



Knowing the ins and outs of the ECE

Marie Simpson
Staff Writer

“By failing to prepare, you are preparing to fail”—Benjamin Franklin must have been referencing the English Competency Exam administered by JSU’s English Department.

This basic writing skills test must be passed in order for students to be eligible for graduation.

The English Competency Exam, ECE, is an essay that consists of 400-500 words.

Students choose between two essay prompts and have a maximum of one and a half hours to

complete the exam. The exam is given three times a year offered in October, February, and June.

“Students who do not register to take the ECE as soon as they are eligible are my greatest concern,” said Susan Sellers, English Professor and ECE instructor.

For students to qualify for the exam they must have completed at least 60 hours and passed EH 101 and EH 102. Postponing the exam could affect a student’s progression at JSU, especially if taken in the last semester before the students expected graduation date. “That’s when things turn ugly.”

The fourteen-year ECE veteran gave great advice to those who have not yet taken the exam. “This

test is not meant to terrify students,” said Sellers.

Workshops are available for students the week before an exam is held so that they may prepare for the upcoming test.

When the student arrives to take the test, a blue or black pen is required along with a Blue Book for the essay. Print dictionaries and electronic spellers are recommended, but not mandatory. The student must also bring a picture ID to the exam for identification purposes.

Because this is a mandatory exam, students are given ample opportunity to retake the test before graduation if not passed the first time.

A six-week period known as “remediation” is

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JSU allows more hands-on experience for videographers

Department Spotlight: JSU Interactive



Katy Nowak/The Chanticleer

The staff of the newly implemented JSU Interactive stays busy with projects year-round.

Katie Cline
Staff Writer

JSU Interactive is brand new—so new, in fact, that many students and faculty aren’t even aware it exists.

Formed in November 2013, JSU Interactive is a three-person sub-department under Marketing and Communications.

Accomplishing seemingly impossible tasks, Lead Designer Shannon Crutchfield and her two videographers, Bo Bailey

and Tanner Cain, create promotional videos, commercials, websites and campaigns for departments within the university.

The trio has completed 80 videos thus far, including JSU’s “Accepted” campaign for high school seniors and the 2014 Homecoming Hype video.

“The only way we could get this type of content before was outsourcing,” said Crutchfield. “If you’re going to go to an outside agency, you can pay upwards of a hundred

thousand dollars per video. So, we’re producing a lot of content for very little cost.”

In addition to being fiscally efficient, it is JSU Interactive’s goal to help JSU live up to its reputation as the Friendliest Campus in the South.

“We are trying to give the university the best look and feel that we can,” said Crutchfield, “and the response has been great. The best thing to me is that we have so much student involvement.

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Vallean Jackson/The Chanticleer

Jacksonville car wash provides surprise service

Vallean Jackson
Staff Writer

Tucked away in the bustling area between Loco Mex and Pizza Hut on Highway 21, there is a place that serves as a one stop self-serve wash, but it isn’t just an ordinary car wash. This facility allows people to also wash man’s best friend—their pets.

It is easy to miss this concealed building that sits back from the highway. Though this seemingly random piece of architecture is away from the main strip, it serves a great purpose to the Jacksonville area. The Pet Wash/Car Wash caters to those who love their cars and their pets.

Everyone who owns a pet knows what it is like to have Fido smell slightly like outdated milk. The Pet Wash/Car Wash is a one-stop spot for pet grooming and car washing needs.

As customers eliminate the animal hair on the seats or paw prints that seem to have their perpetual mark on the windows, they

See CAR WASH, Page 2

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CAR WASH, from Page 1

can also clean the animal that caused the mess. There is no need for an employee to be present to wash and clean the car because all the equipment to do so is on-site. When customers enter the parking lot of the Pet Wash/Car Wash, the option to go left or right will determine the price for service. The cost of the car wash is \$1.75 in quarters and the entire vehicle can be cleaned inside and out. The equipment is offered along with seven steps to clean and detail the car. The business might not appear to be the forefront of the small business district due to all the restaurants surrounding it, but it is certainly a convenience for students and surrounding Jacksonville residents.



Vallean Jackson/The Chanticleer

ECE, from Page 1

available to help strengthen writing skills for the next test attempt. Those who fail are to contact Learning Services in the basement of Houston Cole Library. A minimum of six essays must be completed and approved by the specified instructor to regain eligibility to retake the ECE. The English Competency Exam is not mandatory in other universities across the state. This has students questioning, how necessary is this exam post-graduation. Dr. Felgar, Head of Jacksonville State's English Department said, "This exam is in the best interest for each student attending Jacksonville State University." In today's job market, technology can give students a competitive edge, allow-

ing them to share work with a variety of different audiences. Technology is also responsible for the written art to soon become obsolete. Sharp, concise writing skills and English comprehension are necessities for those seeking out an edge when looking for employment. Tests such as the ECE are put into practice to ensure college graduates can communicate effectively. "Attitude is everything," said Sellers, "I tell this to all my students: If you go into the exam or remediation, prepared, with a positive mindset, both situations can pan out in the student's best interest." For more information about the English Competency Exam and registration inquiries, students are asked to visit the website <http://www.jsu.edu/english/ece.html>

INTERACTIVE, from Page 1

It's just exciting that people want to be involved." JSU Interactive hosts open call auditions for all the voice actors used in its videos and has even featured some JSU faculty and alumni voices in its creations. With a limited staff and no budget as of yet, it's sometimes difficult to manage the high demand pouring in from eager departments. "We usually have four or five projects going at one time," Crutchfield said. "We have to be efficient. Sometimes we have to turn people away just because video takes a lot of time to produce." Projects can take anywhere from four days to produce for a basic event video to six months for more complex ad campaigns, such as the "Accepted" campaign. In conjunction with Andy Green of the Admissions Office and Tim Garner of Marketing and Communications, JSU Interactive has produced its most exciting ad yet: a two and a half minute video entitled "Accepted," which has inspired an online viewbook for prospective students and will be shown as a recruitment tool at Accepted Students Days throughout this semester. Bo Bailey is a senior Communication major and one of two videographers and editors for JSU Interactive. "We sat and racked our brains for about a week brainstorming and just thought of coming down to one word and that was 'accepted.' Everybody wants to feel accepted." "And at JSU you're definitely going to be accepted," Crutchfield added. As young as it is, JSU Interactive has already been growing by leaps and bounds. In December, JSU Interactive was awarded two silver Education Digital Marketing Awards for its 'Accepted' video and online viewbook and a gold award for its Housing and Residence Life video. But the benefits of JSU Interactive go further than just awards. "It's a great chance for us to hone our skills, [as Communication majors] come out and learn, actually do real world experience," said Bailey. "Working here has given me more experience than any of my previous jobs. We've done things that look good. They feel good; it's something to be proud of." And, clearly, the three-man team is doing their job. "When you do things in house it's a lot more personal to the school," said Bailey. "Everybody that's seen ['Accepted'] has told us, 'That's what Jacksonville is about. That captures it.'"



JSU Interactive/Special to The Chanticleer

JSU Interactive is one of the newer offices on campus. Started in November 2013, JSU Interactive is sub-department under Marketing and Communications. The small staff works on media projects for the university.

Stay updated with *The Chanticleer* on social media!

Got something for us to see? Use #chanticleerjsu



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(The Chanticleer)



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FACULTY COMMONS
JACKSONVILLE STATE UNIVERSITY

Check back next week for announcements from the Faculty Commons

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

Need Advice?

The Chanticleer staff is happy to help!

Email chantynewstips@gmail.com with your problems and look in the paper next week for our newest "Dear Chanty" section.

NOTE: All entries will remain anonymous, and Chanty will respond to all inquiries.

JSU announces Black History Month events

Soul Food Night
February 12
4:30 – 7 p.m.
Jack Hopper Dining Hall

Black History Trivia
February 18
Noon – 2 p.m.
Jack Hopper Dining Hall

Guest Speaker: Theodore R. Britton, U.S. Ambassador and Congressional Gold Medal Recipient
February 19
6 p.m.
11th Floor of Houston Cole Library

Movie Night: "42"
February 24
6 – 8 p.m.
Theron Montgomery Auditorium



Dear Chanty,

I've been dating a guy for almost a year and neither of us is very good at being friends with people of our own gender. This means that neither of us gets jealous easily and we trust each other a lot.

That's where the problem comes in. My significant other is friends with his ex-girlfriend, which I have no problem with because she's a pretty awesome lady. What I do have a problem with happened last week. After watching some television shows with her and spending some time with her, he spent the night at her place. I was really upset and broke up with him. When I did, he went romantic on me and told me he would fight to make me trust him and love him again.

He treated me really badly by not taking into account my feelings about him spending the night with an ex-girlfriend, but now he's trying to win me back. I still love him and have given him a chance, but is staying in a relationship where I've been hurt really worth it?

*Sincerely,
In Love & Hurt*



In Love & Hurt,

Being friends with an ex boyfriend or girlfriend can be tricky. No matter how comfortable you might be with your significant other being around people that they are attracted to (in this case, the opposite gender), there are still cases in which lines have to be drawn. I think this is a fantastic example of one of those cases.

If you have confronted your boyfriend about the incident with his ex-girlfriend, you have done all you can do. Letting him know that there has been a breach of trust is definitely something that should be addressed, because without trust, there can be no healthy relationship between two people who love and care about each other.

Now, you just have to be patient. If your boyfriend really cares about you and the well-being of the relationship, he will continue to be loyal to you and not disrespect the boundaries that you have set. If he continues to spend more time with the ex-girlfriend, it could be detrimental for not only your trust, but your own mental health.

*Yours truly,
Chanty*

Campus crime report: 01/29 to 02/05

01/29/2015 Consumption of Alcohol by a Minor Stadium Tower	01/30/2015 Code of Conduct Violation Carson Lane	02/03/2015 Information Report Pelham Road North
01/29/2015 Automobile Accident TMB Parking Lot	01/30/2015 Domestic Violence - Menacing Off Campus	02/03/2015 Damaged Property Stadium Tower Parking Lot
01/29/2015 Theft of Property Ayers Hall	01/30/2015 Threat Assessment Bibb Graves	02/04/2015 Consumption of Alcohol by a Minor Sparkman Hall
01/29/2015 Burglary Ayers Halls	01/31/2015 Code of Conduct Violation Pannell Hall	02/04/2015 Consumption of Alcohol by a Minor Sparkman Hall
01/29/2015 Code of Conduct Violation Pannell Hall	02/02/2015 Automobile Accident University Circle	

Chicken Scratch



If this guy can't work a DVD player, then why is he the head of the department?

I wonder how many people would notice if I bought and wore a JSU Alumni shirt to class.

We need another break. That last one didn't cut it, especially for anybody that had to participate in that parade.

If we didn't have a test, I wouldn't be here.

When you walk into a class completely unprepared for the test and don't even care. #collegelife

Is vaping a total turnoff? I feel like I get weird looks from folks when I'm making clouds.








JSU Maintenance: "Oh, it's 9 a.m. and you paid \$1,800 per semester to sleep? How about we park a BULLDOZER under your window."

Putting my GPA up for adoption. I can't raise it myself.

It's a bird! It's a plane! It's not my GPA, that's for sure.

Submit today!
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7-day weather outlook

 TODAY	 FRIDAY	 SATURDAY	 SUNDAY	 MONDAY	 TUESDAY	 WEDNESDAY
Partly Cloudy High: 45° Low: 24°	Clear High: 53° Low: 30°	Clear High: 61° Low: 44°	Partly Cloudy High: 65° Low: 51°	Chance of rain High: 58° Low: 34°	Clear High: 54° Low: 30°	Clear High: 59° Low: 31°

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Project Almanac MTV's new movie gets a 7/10

Chris Morgan
Staff Writer

The concept of time travel has been in movies for a while now. With movies like *Back to the Future* and *Bill and Ted's Excellent Adventure*, the idea has done some really good things for the movie industry. Sadly I would not rank *Project Almanac* as high on the list as its predecessors.

To summarize, David Raskin, the main character, is accepted into MIT but like any student, is struggling to make the payments. His father was an engineer who died when David was seven years old but left a lot of his projects unfinished. To get some extra scholarship money he needs to come up with an idea for a project, so he starts looking through his dad's old projects to see if he can find anything worthwhile.

While he is looking through all of his dad's old junk he stumbles across his father's old camera. David then starts watching the tape and sees that it is from his 7th birthday party. He then notices something in the mirror during the party, after investigating it closer he sees that it is himself but as a seventeen year old. He is convinced it is him but it takes some time before his friends and sister accept the reality. Wondering how this could be they go

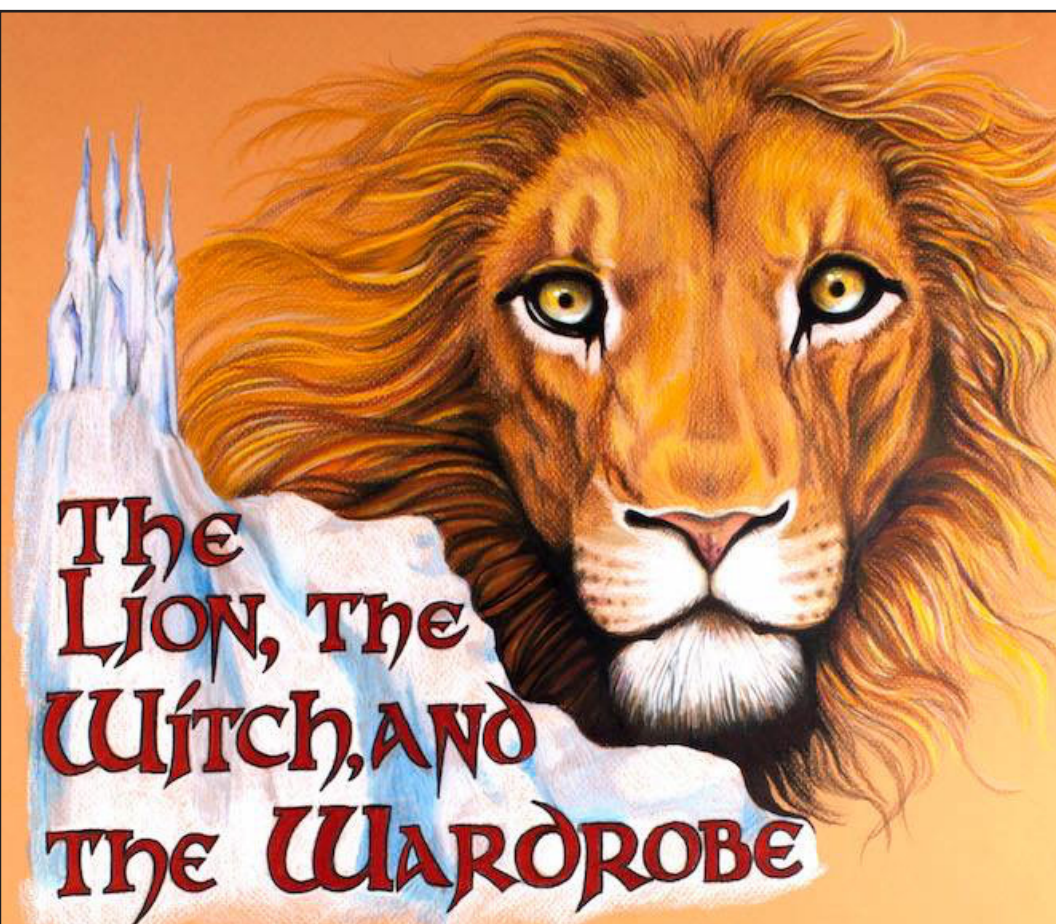
into his dad's old workshop to have a look around.

This is where the time machine comes into play. David and his friends find the machine and attempt to fix it. It doesn't take long before David loses his cool and starts to mess with too many things in the past just like every other time travel movie that has come before.

The way the movie was shot was similar to *Project 9*. Held mostly by David's sister Christina, it is shot using the found footage technique. I personally like this kind of camera method but it is not for everyone. The person I went to the movie with though said that she got dizzy from watching it on the big screen and I could see why. The camera does a lot of spinning and cutting in and out throughout the movie, especially during time travel.

Overall this movie is fairly good. The only part that I did not like was the ending. It felt very rushed and started to get confusing relatively fast. I found myself thinking about what previously happened rather than watching the movie. The rating from IMBD.com come out at a 6.6 which I think is an accurate rating for this movie. I personally would give it anywhere near a seven.

While the story was okay, the camera play as well as the somewhat confusing ending really took away from what I thought was a really solid film overall.



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General Admission Tickets

Adults \$20
Student \$10

Dates

February 12-14, 19-21
@ 7:30 p.m.

Available at the door and online

February 15 & 22
@ 2:30 p.m.

Upcoming events on and around campus

February 11, 2015

SGA hosts Speed Dating and Valentine Sweetheart Social in the TMB auditorium from 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

February 14, 2015

The annual JSU Trombone Festival will be held all day in the Mason Hall Performance center.

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.

"Kaleidoscope 2015" gallery opening slated for February 5

The JSU College of Arts and Sciences will be presenting "Kaleidoscope 2015," featuring visiting artist Brett Callero. This exhibition is a culmination of a series that consist of mixed media paintings.

The gallery opening will take place in Hammond Hall on Thursday, February 5, 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. The opening reception is free and open to the public. Refreshments will be available. For more information, please contact the JSU Art Department at (256)-782-5419.
~JSU Newswire



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Album art from Google images

Albums bring a blast from the past: new releases for February and March

2015 has started and that means tons of new music releases. Bands, solo artists, etc. across the board are trying to make 2015 their year. I took the liberty of highlighting some of those famous music legends that are going to show 2015 what they are made of.

Smoke + Mirrors will be released Feb. 17th. This will be the second studio album from the extremely successful and talented alternative rock band, Imagine Dragons. The band was formed in 2008 and its current members are: Ben McKee, Wayne Sermon, Dan Reynolds and Daniel Platzman.

The band had announced their second album at Lollapalooza in Sao Paulo, Brazil. They labeled the inspiration behind the album as their ultimate "new years resolution." Lead singer Dan Reynolds told MTV back in 2014 that the band didn't want to put out another record until they felt "really good about it," and they were going to take as long as they needed to record another great album.

Two singles have already been released, "Gold" and "I Bet My Life." Imagine Dragons has already found international success with their first studio album, Night Visions. It features the chart topping singles "It's Time" and "Radioactive." It comes as no surprise that they will be looking for the same success with Smoke + Mirrors.

German rock band the Scorpions is out of retirement and celebrating its 50th year in the music industry with a new record, Return to Forever, which will be released on Feb. 20th.

The Scorpions are one of the world's best-selling bands of all time with chart topping hits like, "Rock You Like A Hurricane," and "Still Loving You." In 2013,

the band stated that the new album would only feature newly recorded versions of never-published songs but that has since changed. The new record will feature material that has been written over 2011 and 2014.

The only consistent member from 1965 is Rudolf Schenker, while member Klaus Meine has been with the band since 1969, Matthias Jabs joined in 1978, James Kotak in 1996 and Pawel Maciwoda in 2003. Longtime and new fans alike will be able to hear the legendary band another time.

Madonna is one of the greatest music icons of all time. Rebel Heart, to be released on March 9th, is her thirteenth studio album. Avicii, Kayne West and Diplo are collaborators on the album.

Madonna found inspiration for the title from the "different facades of the singer, her rebellious and renegade side, and her romantic side." According to MuuMuse, Rebel Heart will be a very different album from the rest of Madonna's releases in this decade, calling it an "eclectic record," that features an array of musical genres.

Madonna has been around for years and has produced some great songs like "Material Girl," "Like a Virgin," "Like a Prayer," "Vogue," and "4 Minutes." However, she hasn't had such a smooth road producing Rebel Heart because in early December 2014 parts of her upcoming album were leaked. More than a dozen unfinished demos were leaked on various websites.

Madonna is still on track to release her record in March.

~UWire

Dr. Kimberly Mullendore Brown to perform vocal recital at Mason Hall

Jacksonville State University alumna and soprano Dr. Kimberly Mullendore Brown will perform a voice recital on Thursday, February 12, 2015 at 7:30 p.m. in the Performance Center of Mason Hall on the campus of JSU. She will be accompanied by piano professor Dr. Gail Steward.

Dr. Brown is a graduate of Oxford High School and received her bachelor's degree in music from Jacksonville State University, where she was a voice student of Sam Brown. She received her master's degree in vocal performance from the University of Alabama and a DMA in vocal performance from the University of Memphis.

She has been on faculty at Wayland Baptist University's (WBU) School of Music since 2007. At WBU, she is employed as associate professor and director of vocal studies, teaching applied voice, lyric diction, and vocal pedagogy.

Dr. Brown has appeared as soprano soloist for works including Wacht auf, ruft uns die Stimme (Bach), Messiah (Handel), Requiem (Fauré), Elijah (Mendelssohn), Vesperae solennes de confessore (Mozart), Serenade to Music (Vaughan Williams), and Bachianas Brasileiras No. 5 (Villa Lobos).

Her operatic credits include principle roles in L'Enfer de Figaro (Mozart), La bohème (Puccini), The Tragedy of Carmen (Brook/Bizet), and Albert Herring (Britten).

Dr. Brown is active as a solo and collaborative recitalist, having recently performed large collaborative vocal works such as Liebeslieder Waltzer (Brahms), To Be Sung Upon the Water (Argento), I Never Saw Another Butterfly (Lehmann), and Sechs Lieder (Spohr).

She performed in the world premieres of Gary D. Belshaw's Rossetti Songs and hymn arrangements, as well as John Baur's opera, The Promise.

In 2015, she will create the principle role of Cecelia in the world premiere of Gary D. Belshaw's opera, Incident at Burro Java.

A former member of JSU's ACappella Choir and Chamber Singers, Dr. Brown contacted Dr. Patricia Corbin, JSU director of choral activities, about doing this recital.

"I was happy to hear from Kim, who I remember very vividly," says Dr. Corbin. "She was in the choir when I first joined the JSU music faculty in 1999 and was extremely talented. It is wonderful to see her doing so well, and I look forward to hearing this recital."

This recital is free and open to the public. Dr. Brown will give a masterclass for JSU voice students on Friday, February 13. For more information, please contact the JSU Music Department at (256) 782-5559.

~JSU Newswire



By: L. A. Bonté



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OPINION & EDITORIAL

How charter schools are impacting college tuition

Brett Johnson
Political Columnist



Coming off an overwhelming victory in the 2014 election, leaders in the Alabama legislature are feeling more confident than ever in their ability to push forward their education agenda. Topping that list is allowing charter schools in Alabama.

Charter schools are publicly funded independent schools established by businesses or community groups under a charter with a local authority. Essentially, a private school funded by public money – by tax dollars.

Charter schools have come out of a growing ‘school choice’ movement, which promotes the idea that parents want more of a say in their child’s education. In fact, school choice was one of President Obama’s top education initiatives and campaign platform planks when he first ran for office.

Surprisingly enough, this leftist movement has made its way to Alabama and is being led by the Republican Party. Yes, they say politics makes for strange bedfellows. Nonetheless, after four years Alabama Republican leaders have been unable to pass charter schools legislation.

However, given no serious retaliation at the polls for the controversial Alabama Accountability Act, legislative leaders are setting the stage for a charter schools rerun this quadrennium. So what does that mean for college students, professors and staff?

It could mean a dip into all of our bank accounts, depending on how the issue is handled. Essentially, charter schools are funded by a follow-the-kid strategy; meaning public funds are allocated to schools on a per-student basis.

This would mean if your sibling were in a public school and decided to attend a charter school instead, the money that would have been

spent on their education at the public school would now go to the charter school instead. Most proponents will argue that this means no additional financial burden on education.

To quote Dwight Schrute: “False.” This theory relies on the idea that dollars spent in education are for just the student and the teacher. In reality, any new facility (charter school) is going to cost additional dollars to operate over what is currently being spent in a given school district.

Factor in support staff, custodians, bus drivers, coaches, secretaries, office staff, nutrition personnel, and those costs add up quick. By adding a new school to a district you essentially double the cost of educating a child.

This gives state leaders one of two options: increase the amount you spend per child or decrease the quality of education across the board by decreasing salaries and benefits for those involved in educating students.

Because Alabama can’t get much worse in education rankings, my guess is the state will find a way to increase K-12 expenditures. How do we do that without raising taxes? Cut higher education.

Legislators find it easier to justify cutting higher education funding to pay for k-12 funding because we pay tuition. They know that colleges can offset their losses by increasing tuition.

This is how college students fit into the charter school debate. This is how the hope of school choice now for a student in k-12 could ruin the possibility of higher education for that same student in the future.

We must seriously consider the consequences of stretching our few education dollars too thin in Alabama.

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

Spinning the wonderful World Wide Web wider

Myron Jones
Technology Columnist

One of the latest trends in electronics is the Internet of Things. Internet of Things is all about expanding the use of the Internet beyond human to computer interaction. Instead, the Internet of Things sees the Internet as a method of better connecting people to the world around them. With the rise of cloud computing, this is becoming increasingly possible. Many devices have already started adding Internet connectivity but is it really for the better?

Some of the main applications for increased connectivity are already available. These include smart TVs and smartwatches. The promise of such devices is that the increased connectivity gives you enhanced performance and extra convenience at the cost of a higher price tag.

Smart televisions are essentially your typical TV with additional computing components built in. Many Americans are no longer subscribing to cable services, and instead use internet streaming for their entertainment needs. Most smart TVs support Netflix, Hulu, and

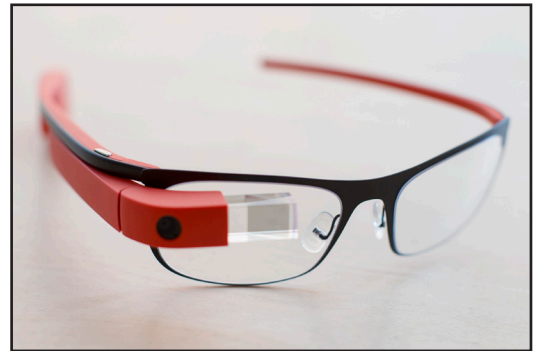
YouTube among other services, but they still cannot handle as wide of a variety of tasks as a smartphone can.

Smart TVs also don’t have anything close to the strength of an actual computer. Because of this, it is actually more practical and cost effective to buy an extra device that gives your existing television the features a smart TV would have in addition to others. Such devices include AppleTV, Google Chromecast, Amazon Fire TV Stick, or even your gaming consoles. Supplementing your television with one of the above devices is both more cost effective than purchasing a smart TV and more versatile.

Wearables are another large fo-

cus in adding connectivity. In just the past couple of years, the market has become filled with a wide assortment of wearable technology that is meant to bring us closer to the Internet. The Pebble smartwatch, Google Glass, Android Wear devices, and fitness trackers such as the Fitbit Surge are currently available. The Apple Watch and Microsoft’s HoloLens are wearables that have been announced but not yet released. Unlike smart TVs, I feel that wearables actually add something significant. The benefit of wearables is that you can always have them just as you would your smartphone. Some wearables offer information at a glance, while others offer a completely new way to interact with the world around us.

Smart TVs and wearables are not the only devices to enter the Internet of Things. There are even lightbulbs, such as LIFX and Hue from Phillips. Wemo offers an assortment of devices that connect to your other devices for both automation and notifications. There are smart washing machines and dryers as well. These devices aren’t meant for everyone, because there honestly is not much of a need. However,



some people may be overwhelmed with joy at the realization that they can receive an email when it’s

time to start

a new load of laundry.

As a fan of automation, I think the more internet-connected devices we have access to, the better. However, the major factor is price point. If companies are charging a premium for internet connectivity as seen with most smart TVs, the Internet of Things will never catch on. Connectivity needs to be a feature as opposed to a selling point.

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

Going Greek: questions, answers, myths and horror stories

Kenneth Smith
Staff Writer

First things first, let me say I really dislike the word “frat.”

I am part of a fraternity and a proud member of the fraternity and sorority community here at Jacksonville State University. There are some really great organizations that make up the Greek community at JSU. It is an incredible experience to be a part of a community that really seems to “get it.”

This being said, things have not always been perfect for any of JSU’s Greek organizations.

In light of recent events in Michigan, where members of six fraternities and sororities caused almost \$75,000.00 in damages at a hotel resort, one may wonder if all fraternities and sororities do is drink, party, fight and destroy things.

Besides, if you are a member of a fraternity or sorority all we really joined for was to pay for our friends, right?

This couldn’t be further from the truth.

Just because some fraternities and sororities mess up and land in the national news doesn’t mean we’re all that way. In fact, the many great things we do never seem to make the front page or get mentioned in the media world.

To the outsider, it seems that the money paid just allows someone to have friends that all wear boots, Wranglers and Polo shirts. To the insider, I know that I have over 200,000 living

members in just my fraternity that I can call on no matter where I am in the world and they will help me. They will help me if I had a flat tire, or will even help me if I need to find a job after graduation. In fact, I have had two brothers to recently graduate and are gainfully employed because of the connections they made while being an active member of Sigma Nu here at JSU.

Each of the following Greek organizations is part of the IFC (Interfraternity Council) here at Jacksonville State University, each with their own philanthropic initiatives. Each Greek organization here on campus stands for a prominent cause and does not only to better the community, but also the brother in the organization.

Delta Chi- “The V Foundation”
Kappa Alpha Order- “MDA”
Kappa Sigma- “A Greater Cause”
Pi Kappa Phi – “The Ability Experience”
formerly known as “PUSH America”
Sigma Nu - “Helping Hands Initiative”
Sigma Phi Epsilon- “YouthAids,” and
“T.A.K.E. Defense”
Tau Delta Phi (Colony)- “Active Minds”

If research is done, one will find that being a member of a Greek organization is much deeper than just partying.

For the past two years that I have been an active member of my organization, the fraternities

and sororities have been a part of a Greek unity clean-up day here in Jacksonville. This has made a huge impact on the community. The mayor, city council, members of the community and university leaders have all taken note that we can all come together to enrich the community and make sure that we are doing our part to leave it better than we found it. If you are interested in learning more about the Greek community here at JSU, you are able to visit <http://www.jsu.edu/studentlife/greek/>. Here one can find a lot of information about our Greek community and all of the organizations that make it what it is today.

It is my hope that whoever reads this realizes that being a member of a Greek organization enriches one’s life so much. It is hard to fully grasp unless one is a member, but know that we really do try to live above the standard and set our members up for a much more successful life once leaving college. The connections made are invaluable and experiences will be made that last a lifetime. I would ask that if you truly want to know more about Fraternity and Sorority life, that you take time to speak with a member of the community or go to the Office of Student Life and speak with Kristen Smith, Assistant Director for Fraternity and Sorority Life.

Kenneth Smith is a Junior majoring in Political Science with a minor in Art. He is currently the President (Commander) of Sigma Nu at JSU.

SPORTS

JSU Men blow second half lead to lose 45-43 to TSU



JSU Sportswire

Darion Rackley of the Jacksonville State Men's basketball team gets set to shoot a free-throw.

Timothy Cash
Staff Writer

The Jacksonville State Gamecocks men's basketball (9-15, 2-8 OVC) traveled to Nashville, Tenn. to take on the Tennessee State Tigers (5-18, 2-6 OVC) Saturday night that resulted in a 45-43 Gamecock loss.

Darion Rackley led the Gamecocks with 16 points, while D.J. Felder matched a career best 13 rebounds.

Jacksonville State looked to rebound from two consecutive losses Saturday night as they

traveled to Music City, USA to face Ohio Valley Conference foe Tennessee State. Road games have not been kind to the Gamecocks this season, going 1-12 when playing away from Pete Mathews Coliseum, with their one- lone win coming over in-state rival Alabama A&M back on November 25. Jacksonville State is 0-5 against the OVC while on the road.

The Gamecocks were able to keep the contest close in the first half, taking the score of 22-19 into the locker rooms for halftime.

The second half started

in Jacksonville's favor, too. The Gamecocks were able to go on an impressive 12-2 scoring run that brought the lead to 15 and the score to 36-21. Nine of Rackley's 16 points came during this half.

However, misery would ensue for the Gamecocks. The Tigers decided to change their defensive strategy; and it would work, too. The Gamecocks were only able to score two points over the next nine-and-a-half minutes. Meanwhile, Tennessee State was able to start chipping away at

the deficit and scored 19 points over the same span.

With 4:45 left to play, TSU reclaimed the lead. This was their first lead since the 13:40 mark of the first half. Five points would be the greatest lead that the Tigers would hold during the contest, but Jacksonville State was able to bring the score back to within two points by the time the final buzzer blew.

The Gamecocks will travel to Memphis, Tenn. on February 4 to take on the Memphis Tigers in the third game of their four game road stretch.

JSU Rifle shatters program and range record on Saturday

JACKSONVILLE – The nationally-ranked Jacksonville State rifle team tuned up for next week's Ohio Valley Conference Rifle Championships by shattering the program's all-time aggregate score and the Gamecock Rifle Range record on Saturday against Columbus State

JSU, ranked No. 4 in the recent Collegiate Rifle Coaches Association's Poll, recorded a final mark of 4699 to top the Cougars by 155 points. CSU finished with a score of 4544. The previous school mark was 4686, while the range's previous best was 4696.

Senior Dan McCall and sophomore Brandon Muske had near perfect scores in air rifle. McCall turned in match-best 595, while Muske was two marks back at 593. Both combined for nine missed perfect shots in the air rifle portion. McCall also turned in a solid day in small-bore with a final tally of 580. The Baltimore, Md.-native recorded an aggregate score of 1175. Muske was three points back of McCall in his final individual aggregate with an 1170. The Brenham, Texas-product had a 577 in small-bore.

Junior Samantha Bullard had a stellar day at the range as well with a 590 in air rifle and a 582 in small-bore. She finished second in small-bore behind Cole Tucker's top-small-bore score of 586. Tucker's best score of the day came in air rifle with a 591.

Senior Brent Books add marks of 586 in air rifle and 582 in small-bore.

Jax State will attempt for its ninth overall OVC Rifle since joining the league and its fourth consecutive championship next Saturday and Sunday at the Gamecock Rifle Range,



JSU Sportswire

Brandon Muske, a sophomore at JSU, finished off with almost perfect scores.

~ JSU Sportswire

Gamecocks Side Bar

2015 Sports GPA's

Sport.....	GPA
Women's Tennis.....	3.652
Men's Cross Country.....	3.528
Volleyball.....	3.470
Women's Golf.....	3.419
Soccer.....	3.229
Women Cross Country..	3.213
Women's Basketball.....	3.159
Men's Tennis.....	3.107
Baseball.....	3.063
Indoor Track & Field.....	3.050
Outdoor Track & Field...	3.050
Rifle.....	3.049
Football.....	3.045
Men's Golf.....	2.975
Men's Basketball.....	2.478
TOTAL.....	3.110

Upcoming Action

- 2/6
- Softball vs IPFW
10:00 a.m.
- Softball vs Valparaiso
12:15 p.m.
- Track & Field at Southern Illinois Invitational
3:50 p.m.
- 2/7
- Rifle vs. OVC Rifle Championship
- Softball @ Mercer
11:15 a.m.
- Men's Tennis @ Chattanooga
12:00 p.m.
- Softball at Bracket Play
1:30 p.m.
- Track & Field at Southern Illinois Invitational
3:52 p.m.
- W Basketball @ Tennessee Tech
5:30 p.m.
- M Basketball @ Tennessee Tech
7:30 p.m.
- 2/8
- Rifle vs OVC Rifle Championship
- Softball at Championship/Consolation
- Men's Tennis at UAB
2:00 p.m.
- 2/11
- Women's Tennis @ Samford
2:30 p.m.
- Men's Tennis @ Samford
2:30 p.m.
- W Basketball vs Belmont
5:30 p.m.
- M Basketball vs Belmont
8:00 p.m.
- 2/13
- Baseball season opener

JSU Women reach 15th win of the season with victory over TSU



JSU Sportswire

Destany McLin of the Jacksonville State Women's basketball team. McLin led the Gamecocks in scoring with 16 points in the loss.

Rebekah Hawkins
Staff Writer

The JSU women won their 15th game of the year on Saturday with a 63-50 victory against OVC opponent Tennessee State.

The win gave the Gamecocks their first 15-win season since 2004-2005 and placed them at a generous 6-4 in the OVC standings. It also gives them a three-game win streak and snaps a road loss streak that goes back to Jan. 3 when the Gamecocks lost to Eastern Illinois. It places them fourth in the OVC standings just behind Morehead State.

Destany McLin led the way in scoring for the Gamecocks with 16 points. Candace Morton was behind

her with 14. JSU was nearly perfect in free throws as they made 9-of-10.

The first half was well matched for both teams. While JSU went into the locker room with the lead, it was not an easy battle to get there.

JSU jumped out in the front first, but it wasn't long before TSU had tied the score at four for the first of four times in the first half. JSU took the lead by two, but less than 20 seconds later, the Tigers had tied it again.

It would be nearly five minutes later, after a Morton turnover, that TSU would take the lead 8-6 for the first time. They went up by their highest lead of the game 13-6 before Gretchen Morrison would hit two back-to-back three-pointers that would bring TSU's lead back down to one.

However, TSU would keep their lead within six until JSU managed to tie it at 22 with 6:26 remaining. They exchanged points and wound up tied again at 27 on a Morton free-throw with only 3:06 left in the half. Another two free-throws from Morton gave JSU their 30-27 lead and, after a three-pointer from both TSU and JSU, the first half came to a close with JSU in the lead 33-30.

JSU was perfect on free throws in the first half with six. They were also 11-of-29 for field goals made.

Morton led the way in the first half with 11 points scored on her own, nine of which came on three-pointers.

The second half opened with a quick shot by McLin to put JSU up by five fast. TSU reclaimed the

lead at 16:17 for the last and final time in the game. JSU would tie it up again at 39 one-minute later, then reclaimed their lead by three before TSU tied it at 42.

After that, JSU would take the lead back and not release it for the remainder of the game. By the seven-minute mark, JSU had a lead by eight. As the final two minutes began to tick away, JSU had their 13-point lead that would eventually win the game, but TSU tried for two more 3-pointers that both fell short. The Gamecocks came away with the victory.

The Gamecocks look to continue their OVC win streak Saturday Feb. 7 against Tennessee Tech in Cookeville.

Patriots intercept Super Bowl XLIX from Seahawks

Chris Hubbard
Staff Writer

The 2015 Super Bowl is in the books and it was everything the fans expected, and more. The New England Patriots came out on top with a last minute win over the Seattle Seahawks, 28-24. The win was New England's fourth Super Bowl victory in franchise history.

A controversial call by the Seahawks to pass the ball from the 1-yard line instead of running with the ball ended up being a costly decision as Patriots un-drafted rookie, Malcolm Butler, stepped in front of Russell Wilson's pass to make the game-ending interception.

Tom Brady won MVP and was 37 of 50 for 328 yards with four touchdowns and two interceptions for New England.

Wilson completed 12 of 21 passes for 247 yards with two touch-

downs and one interception for Seattle.

After a fast and scoreless first quarter, the Patriots got on the scoreboard with an 11-yard pass from Brady to Brandon LaFell with 9:47 left in the half. Seattle tied the game with a 3-yard run by Marshawn Lynch at the 2:16 mark. Lynch finished with 102 rushing yards.

With 31 seconds left before halftime, Brady connected with Rob Gronkowski on a 22-yard strike to take the lead, 14-7.

Wilson and the Seahawks did not waste any time. Wilson hit Chris Matthews with an 11-yard pass to tie the game again at 14 right before the half.

Seattle took the lead for the first time in the third quarter with a 27-yard field goal by Steven Hauschka, making it 17-14.

With 4:54 remaining in the third quarter, Wilson connected with Doug Baldwin from 3 yards out to increase their lead to 24-14. The Patriots would hold the Seahawks scoreless the rest of the way.

With 7:55 remaining in the game, New England closed the gap to 24-21 with a 4-yard pass from Brady to Danny Amendola.

With only 2:02 left on the clock, Brady found Julian Edelman for a 3-yard pass to take the lead 28-24. The last two minutes made for an exciting and controversial finish to the 2015 edition of the Super Bowl.

Jermaine Kearse of the Seahawks had a juggling catch that ultimately led to Seattle being goal to go at the 1-yard line. However, the Seahawks decided to pass and that's when Butler made the big-time interception for the Patriots to win.

The Seahawks actually had more yards of total offense with 396, while the Patriots ended with 377. However, the Patriots gathered 25 first downs throughout the contest leaving Seattle with 20.

The 49th Super Bowl played out to be one of the greatest, if not the greatest of all time.

Track & Field finishes visit to Hoosier State

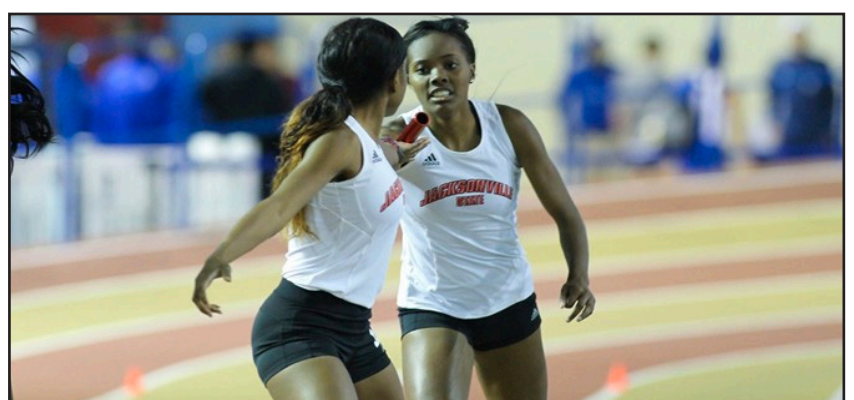
BLOOMINGTON, Ind. - The Jacksonville State track and field team wrapped up competition in the Indiana Relays Saturday inside the Gladstein Fieldhouse on the campus of the University of Indiana.

After posting fast enough times in the preliminaries on Friday, senior Ja'Nisha Davis and freshman Blake Perry advanced to compete in Saturday's semifinals in their respective events. Perry ran a time of 9.34 in the 60 meter hurdles to earn a top-15 placement. In the 60 meter dash, Davis finished 14th with a final mark of 7.99.

Perry turned in the best performance of the day by a Gamecock in the Triple Jump event. The Cartersville, Ga., product set a career-best with a distance of 11.39 meters to place 6th in the competition. It just topped her mark of 11.38 meters that the freshman posted at the season-opening UAB Blazer Invitational. Sophomore Victoria Dumas ran the 400 meter in 1:01.72.

JSU travels to Carbondale, Illinois next weekend to compete in the Southern Illinois Invitational.

~ JSU Sportswire



JSU Sportswire

Ja'Nisha Davis of JSU Track & Field reaches out for the baton.



WHERE YOU'RE GOING.