



THE CHANTICLEER

Jacksonville State University's Student-Published Newspaper since 1934

WEATHER: Clear, High 39, Low 22

Thursday, February 12, 2015

IN THIS ISSUE: 'Footloose' comes to JSU



Marriage equality comes to Alabama for Valentine's Day



Alex McFry/The Chanticleer

Same-sex marriage supporters stand outside of the probate office Monday morning despite the rainy weather. **TOP RIGHT:** Cassidy McDougale and Shelby Youngblood, JSU students, help spread encouragement Monday. **BOTTOM RIGHT:** Alexis Baker, a high school senior who will be attending JSU in the fall and plans to be an active member of JSU Students for Equality.

Lyndsey Bonner
Staff Writer

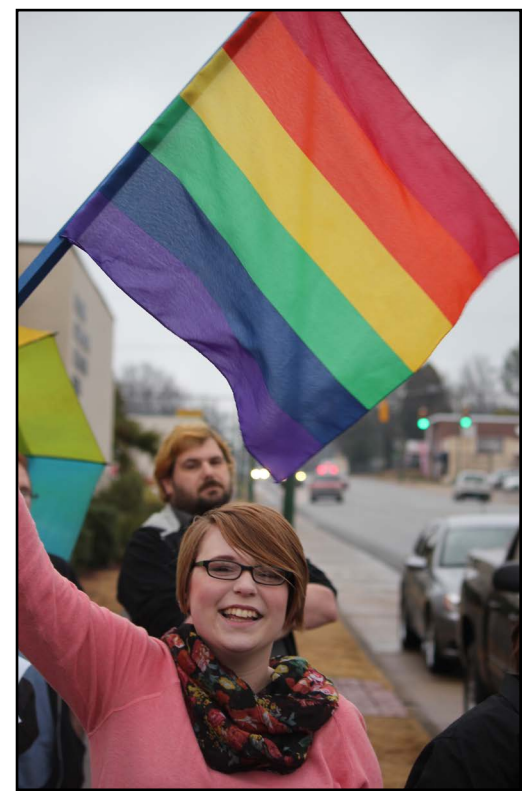
This Monday, February 9, many same-sex couples were lined up outside probate offices all across Alabama, with the hopes of finally being able to be wed. In Calhoun County (and many other counties) however, those hopes were crushed—temporarily. U.S. District Judge Callie

Granade overturned Alabama's same-sex marriage ban on January 23, ruling it unconstitutional. Two days later, she placed a stay on the ban, giving state legislatures the chance to take the issue to the circuit court, which took no action regarding the matter.

The U.S. Supreme Court then denied a request that would have extended the state's ban on same-sex marriage. Sunday night,

Alabama Chief Justice Roy Moore ordered probate officers around the state to refuse to issue or recognize same-sex marriage licenses. For many, it is unsurprising that Moore voiced his biblical views again after the dispute about the Ten Commandments display forced him to leave his post.

See **MARRIAGE**, page 2



WANDERLUST

JSU's Summer Exchange Programs

Lyndsey Bonner
Staff Writer

JSU students interested in traveling or studying abroad are in luck. This year, JSU is offering several study abroad trips. These trips give students the opportunity to travel all over the globe to a variety of countries. Most trips have been held in past years, allowing students to learn a lot and tour many historic sites such as the Coliseum, the Pantheon, St. Peter's Basilica, Vatican City, Shanghai, a 2000 year old restaurant in China, and other incredible places in history.

By studying abroad, students get the opportunity to experience a brand new country with

different and new outlooks, new customs and activities. Most people that take these trips find that by immersing themselves in the education system of a different country is the best way to experience and understand the people, traditions, and culture of that country. Education is the centerpiece of any study abroad trip—it is, after all, a study abroad program—and choosing the right trip is a very important factor. Luckily, JSU offers students many different options.

The JSU history department is sponsoring one trip to Rome this year. There are currently three seats available. They will be traveling from May 6

See **TRAVEL**, page 2

Crossing t's and dotting i's

Department Spotlight: English

Adam Higgins
Staff Writer

Located in the Stone Center building is one of the many gems of Jacksonville State University—the English Department.

Dr. Robert Felgar is the Department Head and believes that the department provides students with excellent instruction.

“We stand out because we put so much emphasis on skills that are crucial to students' futures: thinking, writing, speaking, listening, and reading,” said Dr. Felgar.

The English Department offers students a Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) degree and a Master of Arts (M.A.) degree along with a Minor in English. The department also

offers courses for students seeking teaching certification in English or the Language Arts teaching field.

“The Department offers a variety of special topics courses, ranging from film noir to the graphic novel to The Bible as literature. Broadly speaking, we want JSU graduates to emerge as the best thinkers and communicators possible,” said Dr. William Hug, Professor of English and Director of Writing.

Students who major in English can propel their career into a variety of directions. The department offers an internship for majors to allow them to see what kinds of professional opportunities are available.

“One graduate recently spent two years in Thailand teaching middle-

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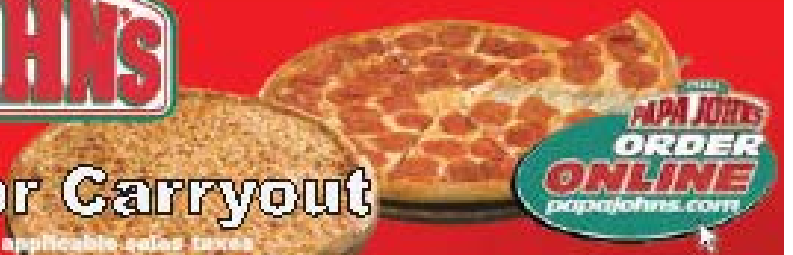
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TRAVEL, from page 1

to May 27. Students interested can contact Dr. Donald Prudlo at dprudlo@jsu.edu.

If you want to travel to Italy but would rather study the art rather than the history, the JSU art department is also hosting a trip to Florence, Italy during the summer. This trip will take place from May 6 until June 26. For further information, contact Professor Jauneth Skinner at jauneths@jsu.edu.

The JSU Honors Program is hosting their annual trip to study at Taizhou University in Linhai, China. This trip has been held each year since the summer of 2012, and has been a great success in the Honors department.

Yet another trip students can experience is a trip to Japan in the summer through a program offered at our partner school: Kansai Gaidai University. This course is a 6-week program offered by the Asian Studies Program at Kansai Gaidai, located between Kyoto and Osaka. The deadline for applications will be March 20. More information and the application can be found on the JSU website.

If none of these trips spark interest, never fear—there are a few more study abroad trips available through JSU’s consortium with the University of Southern Mississippi. There are a variety of different locations to travel and study. For more information about these, you can contact Dr. Joe Delap at jdellap@jsu.edu.

MARRIAGE, from page 1

On Monday morning in Calhoun County, Probate Judge Alice K. Martin upheld Moore’s orders.

“We were prepared to give licenses this morning... We will follow court orders, but this is a direct order to me, and I am just trying to follow the law. We will be prepared to give licenses as soon as we hear from the next court order,” she said to all the same-sex couples, supporters, and those opposed.

This, of course, disappointed Calhoun County residents Vicky Miles and Melissa Angle, who were at the probate office two weeks ago hoping to get a license.

Miles said, “We are still going to try here in our county—this is our home.”

Another couple expressed similar feelings; Alisha Gordon and Teresa Smith were also in line to receive a marriage license.

Gordon, dressed in a bridal veil said, “I’m very disappointed, and a little angry! We’ve been together eleven years. We feel like since this is a federal law, we should be following it.”

The couple, along with at least five other couples, then left the Calhoun County probate office to travel to Bessemer, where they were wed.

There were several others who were happy about Judge Martin’s decision to uphold Justice Moore’s order.

Josh Weldon stood at the probate office in support of marriage being defined as one man and one woman.

“We are not here out of hate; we are here out of love. If this were hate, we wouldn’t be telling them this is wrong,” said Weldon.

Brett Skinner, another supporter of traditional marriage, said, “God bless Alabama for what just happened.”

Cassidy McDougale and her girlfriend Shelby Youngblood were among the group of JSU students that attended this event in support of same-sex marriage.

“A lot of change is gonna be with our generation, so it is important for us to be here to show that. But, it is also important for older generations to be here supporting this cause as well. This is a human rights issue, so everyone should be involved,” said McDougale.



Alex McFry/The Chanticleer

Melissa Angle and Vicky Miles, a couple from Saks, were the first same-sex couple to receive their license in Calhoun County.

Jessica Forbus also attended and she was happy to support the same-sex couples that were here.

“Especially in this county, it is important for people to be here supporting. It is important to show that there are gay people and they are here. They aren’t out hiding in the dark, and we need to support them,” Forbus said.

Forbus returned on Wednesday after Alabama Governor Robert Bentley stated that probate judges across the state would not face punishment for issuing same sex marriage licenses.

Judge Martin personally called Miles and Angle Tuesday evening and told them that they could come back to the probate office in the morning and get a legal marriage license. Martin had a written statement prepared for those who came back to the probate office Wednesday morning.

“While I am of the opinion an Order with further instruction to the Probate Judges is necessary,” Martin wrote, “that has not been forthcoming, and the Supreme Court’s decision, by a 7 to 2 majority, has been the ultimate deciding factor in my decision today to issue marriage licenses to same-sex applicants.”

Calhoun County joined one of about twenty counties across the state of Alabama to issue marriage licenses to same-sex couples. It is expected that an official decision regarding the state as a whole will be made over the course of the next few weeks.

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ENGLISH, from page 1

school girls English. Still another graduate focused on public relations and now works for a local Chamber of Commerce,” said Dr. Teresa Reed, Professor of English.

Although students are often reading works that are centuries old, Dr. Andrea Porter insists that the subject matter still significantly interests them.

“Even though the world around us changes, what it means to be human does not. In a time when we’d rather text than talk, scroll an Instagram feed than take a stroll with a friend, our subject matter is more relevant than ever,” said Dr. Porter, Associate Professor of English.

The English Department provides students with the opportunity for financial aid through two different scholarships. The Calvert Scholarship provides the accepted junior or senior student with full-tuition. Freshmen students may apply for Writing Scholarships that provide full tuition for one year.

The English Department is also involved

in a variety of community service projects. The “Imagining the Holocaust” Writing Competition is held each year to help teach Holocaust history to middle school and high school students in the state of Alabama.

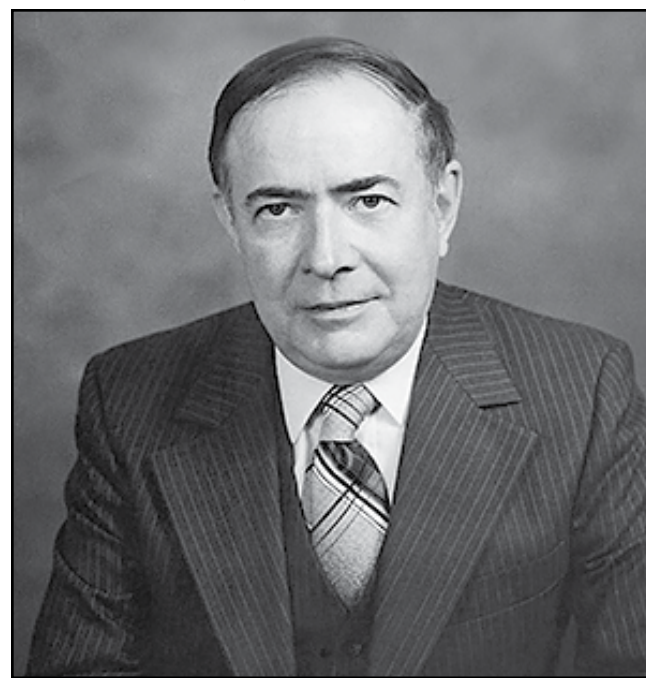
The annual JSU Writers Bowl allows high school sophomores, juniors and seniors to create teams and compete in the areas of poetry and prose.

Students familiar with the Southern experience may enter their original work into the Southern Playwrights Competition. The first-prize winner receives \$1,000, as well as a production by the Jacksonville State University Department of Drama.

Students struggling in their writing classes may stop by the English Department Writing Clinic located in Room 230 in Stone Center. Students do not need to make an appointment, and the tutoring is free.

Students who love reading literature and writing will enjoy the assortment of classes the department provides. The department is full of instructors who are passionate about their subject matter and their students.

Dr. Theron Montgomery
JSU’s ninth president
www.jsu.edu/news



Meet The Chanticleer’s 2014-2015 Staff



Marie McBurnett
Editor-in-Chief



Alex McFry
Associate Editor



Christiana Tyler
A&E Editor



Marvel Robinson
Sports Editor

Check out this week’s edition online at www.jsu.edu/chanticleer!

STUDY BREAK

Keeping a relationship afloat: Advice from a long distance relationship

Racheal Reed
Staff Writer

Any time I tell someone that I'm in a long distance relationship, I usually get "Oh wow, I couldn't do that" or, "I tried that once, it didn't last very long," so when I reveal that I've been in a long distance relationship for over 3 years now, I always receive either a whole lot of respect, or just a whole lot of sympathy. (Maybe both?)

Regardless, I've come to the conclusion that I wouldn't change a thing about my personal situation because I've learned that when two people believe in not only being together, but sharing a future together, and work at it despite the obstacles, it makes it that much more precious, and provides endless motivation.

Don't get me wrong, as you can expect, it is certainly not always rosy. There can be bad days. Sometimes there is miscommunication, and also, we are both busy people, and we can sometimes go weeks without a phone call or Skyping.

Though we always try to stay in touch in some form when we can typically through text or Facebook messages — all in all, I'd say that we're pretty solid. That's only because we've learned that sometimes there is pressing work and school and family, and neither of us should take it personally when the other cannot give all of their time when they don't have time to spare.

Last Valentine's Day, while most couples were going on cute, romantic dates together, mine was spent Skyping my boyfriend. Which, honestly, I didn't find disappointing, since getting to Sky-

pe with Adam is always a treat.

Well, there was one disappointing aspect, and that was due to the fact that we had originally intended to have an actual Valentine's date and visit, but things did not go as planned.

I still got a bouquet of roses and chocolates delivered to the door (take note, gentlemen, that will never go out of style) and even though it was one of the sweetest gestures and melted my heart, I still wished he could have been there in person, and part of me was a little depressed.

And while being three and a half hours away isn't so bad compared to what it could be—and yes, we do get visits at least once or twice every 2-3 months during school semesters, even if it does take a lot of planning—being in a relationship makes that distance seem even longer, especially when it comes to anniversaries and holidays like Valentine's Day. Admittedly, long distance relationships in the 21st century are made significantly easier due to technology, and I'm grateful for that. (My parents had to be long distance when my dad was stationed overseas in Europe while in the Army back in the 80s, and that meant snail mail as the basis of their communication, since phone calls weren't even that dependable.)

I'm going to share some of the most basic pieces of advice and observations anybody can apply to their relationship, long distance or not.

Communication is key, but starting drama and demanding attention will eventually burn him/her out. It will turn you into a chore and constant source of heartache and guilt if you make it sound like they aren't good at being a boyfriend/girlfriend.

Keep misunderstandings between the two of you. Don't post about it online for the entire world to see. (Even if they're unaware that you're sharing revealing tidbits about your relationship, this still applies.)

Don't compare or try to emulate other peoples' relationships. You don't know what happens behind closed doors.

Don't be patronizing, manipulative or offer ultimatums over petty things ("it's me or your friends tonight!"), because that's dramatic. Respect that sometimes they have other interests and hobbies and friends besides you.

Be willing to hear them out and give them time alone if they need it. Everybody has their own side to the story, and if you want to express yourself, they should get the same opportunity

Respect that they are trying to make ends meet, and are working hard too. Sometimes there is no room to be needy, clingy and selfish.

Sort things out sooner rather than later. Misunderstandings happen to every person and relationship of any sort and can be straightened out and laid to rest just as soon as they're materialized. If they want some space to cool down, again, give it to them.

Don't ever force anything, especially apologies. You also have to learn to be independent to some degree. In fact, there will be days where you might feel more single than in a relationship, especially in the beginning. Over time, the longer you are together, the more they become an integrated part of your every day life, and everything that affects them affects you, and vice versa.

For other couples that don't have that foundation from the start, of course it's going to require more time and patience to develop. Trust cannot be contrived.

I wish that every couple could experience what it is like to be in a long distance relationship, because it teaches you what you're both made of. It shows you if it's worth it, and if there's any real substance to those "I love you's."

It is revealing of character because there are more challenges and obstacles to work around than the standard relationship deals with.

I have seen some couples be together for years in short distance relationships, only to break things off in a matter of weeks after becoming long distance. Why? Because there were lots of deeply rooted issues that weren't ever given a chance to be exposed beforehand.

Being in a long distance relationship is not for the faint of heart; it means choosing to take it to a deeper, more serious level of responsibility.

This year, I am happy to say, Adam and I are going to be spending Valentine's Day together. Not through web cam or the phone. But in person. And I can't even begin to express how happy and excited I am about it.

This will be our first Valentine's Day spent together.

It's a great reminder of how blessed we are to be in each other's lives.

I wish everyone a happy Valentine's Day, regardless of whether you are single or in a relationship, long distance or not—you deserve it to be happy and spent with those you love!



Chicken Scratch



I went to the movies and his ex showed up and sat down next to him. They ended up making out during the movie.

Accidentally sneezed my pasta onto her new dress...There was no second date.

The worst feeling in the world is when you get a package in the mail and it's not your grandma's cookies.

I went for a kiss and she tried dodging by putting her head down quickly. She ended up breaking one of my teeth with her forehead.

JSU needs different wifi for every floor in every building.

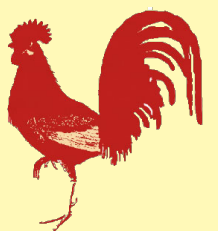
Welcome to JSU: Home of the year-round aqua green grass.

That awkward moment when you're staring at a car with tinted windows, lost in thought, and then you come to realize you've been staring at someone who catches you.

Saw so many cars parked sideways today. Get it together, guys.

I wish I could take my bed to class.

I'll never understand why people think it's okay to stack their new parking decals over their old ones.



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7-day weather outlook



TODAY

Clear
High: 39°
Low: 22°



FRIDAY

Clear
High: 45°
Low: 26°



SATURDAY

Clear
High: 56°
Low: 22°



SUNDAY

Partly Cloudy
High: 39°
Low: 24°



MONDAY

Partly Cloudy
High: 48°
Low: 35°



TUESDAY

Rain
High: 60°
Low: 30°



WEDNESDAY

Clear
High: 39°
Low: 23°

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

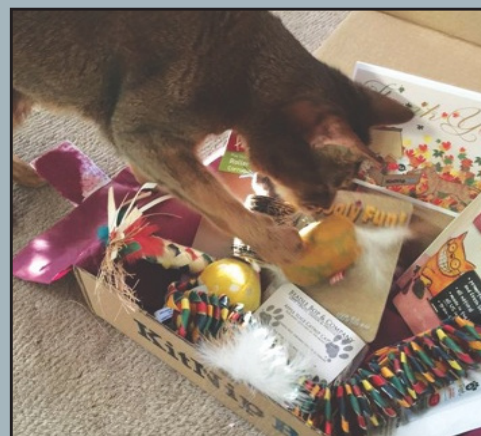
Gifting: when in doubt, subscribe it out



BarkBox.com



LootCrate.com



KitNipBox.com

Subscription box contents and prices can vary based on the company that provides the service and can range from targeting animals to those that enjoy what many would classify as geeky.

Katelyn Schneider
Staff Writer

Subscription boxes, a monthly box filled with items that fit a specified theme, have become increasingly popular. The boxes are a nice upgrade from the standard gifts that many buy for those they don't know well.

But what exactly are subscription boxes? These gifts are boxes that more often than not contain items from a specific brand, such as Ipsy cosmetics. Subscription boxes come in all different types. They also usually have a theme. This theme is used to determine the items that are inside the box, which are often kept a secret until the box is opened. For example, a subscription box that is themed for socks, most likely contains different socks from multiple brands. The socks would also vary in length, color, and pattern. While you know the theme, exactly what is in the box is still a mystery.

Subscription boxes can be specified for men or for women depend-

ing on who the box is being gifted to and the company that is providing the service. Boxes that can be given to women may include themes such as nail polish, homemade teas, or crafts. Boxes that are directed towards men can include beer, grooming tools, and more. There is one type of subscription box that even includes bacon.

Subscription boxes are not necessarily male or female specific. There are gender neutral boxes that can include items such as coffee. Boxes have even been created to be ordered specifically for the enjoyment of cats and dogs. Examples of these are BarkBox and KitNip.

Subscription boxes are also appropriate for all ages. They can be given to kids, young adults, adults, and even senior citizens. There is one type of subscription box that can be themed based on a particular book, book series, movie, video game, or anything else. An example of this, is the subscription box that is themed based on the popular book series and now movies, The Hunger Games. A

box like this would make an excellent gift for a fan of the series.

The boxes do not always have to conform to one theme. Instead, the subscription boxes may be custom made. In this case, different types of items can be put into one box. For example, one box subscription service provides clothes based on a taste profile the company creates based on the subscribers answers to a list of questions. This service then develops boxes unique to each subscriber.

Subscription boxes are also rather cost efficient. Prices can range from \$10 to \$40 and sometimes more. Ultimately, it depends on what is put inside the box. For the contents of the box, the subscription boxes are generally considered very inexpensive, with the actual worth of the contents of the box ranging from \$5 to \$40 above the subscription price.

These boxes do not have to be gifts. They can be kept for whoever is purchasing the item. They can also be received through subscriptions like magazines. Individuals

can receive a box once a month for an extended length of time if that is what he or she signs up for.

If interested in this idea, YouTube offers numerous different channels and videos that show examples of subscription boxes. Sometimes, the videos include YouTubers opening their recently received subscription boxes. A popular channel that shows unboxing videos often features boxes from LootCrate. LootCrate is a subscription box company that is very well known and focuses on creating boxes for people who are interested in what would be designated as geeky. These unboxing videos provide excellent examples on what sort of things one may expect when opening a subscription box.

These boxes are becoming increasingly popular. They can be given as gifts for any time of year whether it be a holiday such as Valentine's Day or Christmas or whether it is just a birthday. This is definitely a gift idea that should be considered, both for friends and family, and for self.

Valentine's week activities at Jacksonville State

Whether you're celebrating your significant other or "single awareness day," there's a lot to love about being on campus during the second week in February! Here are some Valentine's Day events taking place at Jacksonville State University this week:

February 11

SGA Speed Dating and Valentine Sweetheart Social
7:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.

Theron Montgomery Building Auditorium

February 13

Valentine's Day Dinner
4:30 p.m. - 7 p.m.

Jack Hopper Dining Hall

Join Sodexo for a meal sure to make your eyes light up! For a meal swipe plus \$8, choose between steak or shrimp. Can't make up your mind? For a meal swipe plus \$12, enjoy both! For more information, contact the Dining Services

Department.

February 14

JSU Jazz I & Trombone Ensemble with Guest Artist
Wycliffe Gordon, Trombone
7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Mason Hall Performance Center

~JSU Newswire

Upcoming events on and around campus

February 12, 2015

Soul Food Night will be held in the Jack Hopper Dining Hall in celebration of Black History Month. Card swipe required.

February 13, 2015

A Chamber Winds Concert will be held at the First United Methodist Church in Anniston (1400 Noble Street) beginning at 7:30 p.m.

February 16, 2015

Zeta Tau Alpha will be sponsoring Big Man on Campus to raise money for breast cancer research. The beauty show will begin at 7 p.m. in the Leone Cole Auditorium.

February 19, 2015

JSU Drama will begin performances for A Year with Frog and Toad. Ticket purchase required.

February 27, 2015

The Marching Ballerinas will have an interest meeting in Mason Hall Performance Center beginning at 7:00 p.m. for anyone who is interested.

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FROG and TOAD

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February 22nd and March 1st at 2pm

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A Year with Frog and Toad is presented through special arrangement with Musical Theater International (MTI). All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI 421 West 54th Street, New York, NY 10019 Tel. 212.541.4884 www.MTISHOWS.com

Students strut their stuff in Alpha Kappa Psi's fashion show

Marsena Edwards
Staff Writer

Alpha Kappa Psi Professional Business Fraternity hosted a "Welcome to Vegas" themed fashion show entitled "Work Hard Play Hard" at Wallace Hall Auditorium on February 9.

Other organizations responsible for the show included Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity and Forever Young Modeling Troupe. The cost was \$2 or \$1 with a clothing item. All the clothing donations went to Hannah Homes to help at-risk women and children.

President of Alpha Kappa Psi, Nick Brown said, "Our chapter decides three or four themes that will interest the student's on campus to get involved in different activities for the week."

The fashion show was a part of the various activities for AKPsi's spring 2015 rush week. Ariel Tolson, senior and two year member of AKPsi, said the purpose of the fashion show was "to show the campus the variety of different professional looks" students can achieve.

She also stated that as a business fraternity they work hard every week,

but they wanted to show the campus that they can work hard and have fun.

The stage was lit with a DJ, 3 decorated life size dice and a screen that read, "Welcome to Vegas! Work Hard Play Hard. AKPsi Spring Rush Week 2015."

Casino chips were given, which gave audience members the chance to win door prizes during the show.

After the show began, the crowd was jamming to upbeat hip-hop music provided by DJ Ace Twon.

AKPsi members, Aaron Perkins and Amari Richardson were the comedic hosts. "Boss Up" was the name of the first category introduced.

Model and AKPsi member, Justin Kennedy dressed to impress in his slate gray slim suit and skinny black tie. Kennedy said this particular business professional was his favorite of the night. The females came out strong and fierce some wore blazer/skirt, combos with solid color tops and heels, while others opted for a more casual look with a blazer and dress pants combination.

The next category was titled, "Casino Night." Richardson introduced

the looks as "sexy but elegant." There were a variety of looks including little black dresses with high heels, pin-stripe suit jackets with slacks.

An intermission soon followed. A group of Kappa Alpha Psi fraternity members wooed the crowd with their smooth stroll performance.

Following the brief intermission, the show shifted to a preppy fun in the sun look with the category "Corporate Excursion."

Bermuda shorts, ruffled blouses, and loose care free dresses were the statements for this category. A crowd favorite was a classic school girl outfit that was fitting for a "Corporate Excursion."

The second intermission, involved a "Project Runway" style competition game for with help from the crowd. Two groups of three volunteered audience members were told to create a look of a black garbage bags. The winner of the challenge won a gift card. It was a unique way to incorporate fashion and get the crowd involved.

The last category titled, "Collecting the Check" was more of a business attire look with a personal twist.

As "Fancy" by Drake played in the background the models walked with confidence as they showed off their version of business wear. A crowd favorite was a male look that included a well-tailored mint green suit jacket with a white collared shirt, accessorized with a vibrant turquoise tie, paired with black slacks, and black dress shoes. The styles of the individual models were evident in their personal view of a business outfit.

President of Alpha Kappa Psi Nick Brown was very happy with the unexpected turn out.

Holding the title as Mr. Jax State as well as being a very involved student at JSU, Brown was very passionate in sharing the concerns of student and Greek unity on campus. "We didn't want the show to just be an AKPsi event; we wanted to reach out to different organizations. Not just NPHC or Greek life in general, but we wanted to involve the international house, SGA and just try to get people to come out and be united as one." The unity was evident in the finale as the show ended with the range of models representing their organization in their own fashion.



By: L. A. Bonté



For more comics and animations visit FilbertCartoons.com



Jacksonville citizen "dances" with UPD

Jefferson Varner IV
Staff Writer

Jacksonville native and aspiring hip-hop musician Blake Graham danced his way into controversy with UPD on January 20, when he attempted to dance freely near the JSU Quad.

Graham recorded and uploaded the video to the Internet.

Prior to the videotaping, Graham confirmed that initial plans to head to a friend's recording studio were altered when he caught whim of JSU students roaming the stadium.

Graham was dancing as he walked to his destination from the Square. "These are people my age. They deserve to see somebody dancing, they deserve somebody that's just going to be themselves," he said.

The end result however did not appear to garner much positive reaction, where anonymous students contacted dispatchers at UPD of the peculiar sighting, according to Chief Deputy Giddy.

Giddy recounted UPD's arrival at the

scene, where they attempted to confront Graham about the matter and requested identification to verify his enrollment status as a legitimate undergraduate student at JSU.

According to Giddy, Graham would not give into the request and was then ordered to be dismissed from the premises; if not, he would likely be arrested.

Despite Giddy's recollection, Graham insists that there was some form of "tension" amongst himself and UPD.

Graham said, "Yes, the cops came. Yes, I was dancing. But the real story is people don't see people be themselves enough."

During the scene of conflict, Graham was able to quickly capture the event with his iPhone and later uploaded the content to his Facebook profile.

The video has since then amassed over 4,400 views and has ignited a storm of debate among an array of JSU course-curriculums pertaining to the discussion if either police or Graham were in the right.

The incident also drew in further questioning from the student body, where some feel that the published video content could be viewed as "bad

advertising" for JSU, while others simply viewed UPD's actions as "over-the-top," when compared to bigger issues stemming from recent car robberies.

Giddy reassured the public that such action was necessary to prevent any further form of disruption toward the JSU student body.

Giddy additionally noted that a local Jacksonville individual was recently arrested following an intrusion on campus, where the individual was caught in the act of stealing radios from nearby vehicles.

"They should serve the people, as opposed to going and looking for trouble. I'm not saying they were seeking me out, however I think a simple questioning of what I was doing would have been enough to suffice instead of spending all the time and energy," Graham said.

"I expect people to think of me as the bad guy in some situations; and I expect people to think of me as the good guy. At the end of the day, I was just expressing myself," said Graham.

In his final regards to the incident, Blake Graham noted that individuals should learn how to simply "relax and enjoy life."

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OPINION & EDITORIAL

Moore's stance in the courthouse door

Brett Johnson
Political Columnist

Since last Monday, same-sex couples in Alabama have seen their hopes and dreams realized by being able to receive marriage licenses in their home state. However, Alabama Chief Justice Roy Moore has taken his stance against the issue by theoretically standing in the courthouse door.

As the state prepared over the weekend for a stay on a federal ruling against Alabama's same-sex marriage ban to be lifted, Chief Justice Moore was preparing a decree for probate judges around the state to stand up against the ruling. Late Sunday night he announced his order to judges and media around the state.

Judge Moore ordered probate judges to refrain from issuing marriage licenses to same-sex couples based on the fact that they are responsible for adhering to state law, not federal law. Unfortunately Judge Moore's order disregarded the U.S. Constitution, which explicitly places federal rulings as the law of the land.

Yet, his plea was adhered to by a handful of probate judges around the state. Early on Monday, most probate judges were denying same sex marriage licenses based on Judge Moore's order.

By the end of the day, most probate judges had been pressured to begin issuing the licenses. In Calhoun County, the probate court denied couples their licenses citing and even handing out copies of Judge Moore's order.

However, by Tuesday, Calhoun County's probate court and others were issuing the licenses. Even in Etowah County, Moore's home county, the probate courts were issuing licenses to same-sex couples without question.

Moore has uniquely positioned himself at the center of this debate

in Alabama. In fact, he is being compared to Alabama Governor George Wallace who stood in the school-



house door at University of Alabama in the 1950s in an attempt to block integration of state schools.

Now, looking back most Alabamians have realized the reality of Wallace's actions at the time, and changed their minds. It is safe to say that in decades to come, history will look back on

Moore's attempt to defy federal rulings equally as out-of-touch with the scope of the realities of federalism.

Moore's argument has been that the federal judge operated outside the extent of her authority when ruling against state law. However, as a constitutional judge she is tasked with making sure state laws adhere to the U.S. Constitution.

Many, including Alabama Attorney General Luther Strange, wished the U.S. Supreme Court would rule on the issue and extend the stay on the federal judge's ruling. However, on the same day that the stay was lifted, the U.S. Supreme Court denied the state's request to extend it.

This, in effect, made the federal judge's ruling the law of the land. As the highest court in the United States, the Supreme Court effectively said the ruling was fair based on their interpretation of the U.S. Constitution.

In Moore's defense, I am sure he believes that he is operating on the right side of the law, or at least of morality – and that argument can be made. However, in this nation, federal law always trumps state law, and Moore is limited in his ability to change that effect.

Brett Johnson is a senior double-majoring in political science and communication. His column is published weekly.

Choosing the perfect smartphone

Myron Jones
Staff Writer

Every year, new major smartphones are released. Next month, Mobile World Congress will be held in Barcelona. It is common for major manufacturers such as Samsung, Sony, LG and HTC to announce their new flagships this time of year while Apple generally waits until Fall.

With so many phones to choose from, it can be hard to make a decision on what device you want to spend the next year or two with.

You might not have an understanding of technical specifications and you might not have an understanding of megapixels. You only want to have a phone that is "awesome," and a phone that works for you.

I cannot tell you which phone to purchase, but I can help you make a better informed decision. You can use this information next time you are looking for a phone.

When making a smartphone purchase, consider that you will be spending a significant amount of time with the device. More than likely, it will be in your pocket every single day. It could also be in your hand for hours at a time.

With that said, the first thing you have to find when searching for a phone is one that feels good in your hand. Visit your local retailer and find out how a phone feels in your hand before you even give it a serious consideration. Some people love large phones, others require something more compact.

As previously mentioned, your phone is the one device that you are most likely to carry with you. Smartphones are used to receive messages, browse the Internet, get directions, listen to music, watch videos and of course make phone calls.

However, when your phone is dead none of these features work. Battery life is a very large concern. Being tethered to a wall is just no fun, and it is nice to be able to forget to charge every now and then.

Websites such as GSM Arena do battery tests for smartphones and can be an excellent

resource for finding out how long your prospective phones might last compared to one another.

Next up, we have app compatibility. While for the most part, apps that work on one phone will also work on another, but that is not always the case.

Some apps are iOS exclusive, others are Windows or Android exclusive. It is important to find a device that works with the apps you already have, or the apps that you wish to have.

It can be extremely frustrating when you want to use a specific app or service only to find that it does not work on your device.

Storage space can also be a major issue. Because of data caps, you cannot always stream your content, so you may want to keep some files locally on your device. The size requirements will vary from user to user, but it is very important that you give yourself more than you think you need.

Fortunately, most phones that are released now are reasonably fast. Processor speeds and number of cores can make a difference, but it is not nearly as important as it was in the past.

If you are looking to purchase a smartphone in the near future, it may be wise to wait until after Mobile World Congress in March. Generally, this leads to a price drop in current models as new models will soon be on the way.

Have any questions, comments, or suggestions? As always, feel free to contact us on Twitter @ChantyTech.

Myron Jones is a senior double-majoring in political science and communication. His column is published weekly.

Valentine's Day: Single and ready to mingle versus dating for days

Megan Wise
Staff Writer

It's pretty evident that Valentine's Day is upon us here at Jacksonville State University. Whether you're running to Wal-mart for some last minute pasta or jamming out to punk-rock on the radio, the pink-and-red spangled holiday has made its presence known. While it's cute for some people, others might dread its arrival along with the accompanying pressure of finding the right way to celebrate it with their significant other. Nowadays, Valentine's has become about coming up with that Instagram worthy moment.

Some people resort to thirty dollar teddy bears that take up the passenger's seat while others stick with on quiet, Skype date-nights at home, but what it all boils on down to is what really makes us want to celebrate such a sugar-coated holiday?

For those of us who have found some poor soul who agree to put up with us, I believe Valentine's Day to be a highlighted day on the calendar.

Worth noting, but not necessarily more important than any other day of the year. On February 14th, I certainly want them to know they are cared for and appreciated, but at the same time I also hope they know this every other day of the year as well. While it's true that I'm making an effort to find small things that remind me of them and make the day as special as I can for us, I'm going to approach it with the same passion as I do for any day that I'm blessed to be with them. Everyone has their own opinion when it comes to Valentine's Day, but just remember to show that you care about that someone, not just for today, but for the other 364 days of the year.

When the dog bites. When the bee stings. What makes you feel sad? Being single on Valentine's Day is supposed to be one of the most depressing feelings in the world. That's what the movies say, right? Walking into Wal-mart and seeing the sea of balloons on the ceiling fills all us single kids with anger, sadness or rage, right? Wrong. Very, very wrong.

The misconception that each and every person that is not in a relationship is bitter about the highly-marketed holiday gets old faster than all that over-

priced candy that people flock to stores to buy last-minute. I am a firm believer in the philosophy that people should get their own lives in order before they worry about tying themselves to another person. The emotional, mental, and physical dedication that goes into a relationship is time-consuming. Maintaining a healthy relationship is never easy, so while you're in college struggling to come up with ways to make ramen noodles

into a more creative entrée for dinner, why struggle with pleasing another person at the same time? Go to Wal-mart, head held high, and buy an over priced, four-foot-tall teddy bear for *yourself*.

To all of our committed friends out there, stop assuming that just because we aren't in a relationship, that we spend our spare time stomping on flowers and buying Valentine's Day cards just to light them on fire. We're okay, and we're happy that you are too. Just don't get so PDA when you're around everyone...because that is annoying.

Alex McFry
Associate Editor

Hey Gamecocks!

Check out our new online polls.

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at www.jsu.edu/chanticleer/

SPORTS

Benson led JSU Women to another double-digit victory



JSU Sportswire

Jacksonville State's Briana Benson scored 20 points to help lead the Gamecocks to a 70-54 win over TTU.

Lauryn Dawkins
Staff Writer

The Jacksonville State women's basketball team has won again, moving them up to 7-4 in the Ohio Valley Conference and 16-7 overall as they defeated Tennessee Tech 70-54 on the road Saturday evening.

Briana Benson dropped 20 points, energizing the Gamecocks as they ended the game with a total of 70 points. Senior Candace Morton dropped 12 points and senior Destany McLin scored 10.

JSU was quite successful in shooting from the field as they came out of the first half with 52 percent.

However, Jacksonville State's defense restricted Tennessee Tech to 11-of-29 from the field.

JSU began the second half with an eight point lead and was able to pick up 36 more points before the end of the game. Jacksonville State's sturdy defense was able to keep Tennessee Tech back, so TTU was only able to score 28 more points in the second half. JSU was able to maintain a strong

lead and soon reached the double-digits at the 9:43 mark after Courtney Strain scored a three-pointer.

Tennessee Tech tried to catch up quickly by giving JSU only a three point lead of 40-37, but JSU fought back by gaining 13 more points, giving the Gamecocks a 16 point lead.

Jacksonville State grew steady control of the game and eventually gained a 20 point lead after Morton made a pair of free-throws.

This will be the first double-digit win against Tennessee Tech for JSU since 2005. This is also

the first time since the 2003-04 season that the women's basketball team has recorded three double-digit wins in a row.

Tennessee Tech now falls to 2-9 in the OVC.

JSU finished the game with a shot percentage of almost 49 percent from the field. Tennessee Tech made only 35 percent.

The Jacksonville State women's basketball team will play again on Feb. 11 in the Pete Mathews Coliseum at 5:30 p.m. against Belmont.

Williams leads JSU Track & Field at Southern Illinois Invite

CARBONDALE, III. – The Jacksonville State track and field team had a solid outing on the final day of the Southern Illinois Invitational.

The highlight of the day was the performance of sophomore Ashley Williams. Leading the way was Williams' fourth-place finish in the high jump with a season-best 1.55 meters improving on her previous mark of 1.49 meters. The Auburn, Ala., native finished fifth in the triple jump at 11.59 meters. The previous best triple jump of the season for JSU was William's 11.52 recorded at the UAB Green and Gold Invite.

Four Gamecocks took part in the long jump competition with Williams leading the way with a jump of 5.35 meters for her third top-10 finish of the day earning a ninth overall finish. Freshman Kimjika Finebone and senior Ebonie Curry earned top-20 placements with marks of 5.02 and 4.98, respectively. Freshman Selena Tarvin rounded out JSU's jumpers with a distance of 4.42.

Jax State placed two in the top-10 of the pole vault. The freshmen duo of Samantha Patterson and Laura Sewell finished back-to-back to place eighth and ninth with marks of 3.40 and 3.25 meters. Additionally, fellow freshman Kelsey Walling's height of 3.10 meters gave the Gamecocks three of the top twelve spots.

In the shot put portion of the day, senior Danielle Moss had a distance of 13.69 meters to finish seventh after host Southern Illinois swept the first four spots of the competition. Freshman Courtney Bennett's throw of 10.96 meters was good enough for a top-15 finish. Senior Alyssa Leyendecker's 11th-place finish in the weight throw with a distance of 13.39 meters tied for the best throw of the season by Gamecock.

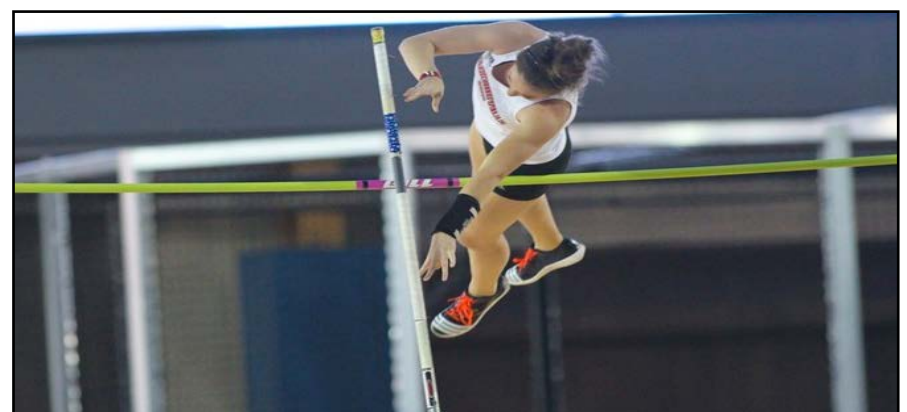
On the track, sophomore Jasmine Parham finished ninth in the 400 meter dash crossing the line at 1:00.05. Senior Whitley Towns was able to do slightly better with a seventh-place finish in the 800 meter run

with a time of 2:22.64. In the shorter 200 meter dash, freshman Kayla Thompson's mark of 26.06 placed just outside the top-10 at 11th.

Thompson and Curry tied with Southeast Missouri's Chelsea Miller for 16th as each finished at 8.05 seconds in the 60 meter dash. Ju-ells McLeod paced the Gamecocks in the mile run with a time of 5:24.76 finishing 18th out of the 40 runners that completed the event.

JSU is back on the road, but remains in-state, next weekend as it travels to Birmingham to participate in the Samford Invitational.

~ JSU Sportswire



JSU Sportswire

JSU Track & Field performed well in the pole vault at the SIU Invite.

Gamecocks Side Bar

Upcoming Action

2/13

-Softball vs Virginia Tech
9:00 a.m.

-Softball vs Maine
12:15 p.m.

-Track & Field at Samford
Invitational
2:00 p.m.

-Baseball vs Youngstown State
3:00 p.m.

2/14

-Track & Field at Samford
Invitational
9:00 a.m.

-Baseball vs Youngstown State
1:00 p.m.

-Softball vs James Madison
3:45 p.m.

-Women's Basketball vs Tennessee Tech
5:00 p.m.

-Softball at North Florida
6:00 p.m.

-M Basketball @ Tennessee Tech
7:30 p.m.

2/15

-Softball vs Virginia Tech
11:15 a.m.

-Baseball vs Youngstown State
1:00 p.m.

2/17

-Men's Tennis at Troy
2:00 p.m.

-Women's Tennis at Troy
2:00 p.m.

-Baseball at UAB
3:00 p.m.

2/18

-Baseball vs UAB
3:00 p.m.

-Women's Basketball at Eastern Kentucky
6:00 p.m.

FYI Sports

-JSU's Travis Stout has been named to the National Stopper of the Year Award list by the National Collegiate Baseball Writers Association.

-JSU Women's Basketball is currently No. 1 in the OVC East standings.

-JSU Soccer signed four solid recruits during signing period.

Jax State Rifle collects ninth OVC Title; fourth in a row for the Gamecocks

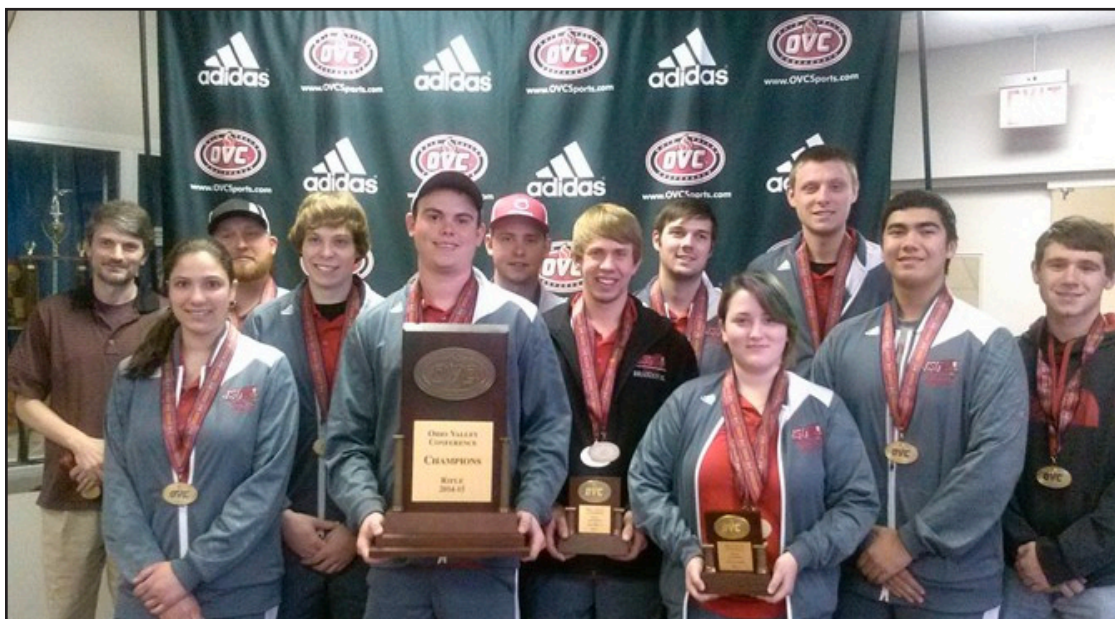
JACKSONVILLE—For the fourth consecutive year and the ninth time overall, the Jacksonville State rifle team claimed an Ohio Valley Conference Rifle Championship on Sunday at its home range on the JSU campus.

The Gamecocks, who won the OVC Smallbore crown on Saturday with a 2311, the Red and White capped off the weekend with a 2351 in the air rifle to win the overall championship with an aggregate mark of 4662. JSU edged Murray State by 18 points as the Racers gave JSU a battle throughout the weekend. The Racers were 10 marks behind Jax State in air rifle with a 2341. UT Martin rounded out the top-three in the team standings.

The Gamecocks were paced by sophomore Brandon Muske's top air rifle mark of 593. For his efforts, he was named the 2015 OVC Air Rifle Athlete of the year. Muske be-

comes the sixth JSU shooter to be named the top air rifle shooter in the conference and the first since Monica Fyfe won the award in 2013.

JSU's air rifle score was bolstered by Cole Tucker's 591 and Samantha Bullard's score of 589. Dan McCall, who had a 584 in smallbore on Saturday, finished with a 578 in air rifle. The trio were all named to the OVC Air Rifle First Team. Bullard and Brooks also were named to the OVC Smallbore First Team. Jax State Head Coach Ron Frost shared 2015 OVC Coach of the Year honors with MSU's Alan Lollar. It marks the sixth time that Frost has claimed the league's top coaching honor, which is voted upon by his peers.



JSU Sportswire

~JSU Sportswire

The JSU Rifle team poses with their trophies and medals after winning OVC Championship.

Gamecocks fall to Bears in Mercer Invitational finale

Dillon Floyd
Staff Writer

JSU Softball came up a little short in taking of the Mercer Invitational, losing 13-6.

The Gamecocks were 4-0 heading into the championship game on Sunday, with one of those wins (10-7) being over Mercer on Saturday.

JSU held a four-point deficit early to claim a 6-4 lead, but a seven-run fourth inning for the Bears gave the home team the lead for good.

Freshman Emily Woodruff delivered a three-run homer to cap the five-run second and gave the Gamecocks their first lead of the game. The center fielder from Albertville, Ala., drove the ball over the wall in left center for her first career homer.

JSU received an un-earned run in the third to stretch its lead to 6-4, but the top of the fourth did the Gamecocks in. Mercer scored seven runs on five hits, an error, a walk, and three hit batters to claim control of the game. The Bears would add insurance runs in the fifth and in the seventh to finish the scoring.

Junior Casey Akenberger (0-1) suffered the loss in the circle for JSU after allowing five runs on eight hits in three innings of work. She walked one and hit two batters.

Riley Carter (1-0) earned the win for Mercer after holding JSU scoreless on two hits over five innings of relief work. She struck out seven and walked three.

JSU's Junior Cadi Oliver went 3-for-3 and reached base all four times to cap an impressive opening weekend. Oliver went 8-for-14 (.571) with two doubles, two home runs and six RBI's to garner All-Tournament honors.

Senior Sara Borders and freshman Whitney Gillespie were also named to the All-Tournament Team.

JSU beat IPFW and Valparaiso to start the weekend off on Friday, then beat Mercer

and IPFW again on Saturday to reach the championship. Gillespie pitched her first win and recorded a save to begin her JSU career. Sophomores Logan Green (2-0) and Taylor West (1-0) also recorded

wins on the hill for the Gamecocks.

JSU will head to Jacksonville, Florida on Friday to play in the North Florida Tournament. JSU faces Virginia Tech at 9 a.m. and play Maine at 11:15 a.m.



JSU Sportswire

Jacksonville State's Cadi Oliver throws a pitch at the Mercer Invite.

Rackley and Drumwright lead men's basketball in loss at Tennessee Tech on Saturday evening

COOKEVILLE, Tenn. — Jacksonville State's duo of Darion Rackley and Malcolm Drumwright combined for 42 points, but JSU's shooting woes continued on Saturday with a 72-59 loss at Tennessee Tech at the Eblen Center on the TTU campus.

The loss was the Gamecocks fifth in a row and dropped them to 2-9 in Ohio Valley Conference and 9-17 overall. Tech picked up its third conference win of the year and pushed its overall mark to 11-13.

Rackley, the team's leading scorer entering the contest, rebounded from an off-night last Wednesday at Memphis as the St. Louis, Missouri-native was held to five points in Jax State's final non-conference affair. He responded with eight in the first half and nine second-half points in 35 minutes of action. Rackley was able to get to the free throw line with a 12-of-15 outing.

JSU freshman Malcolm Drumwright continues to give the Gamecocks a scoring boost off the bench with 17 points, which matches his season-high. He added 17 points at UT Martin in January. The Rancho Cucamonga, California-guard

led JSU at Memphis with 12 points. Drumwright scored 13 of his 17 points in the second half.

Tech led for nearly the entire contest and weathered a tough scoring start for both teams to race out to a double figure lead by the 9:53 mark of the opening half. The deficit never got within single digits the rest of the way. TTU's shooting kicked in to gear and finished the opening half shooting 41 percent from the field en route to posting 38 points in the first half and taking a comfortable 38-22 lead in to the intermission. JSU's offensive struggles hindered it throughout the first half, but the squad's shooting mark improved in the second half. After hitting just eight baskets in the first half, the Red and White were 9-of-25 from the field in the final half. The Gamecocks finished the night shooting 36 percent, but out-scored TTU 37-34 in the final period.

After being held to 45 and 48 points at Tennessee State and Memphis respectively, JSU eclipsed the 50-point mark with just over a minute to play in the contest.

Coming out of the halftime break, Tech maintained its consistent shooting and did not let the Gamecocks back in to the contest. The Golden Eagles cooled off just slightly in the second half, but still managed to hit 36 percent from the field and limit JSU to its nine baskets.

Tech dominated on the boards as it had a plus-19 advantage in rebounds and pulled down 48 total boards. TTU's Charles Jackson led the rebounding effort with 16 boards to go with his team-high 17 points. Jackson was one of four Tech players in double figures in the scoring column. DeOndre Haynes added 12 points off the bench, while Dwan Caldwell posted 11 points. Torrance Rowe chipped in 10 points.

JSU finally returns home on Wednesday as it welcomes the Bruins of Belmont to Pete Mathews Coliseum. Tipoff is set for 8 p.m. and will follow the women's contest that will get underway at 5:30 p.m.

~JSU Sportswire



WHERE YOU'RE GOING.