would be is [to] get your degree program and you map it out... One of my faculty members has more than 288 advisees. She does a fantastic job. She has folder for every one of them, but she can't know a student's program as intimately as they can. I just tell students to make it your business. It is your job to complete this program in however long."

# Campus crime report

01/20/2014  
Violation of Student Code of Conduct  
Crow Hall

01/17/2014  
Information Report  
Crow Hall

01/17/2014  
Harassing Communications  
Wallace Hall

01/16/2014  
Arrest- Possession of Marijuana  
Burke Avenue

01/16/2014  
Medical Emergency  
Sparkman Hall

01/16/2014  
Violation of Student Code of Conduct  
Fitzpatrick Hall

01/16/2014  
Information Report  
Verizon Wireless

01/15/2014  
Automobile Accident  
Stone Center Parking Lot

01/14/2014  
Criminal Trespass  
Stadium Tower

## Upcoming SGA events:

**January 27 - 31  
Voter  
Registration  
Drive  
TMB Auditorium  
6:00 PM-7:00 PM**

**January 27th  
Senate Meeting  
TMB Auditorium  
6:00 PM-7:00 PM**

**January 28  
Student Activities  
Council  
TMB Auditorium  
6:00 PM-7:00 PM**

**February 3rd  
Traffic Court  
TMB Auditorium  
4:00 PM**

**February 3rd  
Senate Meeting  
TMB Auditorium  
6:00 PM-7:00 PM**

**February 4th  
Organizational  
Council Meeting  
TMB Auditorium  
6:00 PM- 7:00 PM**

# Chicken Scratch

**Short people maintain a great perspective on life because we're always looking up.**

*Lazy rule: If you can't reach it, you don't need it.*

**I'm jealous of my parents. I'll never have kids as cool as theirs.**

*If college has taught me anything, it's how to be a successful procrastinator and how to steal a parking spot.*

**This weather though!!!!!!!**

*When I bite into a York peppermint patty, I get the sensation of chocolate covered toothpaste.*

**ALL THE THINGS!!!! #thestruggle**



# 7-day weather forecast

<b>TODAY</b>	<b>FRIDAY</b>	<b>SATURDAY</b>	<b>SUNDAY</b>	<b>MONDAY</b>	<b>TUESDAY</b>	<b>WEDNESDAY</b>
Partly cloudy	Clear	Clear	Clear	Partly cloudy	Clear	Mostly cloudy
<b>High: 34</b>	<b>High: 35</b>	<b>High: 48</b>	<b>High: 52</b>	<b>High: 44</b>	<b>High: 35</b>	<b>High: 40</b>
<b>Low: 13</b>	<b>Low: 21</b>	<b>Low: 25</b>	<b>Low: 29</b>	<b>Low: 17</b>	<b>Low: 19</b>	<b>Low: 24</b>



# Arts & Entertainment

## Jacksonville Opera Theatre to perform 'The Frog Prince' with music composed by JSU professor

Catherine Foote  
Staff Writer

On January 25th and 31st, Jacksonville Opera Theatre (JOT), will be performing "The Frog Prince" by Melanie Martin Long and composed by Dr. James Woodward.

According to JOT's website it is "an adapted version of the classic Grimm Brothers fairy tale." The January 25th show will be held in Wallace Hall in Gadsden at 3:00 p.m., and the January 31st show will be held in Oxford's Performing Arts Center at 7:00 p.m.

Originally slated to be performed in November of 2013, the show, putting a Jacksonville State University professor in the limelight, will no doubt be worth the wait.

According to Ellen Abney, an actress in the show, "The Frog Prince is about a handsome prince, who is a little too self-absorbed, acts cruelly to the wrong

person," and must find a way to handle the consequences of his actions after "being cursed to live as a frog."

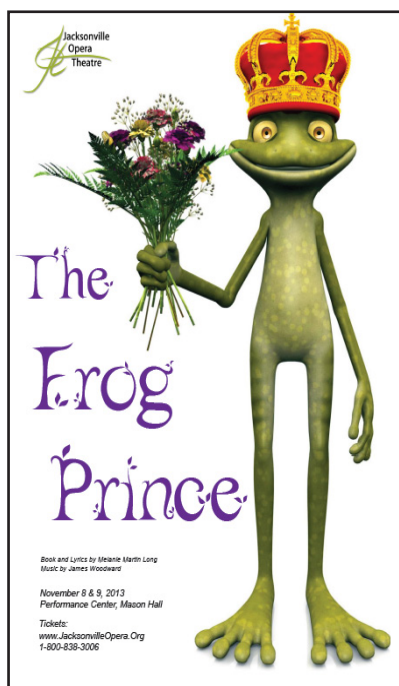
This seems to be a show for all ages, as Abney says the "audience will learn lessons about love, friendship, family, and selflessness" as the performance unfolds.

Abney will be portraying Princess Augusta, the older sister of one of the protagonists, Princess Alaina, as well as the twin sister of the story's antagonist, Antoinette.

Debra Mantua, who will be portraying Princess Alaina, says that "the audience should expect a good time, lots of laughs" and great songs throughout the show.

"Overall," Mantua says, "it's a fun show...that everyone will enjoy."

Dr. James Woodward, the composer of "The Frog Prince," is a faculty member here at Jacksonville State. He is an instructor



JOT/Special to The Chanticleer

in the David L. Walters Department of Music, where he teaches classes such as Music Theory, Composition, and Aural Skills.

According to Abney, "this will be the first time this version [of

the Frog Prince] has ever been fully performed."

Abney also adds that Dr. Woodward's melodies "are like those from your favorite musicals," and the audience will be humming or singing long after the show is over.

Ticket prices for "The Frog Prince" are \$6 for children and students (with student ID), and \$10 for adults. More information about the show is available on JOT's website: [www.jacksonvilleopera.org](http://www.jacksonvilleopera.org)

To purchase tickets for the January 25th show in Gadsden, the number for Wallace Hall's box office is 256-543-ARTS or may be purchased online at [www.wallacehall.org](http://www.wallacehall.org)

Tickets for the January 31st show, at the Performing Arts Center in Oxford, may be purchased online at [www.oxfordpac.org](http://www.oxfordpac.org)

Tickets for the show may also be purchased at the door of each respective theatre.

Alonso has performed over 25 operatic leading roles, more than 15 operetta leading roles, eight leading roles in zarzuelas and has starred in two musical comedies.



Virginia Alonso/Special to The Chanticleer

## Renowned singer to perform at JSU

Virginia Alonso is well known around the world for her musical talent. She will be performing at JSU in the Mason Hall Performance Center on Saturday, January 25, 2014 at 7:30 p.m. Admission is free.

She was born in Havana, Cuba and attended Florida State University, Florida International University and Nova Southeastern University. Ms Alonso was discovered by Luciano Pavarotti and made her debut with him singing La Boheme in New Orleans. She later moved to Europe where she lived and sang in Vienna, Germany and Switzerland. She filmed Hommage to Seville with Placido Domingo in Spain under the direction of James Levine and Jean Pierre Ponnelle, which won the Emmy Award for the Best Classical Music Program. Subsequently, Ms Alonso and Mr. Domingo sang together in concerts in Vienna and in the United States. She performed in venues such as the Kennedy Center and the Metropolitan Opera.

She has sung over 25 operatic leading roles, more than 15 operetta leading roles, eight leading roles in zarzuelas and has starred in two musical comedies. Ms Alonso sang the leading role in the world premiere of Der Alchemist in Switzerland to world-wide acclaim. Two operettas have been written for the artist.

Virginia Alonso was an adjunct faculty member at Miami Dade Community College where she taught Applied Voice Appreciation. For nine years she worked as administrator and radio hostess for Radio Marti in Washington, D.C., where she also served as Director of the Music Department. For four years she was also Director of the Vocal Department at Dance, School of the Arts in Woodbridge, Va. Until 2003, Virginia Alonso was an adjunct faculty member at Florida International University. She has maintained her own private voice studio since 1994. Virginia Alonso is currently working on her DMA at the University of Miami.

Virginia Alonso has won numerous awards, contests and scholarships. To learn more about her achievements visit [www.virginia-alonso.com](http://www.virginia-alonso.com).

- JSU Newswire

## New app designed to help students with homework

Slader, a company by students for students, just launched their new free mobile app to help high school and college students solve their homework problems. Slader's app is available on the App Store and also the Slader website: [www.slader.com/app](http://www.slader.com/app). Thousands of students who have downloaded the new mobile app are extremely positive in their reviews.

For example, a Slader user who goes by Imtoolazytodohomework said in their review of Slader on the Apple Store: "I first found their website because I needed help with math homework. When I found it, I thought it was a lifesaver and now there is an app for it! Great quality and very helpful. You must download this!"

Slader is the online platform and network for homework help for students by students, and to date has helped over 5 million high school and early college students in more than 200 countries. Slader believes in empowering students to take charge of their own educational experience and so far has given students the insights to solve more than two million problems from 90 percent of the top high school textbooks.

Slader gives students free step-by-step explanations to homework problems and helps them to connect with other students around the world to figure out these problems. Unlike any other homework help site, all of the homework answers on Slader are provided by students themselves and don't require students to solve problems not related to homework assignments. On both Slader's site and mobile app, students can browse textbooks to find those assigned to classes

they are taking; view solutions to problems in their books; comment on solutions to provide explanation to other students; and rate solutions based on their accuracy. Slader also has a built-in reward system where students can make money for contributing their input to the homework problems on the site.

Slader's new mobile app includes several features that help students complete their homework, connect directly with other students to solve problems and make money - all from their smartphones.

- Make money on Slader: Students can earn Slader "Gold," a virtual currency that students offer to peers as a reward for solving specific homework problems and can be exchanged for real currency.

- Solve real homework problems: Through the mobile app, if a student wants a homework problem solved, they can offer Gold, take a picture of their problem and post it to Slader for another student to solve. Students can also take a picture of the homework answer they've solved, upload it to Slader.com and they're then rewarded with Gold.

- Interact directly with peers: Regardless of geographic location, students can browse through textbooks and exchange explanations and answers with each other.

Slader's new app functionality was built by a student app developer, Sam Giddins, while he was a senior at Scarsdale Senior High School in Scarsdale, NY. Giddins was searching for an internship when he realized that Slader, a website he and his peers used prolifically, was also based in New York City. Through

out the development process, Giddins guided direction of app development towards the mindset of a high schoolers and how the student demographic wants to interact with Slader.

Slader's co-founders, Kyle Gerrity and Scott Kolb, met while they were in high school and came up with the idea for founding Slader as a result of their own experiences struggling with homework.

"Homework is too often used as a take-home test where students find themselves struggling in isolation. Slader breaks down that barrier and allows students to leverage their peers for help and be members of an academic community," said Kyle Gerrity, co-founder of Slader.

"With the right tools and positive reinforcement, most students welcome the opportunity to master concepts," said Scott Kolb, co-founder of Slader. "We designed our mobile app to help students learn and succeed quickly and easily. After they download the app, all students have to do is turn to their phone to access the same rich information that's available on the web. Slader is a natural extension of the social environment that students are already interacting with via web and mobile."

The company's mission is to help students learn, connect and succeed by providing an online platform and student network for homework collaboration. Unlike other academic platforms, Slader offers content that is entirely user-generated, free and built for the social environment that students already rely on to connect with each other.

- via Uwire



## Binge watching: its own kind of high

Julia Bianco  
via *Uwire*

Let's talk about the horribly stigmatized, yet all too familiar, practice of binge watching. Just the mention of the phrase calls up images of crazed college students sitting in their rooms, un-showered and over-caffeinated, glued to their computer screens at four in the morning, compulsively clicking onto the next episode of *Breaking Bad*. But what is binge watching, really, and why do we do it? And is it really as bad as everyone says?

To trace back the history of the term binge watching, we have to go back to a mysterious and far away time—the late '90s. Fans of the popular sci-fi show *The X-Files* posted messages on UseNet, one of the first Internet forums, offering to travel across the country for video tapes of earlier episodes of the show that they had missed. In that moment, the idea of binge watching was born.

Since then, the popularization of instant streaming sites like Netflix and Amazon Prime has made binge watching a common occurrence. In fact, according to a recent Netflix study, 61% of people said that they regularly binge watch TV. But why is binge watching so popular? What makes it so we can't stop watching?

The answer, in fact, lies partially in science. According to *Newsweek*, watching television causes us to switch from the left hemisphere of the brain, which is more logical, to the right, which is more emotional. This releases endorphins which cause us to relax. When we turn off the television, we switch back to the left hemisphere and the endorphins go away. All of the sudden, the relaxation

disappears. But if you keep watching, it doesn't.

So there is a reason for binge watching, other than our compulsive need for answers to cliffhangers. But watching hours upon hours of TV because you need an endorphin high doesn't necessarily sound like a good thing. With the increasing popularity of binge watching, the debate about its effects on television enjoyment has exploded.

Netflix's study reported that 73% of those surveyed had a positive opinion of binge watching. But what about that other 27%? What about the people who deplore binge watching as an affront to the television landscape?

One such person is Jim Pagels at Slate. Mr. Pagels argues that television is designed to be watched in episodes and seasons, not as a continuous narrative. Consuming shows in the narrative format, he says, takes away the suspense and drama that makes them great. It makes sense, and it's a solid argument. Suspense needs time to build and fester before being relieved.

Mr. Pagels' argument does run into one major complication though—he neglects to think about why television airs the way it does. As James Poniewozik at *TIME* points out, television adds suspense between episodes and seasons in order to get viewers to tune back in. It's not that television writers want you to take that three month gap at the end of *Lost* season one to ponder exactly what will be inside the hatch. They just want you to still be interested enough to watch all that time later when the second season premieres. They're trying to find a way to keep your attention through network-mandated gaps in their pro-

duction.

So what happens when there are no gaps, when you only have to wait 30 seconds before Netflix pushes you on to the next episode? If we immediately move on to that second season, do we sacrifice the suspense and thrill of finding out about the hatch just to keep endorphins up?

Most will be just as excited to get some answers immediately as a few months later, if not more so. People use television to relax, and most want to keep endorphins up for as long as they can.

But is binge watching that bad? Television is an art form—the way in which you choose to interpret it is completely up to you.

Art is a personal experience. Television watching is a personal experience. What you watch and how you watch it is driven by who you are and how you want to be entertained. There are no blanket statements in television—Dads isn't universally considered to be a horrible show, and not everyone likes *Mad Men*.

Binge watching isn't inherently bad, and it's not inherently good. It is what you make of it. If you have the desire and the time to sit in bed and marathon all six seasons of *Breaking Bad* without stopping, no one should be able to tell you otherwise (except maybe your doctor). And if you want to parcel it out into smaller chunks so that the viewing lasts months or years, that is also completely up to you.

There is no perfect formula for the amount of time that you need to digest a show. Television is an escape, not a chore, and you need to find the way that you enjoy it most.



## Upcoming events on and around campus

### January 25, 2014

Jacksonville Opera presents "The Frog Prince" in Wallace Hall on the campus of Gadssden State Community College at 3 p.m. Ticket purchase required.

Virginia Alonso will be performing at JSU in the Mason Hall Performance Center on Saturday, January 25, 2014 at 7:30 p.m.

Admission is free.

### January 26, 2014

Guest artist Keith Moore will be performing in Mason Hall performance center at 3 p.m. Ticket purchase is required.

### January 27, 2014

"Bass Fest" JSU's double bass quartet will be performing in Java Jolt at 7 p.m. Free event

### January 31, 2014

Guest artist Rhonda Larson will be performing in MAson Hall performance center at 7:30 p.m. Larson is a grammy award winning artist. Admission is free.

### February 1, 2014

JSU will host a Children's Honors Choir in Mason Hall with a concert at 6 p.m. in the MAson Hall performance center. Admission is free.

### February 3, 2014

M5 - Millennium Quintet will be performing a concert named "A Twist of Classic" at Oxford Performing Arts Center at 7 p.m. Ticket purchase required.

### February 4, 2013

JSU Q ensemble, a group of student composers, will be presenting and performing "A Student Takeover" at 7:30 p.m. in Mason Hall performance center. Free event.

### February 5 & 6, 2014

Arts and Sciences student research symposium. A free event beginning at 9 a.m. both days

### February 18, 2014

Chamber Winds and Wind Ensemble joint concert beginning at 7:30 p.m. The location is tentatively set for the Mason Hall performance center. Free concert

### February 19, 2014

Marching Ballerinas will be hosting the first try outs for those interested in becoming a ballerina.

### February 20, 2014

There will be a special screening of a Sundance Film Festival special jury prize winner, "Inequality for All" at 4 p.m. in Leone Cole Auditorium, followed by a live webcast with the creator. Admission is free.

Have an event you would like to see covered?

Contact a member of  
The Chanticleer staff  
by emailing

chantynewstips@gmail.com

Or contact the Arts & Entertainment editor  
directly at  
ctyler@jsu.edu

## Review of Bruce Springsteen's new "High Hopes" album

Westley Casey  
Special to the Chanticleer

A new Bruce Springsteen release is almost always followed by a moving and delightful listening experience. *High Hopes*, his latest, is no different in regards to that.

Although, there is one thing different about the Boss's newest album – it is made up not of new material, but of covers, new renditions of old songs and studio outtakes.

The album does not lack for conviction or quality but is not quite the cohesive collection we are used to hearing from Springsteen. This, however, takes a back seat to the pure ease with which I bobbed my head and snapped my fingers to every song. I will wager that those who have an appreciation for Springsteen's previous work will feel the same.

Ironically, this album of covers and outtakes has the most refreshing sound for Bruce and his E-Street Band in quite a while. Guitarist Tom Morello, of *Rage Against the Machine* fame, contributes on eight of the twelve tracks. Morello's wild and screeching guitar style may not be the most obvious choice to accompany this down-to-earth rock group but Morello, 49, brings an edge and a touch of youth that has been well welcomed by fans and critics.

Springsteen, 64, has kept many songs in the vault over the years, feeling that the time was not right to release them or that they needed a new approach. His decision to return to this material was partially in-

fluenced by the addition of Morello. In a recent interview with *Rolling Stone*, Springsteen explained, "He really allowed me to tie it all together in a way that I've been looking for that I hadn't found. He just really brought that stuff to life."

The album kicks off with a cover – the title track, "High Hopes."

"...Tom came into our touring picture and suggested an obscure B-side from a band I loved back when I lived in Los Angeles in the '90s, the Havalinas," Springsteen said in the same *Rolling Stone* interview. It has a jazzy, New Orleans swing built on a tight, punchy horn section and is one of the strongest tracks on the album.

Other notable tracks include: "Frankie Fell in Love," an upbeat love tune with quirky lyrics, "Harry's Place," his take of the George W. Bush administration, "The Wall," a somber telling of a visit to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial wall to remember old friends and "Hunter of Invisible Game," an acoustic ballad which invokes a 1970s era Bob Dylan.

The clear climax is the old Springsteen staple "The Ghost of Tom Joad." With a stirring vocal performance and guitar solos from Morello that give credence to why he was brought on board, this rendition gives the song the power it always deserved.

*High Hopes* is Bruce Springsteen's 18th studio album and marks over five decades of making music. And, like his previous records, this new jewel gives us all high hopes for the future of Bruce Springsteen and the E-Street Band.



# Opinion & Editorial

## JSU student wins lottery, and 'none for Alabama'

**Brett Johnson**  
Staff Writer

"Just won \$500 on a scratch off card from the GA lottery! My heart is racing lol! Such a huge blessing and a very needed one," said Jacksonville State sophomore Kenneth Smith in a Facebook post this past Monday.

Last week Kenneth got in his car, left his northeast Alabama home, crossed the state line, spent twenty bucks on a 'Lucky Loot' scratch-off at a store in Georgia, and made his way back to his home state.

Little did he know that the thirty-minute trip and the "risky" Andrew Jackson he left in the Peach State were about to pay off, big-time.

After the scratching was over, Kenneth realized his twenty-dollar-ticket had transformed into a five-hundred dollar bounty! And it couldn't have come at a better time.

"A ton of crazy stuff happened today back home so it's already all gone helping my family," said Smith on Tuesday. "It came in very handy though! I guess God saw the need ahead of time and knew we would need it today."

As of last year, only five states do not participate in the lottery. And guess who is part of the fab five? You guessed it: The Great State of Alabama.

Out of the four states that border Alabama, only Mississippi does not allow a lottery. And the old song is sung once more: "Thank God for Mississippi!"

Recent estimates show that Alabamians like Kenneth spend upwards of \$270 million annually to play the lottery in surrounding states. The Alabama Legislative Fiscal Office recently projected that Alabama could generate \$250 million annually to go toward the state's Education Trust Fund if Alabama allowed a lottery.

In fact, Alabama House Minority Leader Rep. Craig

Ford (D-Gadsden) has filed legislation for the 2014 legislative session that would put the issue to a vote of the people. Ford says he wants to hold Alabama Governor Robert Bentley accountable to comments Bentley made on the issue during the 2010 gubernatorial campaign.



"I believe the people of Alabama need to decide at the ballot box on a yes or no vote whether to allow gambling or abolish all forms of gambling," said Bentley in 2010.

However, the state's legislative leadership does not share the optimism that Ford and his supporters have. They point to Governor Don Siegelman's 1999 lottery initiative where the issue failed in a public vote 54 to 46 percent.

Lottery supporters counter that this vote was taken nearly fifteen years ago and a lot has changed in the new millennium. Other lottery opponents claim that lottery players waste their money at a shot for an elusive grand-prize.

However, individuals like Kenneth show a different side of the lottery narrative. Had he not played the lottery this week, who knows how the situation back home would have turned out?

One thing's for sure, until the issue to be put to a new vote in Alabama, Kenneth and hundreds like him will continue to cross the state line where they'll either make a deposit or a withdrawal to or from the Georgia education system. To paraphrase a quote from a 2004 teen comedy film, "And none for Alabama."

Oh, and before you go getting any ideas, Kenneth said to remind everyone that he's not gonna be buying dinner anytime soon!

After all, the winnings have dried up but his family can now rest easier at no thanks to the Great State of Alabama.

## 21 candles for the third birthday I've celebrated

**Zach Tyler**  
Associate Editor

This past Saturday marked the passing of my 21st birthday. Late that day twenty-one years ago, my mom brought me into the world, the first of her and my father's three children.

It was an important Saturday for me, for two reasons. The first one is obvious: I have all the rights and responsibilities of any adult. I can cast my vote, enlist in the military, buy and drink alcoholic beverages, sign legal contracts and all that fun, grown-up stuff.

The second reason Saturday was important is that it was only the third birthday I've ever celebrated. My parents, loving people who did the best they could raising me, are Jehovah's Witnesses. Jehovah's Witnesses are one of very few modern Christian religions that prohibit the celebration of birthdays.

Along with the Sacred Name branch of the Church of God, Jehovah's Witnesses believe the Bible places a negative light on birthday celebrations. My parents always told me the story of the beheading of John the Baptist at the hands of the ruler Herod, who had John killed because that was the redeemed wish he offered to the dancer Salome on his birthday.

Even as a child, I understood the reasoning presented by my parents for the prohibition and never felt like I was missing out on anything: birthdays put too much attention on one person, and could lead to un-Christian excess. I also never felt like my parents didn't care about my birthday, because it was a day they noticed and marked—just not with a cake or party.

Even after I'd moved out

of their house and stopped following their faith, I didn't plan on celebrating birthdays. That all changed when I came home from work one day to find that my roommate and his girlfriend had baked me a Batman-themed cake for my nineteenth birthday.

They'd bought me a few video games and wrapped them up in birthday present-wrapping paper, too. It was a small gesture, but it was touching to know that my friends cared enough to celebrate my birthday.

This past Saturday was no different. Kara, who is as true and loyal a friend as I've ever had, baked me a "funfetti" cake with fudge icing and 21 candles on Friday. Childhood friends I don't get to see very often drove up to Anniston from Pell City to be at the party on Saturday.

It was a great birthday, the best I've had so far, although it was only the third of what will be many more. Being at the center of my friends' attentions made me feel like a king, but it also made me realize how much I have to be thankful for.

Looking around at all of my closest friends on Saturday night made me realize that birthdays are about recognizing the importance of friends and family in your life. If it weren't for the fact that I've made some great friends over the past four years at JSU, I wouldn't have had much of a birthday.

The next time you wake up and realize you've made it through another year of this crazy life—the next time you find yourself anticipating another birthday party—make sure you take a second to think about how much you mean to the people around you. Be the most thankful for them, and not for the birthday money.



## Calling for extras

- The JSU film club will be shooting a video called "Cocky Gone Mad", and they are in need of extras.
- The filming will take place this Saturday, January 25, from 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. at Merrill Hall.
- The video will be posted on JSU's website.
- Interested students who have any questions may contact Jeffrey Nichols at 818-400-7283, or [jnichols@jsu.edu](mailto:jnichols@jsu.edu)

## Interfraternity Council update

**Eric McIntyre**  
*Special to The Chanticleer*

The Interfraternity Council is the governing organization for Jacksonville State's seven IFC fraternities. The IFC Executive Board consists of Josh Robinson (President), Kenneth Smith (Vice President of Administration), Andrew York (Vice President of Judicial), Jason Katz (Vice President of Recruitment), & Eric McIntyre (Vice President of Scholarship & Public Relations). The executive team is overseen by the Greek Advisor, Kristen Smith.

The JSU organizations which the IFC governs are: Kappa Sigma, Pi Kappa

Phi, Delta Chi, Kappa Alpha, Sigma Nu, Tau Delta Phi, & Sigma Phi Epsilon.

The exec team is excited for the events & changes in the upcoming year. With the main focus as bettering relations between fraternities, the team is more than capable & steadfast to achieve this goal. The team also strives to continue the tradition of the organizations attaining a higher GPA than the average male at Jacksonville State.

With excellent leadership, brilliant creativity, & the drive to achieve their set goals; the 2014 IFC executive team has a lot in store for the JSU Greek community.

Want to see your name 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](mailto:chantynewstips@gmail.com) and you could be published in The Chanticleer's Opinion & Editorial page!

[www.jsu.edu/chanticleer](http://www.jsu.edu/chanticleer)



# Sports

Gamecock Sports Sidebar

2013 Football Schedule:

8/31 @ ASU (W 24-22)  
 9/7 vs J'ville U. (W 48-13)  
 9/14 vs UNA^ (W 24-21) 2OT  
 9/21 @ GSU (W 32-26) OT  
 9/28 vs MSU\* (L 34-35) OT  
 10/5 @ #22 UTM\* (W 41-27)  
 10/12 vs #23 TSU\* (L 15-31)  
 10/26 @ TTU\* (W 34-14)  
 11/2 @ APSU\* (W 42-10)  
 11/9 vs EKU\* (W 68-10)  
 11/16 @ #2 EIU\* (L 14-52)  
 11/23 vs SEMO\* (W 42-34)  
 11/30 vs #16 SU^ (W 55-14)  
 12/7 @ #6 McN St (W 31-10)  
 12/14 @ #3 EWU (L 24-35)  
 ^ Rivalry / \* OVC game

OVC Football Coaching changes:

SE Missouri State:  
 Out - Tony Samuel (Nov. 26)  
 In - Tom Matukewicz (Dec. 18)

Easten Illinois:  
 Out - Dino Babers (Dec. 18)  
 In - Kim Dameron (Jan 10)

Jacksonville State:  
 Out - Bill Clark (Jan. 21)  
 In - John Grass (Jan. 21)

Upcoming Action:

Thursday: MBB @ Austin Peay  
 Friday: Tennis @ Southern Miss  
 Saturday: Rifle @ Withrow  
 Tennis @ Southern Miss  
 WBB @ Murray State  
 MBB @ Murray State  
 Monday: WBB @ Austin Peay

NCAA Rifle Top 15:

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

OVC W. Basketball Standings:

East:  
 Eastern Kentucky (4-1) [10-6]  
 Tennessee Tech (4-2) [7-12]  
 Belmont (4-3) [7-13]  
 Tennessee State (3-3) [6-13]  
 Morehead State (3-3) [9-10]  
 Jacksonville State (3-5) [7-14]

OVC M. Basketball Standings:

East:  
 Belmont (5-1) [14-7]  
 Morehead State (4-1) [13-7]  
 Eastern Kentucky (4-2) [13-6]  
 Tennessee Tech (3-2) [10-10]  
 Jacksonville State (3-4) [9-13]  
 Tennessee State (1-6) [2-19]

West:

Murray State (5-1) [10-8]  
 SIUE (3-3) [6-13]  
 Eastern Illinois (3-4) [6-12]  
 Austin Peay (2-3) [8-11]  
 SE Missouri State (2-4) [10-9]  
 UT-Martin (1-5) [6-15]

Softball starts February 7

season preview next week

Baseball starts February 14

season preview in two weeks

Follow on Twitter  
 @ChanticleerJSU



JSU's Candace Morton scored 19 against TSU to help earn a third straight home victory.

## Women's basketball defeats Tennessee State

**Marvel Robinson**  
*Staff Writer*

The JSU women's basketball team finished strong to defeat the Tennessee State Lady Tigers 84-76. This was the 26th meeting between the two teams. With the win, Jacksonville State has tied the series 13-13.

The Gamecocks started strong and finished the same way. Tennessee State scored the first two points but would never see the lead again as Jacksonville State went on an early 13-3 run. Jacksonville State's Brianna Benson hit two three-pointers during the run in her first career start. Destany McLin hit a free-throw to give JSU an 11 point lead which was the largest of the game with 13:29 left in the first half.

Tennessee State would come back as Imani Davis hit a layup and free-throw to bring them within two. But after a steal and fast break led by Jacksonville State's LeCresha Horton, the Gamecocks regained their momentum. Horton ended the first half with two late free-throws to put the Gamecocks up eight points at halftime with the score being 41-33. Those two free-throws also gave Horton a career high with eight points when it once was six. Miranda Cantrell led the Gamecocks with 12 points after the first half while Chelsea Hudson led Tennessee State with 10 points.

The second half was a tight one as Tennessee State started strong and pulled within two points with 16:22 left in the second half. Former Gamecock Briana Morrow, who is currently with Tennessee State, scored her first two points of the game as she hit two free-throws with

14:52 left in the second half. She ended the game with eight points and seven rebounds.

Tennessee State came within one point three times in the second half.

The third time was due to a three-pointer by Tennessee State's Brianna Lawrence with 3:27 left in the game. However, Candace Morton answered with a three-pointer of her own to make it a two-possession game.

With under a minute left to go in the game and still a two-possession game, Tennessee State's Brianna Morrow gets fouled and hits two free-throws with 49 seconds left. That brings the Lady Tigers within two and that would be there last two points of the game.

Tennessee State would miss the rest of their shots, play the foul game and watch Jacksonville State make all six free-throws to end the game.

Miranda Cantrell recorded a double-double with 21 points and 12 rebounds. Candace Morton finishes a close second with 19 points as Destiny James had a game high with five assists.

On the other side, Chelsea Hudson led her team with 16 points and 12 rebounds.

This win gives Jacksonville State their first win over Tennessee State since the 2011 OVC Tournament where the Gamecocks won 57-55.

This win also gives Jacksonville State their third OVC win which is their most conference wins since the 2010-11 season. Jacksonville State is now 3-5 in the conference and has moved to 7-14 overall.

Their next game will be another OVC match-up on Jan. 25 at Murray State. Tip-off is set for 5:15 P.M.

## Tennis falls at Auburn

**AUBURN, Ala.** – The Jacksonville State men's tennis team dropped its season opener to nationally-ranked Auburn on Sunday, 7-0, at AU's Yarbrough Tennis Center.

This year's match featured a new-look Gamecock squad as veteran JSU Head Coach Steve Bailey had four new faces in the singles line up along with three new doubles tandems. Sophomore Pedro Wagner made his debut at the No. 1 singles position and battled AU's Daniel Cochrane, who ranks 112th in the nation, and fell 6-2, 6-1.

Freshman Jaryd Reese, from Marietta, Ga., dropped a straight sets match to Lukas Ollert of the Tigers, 6-3, 6-2.

Freshman Mathias Chaim made his collegiate debut against No. 89 Dante Saleh of AU, but dropped a 6-2, 6-1 decision at No. 3. Jefferson Wendler-Filho, who joined the JSU squad when the semester started in early January, took AU's Joseph Van Dooren to three sets before suffering the loss,

Juniors Felipe Diaz and Felipe Wenzel played at the No. 4 and 6 spots respectively in the 2014 lid lifter and suffered defeats.

In doubles, Bailey paired Reece and Wagner at the top spot, while Chaim and Wendler-Filho was quick worked by AU's 37th-ranked duo of Dennis Lengsfeld and Ollert. Fresman

~ Sportswire

## For Clark, thank you

**Daniel Porter**  
*Sports Editor*

As Coach Clark sets his sights on coaching at the FBS level at UAB, some still resent the fact the coach spent only a single season at his alma mater, although it's being made easier to cope with as the John Grass era rolls in.

I had the opportunity to meet coach Clark personally in January of 2013 just after he was hired in December. While I didn't spend hours on end around him over the next year as his players did, I know many of those players would tell you similar things as I would of how great a person he is.

Clark's departure was somewhat rocky after coming unexpectedly and then forcing fans and players to endure a five day period of almost total silence. But once the announcement was made, many of those who knew him best, like his players, had very few bad things to say and most wished him well at his next school. It was only a year that coach Clark was JSU's head coach, but his impact will be felt for a much longer time.

After an offseason that led to more excitement around the JSU football team than had come in a long time, it was finally football season and time for the season opener at Alabama State. I decided to put aside my press credentials and watch Clark's debut from the stands to get the real experience of the new era of Gamecock football. However, I didn't know that would be the game that a rainstorm came through causing more than an hour of game delay. Still, after squeaking out a close and thrilling victory it was needless to say I was pretty excited about what the future could hold... and I was pretty wet.

ASU wasn't the only close call as Clark willed his Gamecocks to a double overtime win over rival North Alabama and an overtime win over FBS Georgia State in the Georgia Dome. Fans may not have been happier than when Clark led JSU past EKU, a nemesis as of late for JSU, in a 68-10 beatdown.

Clark led JSU to its first ever division I playoff victory, after going 0-3 in their previous three playoff appearances, when the Gamecocks ran over rival Samford in the first round 55-14. As the team came together and those injured mid-season slowly worked back into the rotation, it seemed JSU was only getting stronger each week despite playing their toughest games of the season. In the second round, JSU handily beat McNeese State 31-10.

Then it was time for the long trek out to Washington to face EWU in the quarterfinals. If you haven't been to the Pacific Northeast in mid-December let me tell you the chill in the air is slightly different than you'll find here in Alabama. The Gamecocks fought the elements and a challenging team that just escaped with a win after a series of injuries limited JSU's abilities.

Clark was poised to reload and try again next season when UAB came calling late last week. And while the argument for some may be that Clark owed his alma mater, who took a chance young coach and gave him his first shot at being a college head coach, it could be argued that Clark gave JSU everything it could have asked for.

It was only a year, but in that year JSU won double digit games for the first time since the 1992 Div. II title team, they made the deepest run in FCS playoffs in school history and along the way set 49 school records, 13 conference records and three NCAA records. Most importantly, JSU is ready to compete year in and year out now for championships.

Clark preached family while he was at JSU, and in the end he made a decision that he felt was best for his own personal family. In the process he made sure JSU was taken care of as he departed. Coach Clark didn't abandon Jacksonville State, and if there was anything an average fan should want to say to him, including myself who got to cover his entire tenure from my Sports Editor post, it should be, "Thank You."



# JACKSONVILLE STATE

## Gamecocks go with Grass



### JOHN GRASS

**Named the 14th Head Coach  
in JSU Football's Modern Era**

**JSU Promotes Record-Breaking  
Offensive Coordinator  
to Take Over at His Alma Mater**



**F O O T B A L L**

JSU Sportswire

Jacksonville State's new head football coach, John Grass, will be formally introduced today on the fifth floor in the Stadium Tower at Burgess-Snow Field.

## Grass named new head coach after Clark departs for UAB

**Daniel Porter**  
Sports Editor

Only hours after Bill Clark informed Jacksonville State that he was taking the UAB job, JSU President Dr. William Meehan and Athletic Director Warren Koegel announced the promotion of former offensive coordinator, John Grass, as the new head coach of the Gamecocks.

"I'm really excited that we have a coach that has been with us. I have a lot of respect for John as a person and as a coach, and the players have a lot of respect for Coach Grass as a person and as a coach," stated JSU A.D. Warren Koegel. "We feel very fortunate that we got a guy who is a Jacksonville State graduate who loves this university, who is going to be able to lead us on and continue what Bill Clark and the rest of the staff accomplished last year."

Grass, like Coach Clark, was a 1990 graduate of JSU. He joined Clark's staff last season as offensive coordinator leaving his job as head coach at Oxford High where he led the 6A program to five consecutive winning seasons and a 41-16 overall record. Prior to his time at Oxford, Grass spent a pair of seasons at 6A Spain Park where he was named the 2007 AHSAA Class 6A Coach of the Year after

leading his Jaguars to the state championship where he fell to Bill Clark's Prattville squad.

From 2000-2006, Grass made coaching stops at Moody, Albertville (where he earned the 2002 AHSAA Class 5A Coach of the Year) and Hoover.

In his debut season in the college ranks as JSU's OC in 2013, Grass led an explosive offense that shattered the previous school records in total yards and points scored in a single season. Grass guided an offense that had to use three different starting quarterbacks throughout the season due to injuries and led the trio to passing for a school record of 3,033 yards. Through the up-tempo style of offense, freshman receiver Josh Barge and freshman quarterback Eli Jenkins each earned All-American honors.

Coach Grass won't have to rely on the air attack only as running back DaMarcus James returns for his final season after rushing for a school record 1,477 yards in 2013 and a school and conference record 29 rushing touchdowns.

The 2013 Gamecocks, with Grass as offensive coordinator, experienced their best season of division I football. Grass' offense was on their way to potentially leading JSU to the FCS Semifinals before Jenkins and

James both suffered injuries in the Quarterfinals at Eastern Washington in what resulted as a 35-24 season-ending loss.

"It's a blessing, said Grass just hours after being promoted to

The last time JSU ran through three coaches in three years was 1983-1985 with Jim Fuller, Joe Hollis and Bill Burgess. The third in line, Burgess, was a former coach at Oxford High



JSU Sportswire

Grass alongside 2014 offensive key senior center Max Holcombe

head coach. "It's a great opportunity, with the circumstances that arose with Coach Clark going to UAB. I felt blessed last year to become part of this University as a football coach. I'm looking to build on the success we had last year. I'm excited about that opportunity and continuing that success."

who later led Jacksonville State to their only National Championship in school history. Fans hope history can repeat itself.

Coach Grass will be formally introduced as the 14th head coach at Jacksonville State at 5:00 today on the fifth floor of Stadium Tower at Burgess-Snow Field.

## Jax State Rifle opens 2014 with victory over pair of ranked opponents

**OXFORD, Miss.** – The fourth-ranked Jacksonville State rifle team opened the 2014 portion of the schedule this past weekend by topping No. 5 Nebraska and No. 12 Mississippi on the UM campus.

The Gamecocks finished 12 points better than the Huskers with an aggregate score of 4655. UN turned in a mark of 4643 while the

host-Rebels posted a final tally of 4637. Jax State registered a 2297 in smallbore, while the Huskers had the best of the three scores with a 2306.

JSU bounced back in the air rifle portion of the meet with a top score of 2358 to propel itself to the win.

In air rifle, Cole Tucker and Brent Books led JSU with a pair of 591s.

Tucker and Brent Books finished second and third respectively. Samantha Bullard and Brandon Muske shot a pair of 587s to aid in the squads' air rifle total.

Tucker led Jax State in smallbore with a 577 to finish fourth among the individuals. Dan McCall finished one



spot back of Tucker after carding a 576. Sam Muegge also finished among the top-10 individuals with a 574. Bullard rounded out the top-10 with a 570.

The Gamecocks return to action next weekend in Murray, Ky. as they take part in the Withrow Invitational, hosted by Murray State.

~ Sportswire

