



WEATHER: High 44, Low 26, Cloudy

Thursday, January 15, 2015

# A day in the life of the registrar

## Departmental Spotlight: a series special to *The Chanticleer*

**Ashley Colvin**  
 Staff Writer

The sounds of printers humming and phones ringing can be heard outside the Registrar's Office by eight o'clock each morn-

ing. The female staff is busy at work doing so much more than they receive credit for. They are the behind the scenes organization at Jacksonville State University. The Registrar's Office is responsible for a plethora of things: tran-

script requests (official as well as unofficial, dropped classes and withdrawals, name changes as well as major changes; however, these ladies do so much more than just those things. They provide students with transient letters, letters that allow students

to take classes elsewhere while still being considered a JSU student. If a student is eligible to take a course at JSU they may be able to take summer classes closer to home that will transfer back to JSU to count toward the degree they are pursuing.

Transfer evaluations go to the Registrar's Office, allowing students from other colleges whom are seeking a degree at JSU to do so. The Registrar's Office is also in charge of the JSU catalog provided for students online. They take care of audits, major changes, and most importantly the Registrar's Office

is in charge of processing graduation and getting together the diplomas that students are seeking. In addition to these job descriptions, employees of the Registrar's Office have become experts in crisis management as well. Students who have come in frantically after finding that their classes have been dropped, they are facing financial complications, or other hardships are a normal occurrence.

In February 2006, Emily White became the assistant registrar. In September 2013, she was given the job title registrar. "We get to see students from the beginning, then watch them at graduation where they have reached their goal."

In addition to helping students with employment, employees of this office also help students get into graduate school leaving the office workers feeling as if they have played a hand in the success of a student. "The main goal is to help our students succeed," Ms. White said. "We answer all the questions we receive. If we don't know the answer we find out the answer."



Alex McFry/The Chanticleer

The Registrar's Office, located on the first floor of Bibb Graves Hall, is constantly busy.

# Grammy nominee opens Foothills Piano Festival

**Katie Cline**  
 Staff Writer

On January 8, 2015, multiple Grammy nominated pianist, Dr. Allison Brewster Franzetti, opened JSU's eighth annual Foothills Piano Festival in the Mason Hall Performance Center. Organized by Dr. Wendy Freeland of the music department, the Foothills Piano Festival is an annual event consisting of three to four piano recitals over the course of the year.

"I like to feature the piano in several ways," said Freeland, "sometimes a traditional recital, sometimes avant-garde, sometimes jazz piano, and I like to bring in featured pianists from outside as well as some of the great pianists from Alabama."

Dr. Brewster Franzetti is a native of New York City. She is a graduate of the Manhattan School of Music, the Julliard School, and Rutgers University and has been nominated for multiple Grammy Awards over her career. She has graced prestigious stages around the world, such as the Teatro Colon in Buenos Aires, Wigmore Hall in London, and Carnegie Hall and Lincoln Center in New York City both as a soloist and as a member of various orchestras. Dr. Brewster Franzetti currently serves as the Artistic Director of the Young Artists Program and the Coordinator of Adult Chamber Music at Rutgers University and serves on the Arts High advisory board in Newark, New Jersey. "[I've been playing piano] since I was two," Franzetti said. "My parents got a piano, and I sat down and learned how to play it. I never did the

baby thing. I have perfect pitch. I could play things by ear, in any key—major, minor, it didn't matter. And my grandmother taught piano. She and my mother took me for a consultation at Julliard when I was six, but I didn't make the decision that this was what I wanted to do until I was sixteen."

Brewster Franzetti's program for the night included "Four Impromptus" by Franz Schubert and "Images" by Claude Debussy as well as a duet with Dr. Jeremy Benson, Professor of Flute and Music History Studies at JSU, whom she befriended while attending the Mason Gross School of the Arts at Rutgers.

"When you're actually performing, there's an energy flow; you're giving energy to the audience, but they're giving energy to you," said Franzetti. "It's kind of symbiotic. It's an amazing feeling doing something you've worked so hard on but at the same time feels like you're doing it for the first time."



JSU Newswire

Students across campus were ecstatic to hear that Dr. Allison Brewster Franzetti would kick off the Foothills Piano Festival.

Dr. Freeland believes that events such as this are instrumental in grooming young musicians and the community as a whole.

"I do it to expose people to classical piano music. I think the 'ew' factor fades away after you're exposed. And I do it because I believe in performance. I'm a regular performer, and I want college pianists to hear and experience other performers."

The next performance of the Foothills Piano Festival is scheduled for April 2, 2015, at 7:30 p.m. in the Mason Hall Performance Center.

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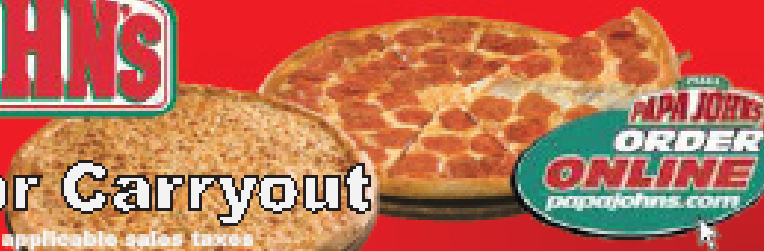
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# Jury selection begins in trial of accused Boston bomber

Jury selection for the trial of Boston Marathon bombing suspect Dzhokhar Tsarnaev began Monday at the John Joseph Moakley United States Courthouse, despite a recent attempt from Tsarnaev's defense team to delay the trial.

Tsarnaev is accused of placing two bombs at the finish line of the Boston Marathon that killed three people and injured more than 260 on April 15, 2013. The 21-year-old suspect has pleaded not guilty to the 30 federal counts against him.

Tsarnaev and his older brother, Tamerlan, are also accused of killing Massachusetts Institute of Technology police officer Sean Collier three days after the bombings while running from police.

Tamerlan was killed in a police shootout in Watertown on April 19, four days after the marathon. The younger Tsarnaev was taken

into custody that night after avoiding police for nearly 24 hours.

U.S. Attorney Gen. Eric Holder announced April 22 that Tsarnaev would be charged with with one count of using and conspiring to use a weapon of mass destruction and one count of malicious destruction of property by means of an explosive device resulting in death, the FreeP reported.

On May 1, three men were arrested and charged for impeding the process of the investigation.

Azamat Tazhayakov and Dias Kadyrbayev, who were classmates of Tsarnaev at the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth, were charged for willfully conspiring with each other in offense against the United States and for destroying and concealing evidence by plotting to dispose of a laptop and a backpack containing fireworks belong-

ing to Tsarnaev, the FreeP reported.

The third man, Robel Phillipos, was charged with knowingly and willingly making false statements to federal officials during the investigation.

In June, state and federal prosecutors formally charged Tsarnaev with a 30-count indictment that included weapons of mass-destruction, carjacking, illegal use of a firearm during a violent crime and killing four people, the FreeP reported.

Tsarnaev's lawyers appeared in court late September to request more time to decide whether the death penalty should be used in this case. Although the death penalty is illegal in Massachusetts, it is an option for Tsarnaev because his trial is in a federal court. Holder announced in January 2014 that the United States will be seeking the death penalty in the trial, the FreeP reported.

Matanov allegedly did not know

that the brothers were the bombing suspects until their photos were released. However, he provided information to law enforcement that he intended to be "misleading," the FreeP reported.


The defense also filed a request for postponement, which was granted, moving the initial November 2014 trial start date to January 2015.

Tsarnaev's team submitted another request Wednesday to once again postpone the trial, but it was denied.

Paul Gugliuzza, an associate professor of law at Boston University's School of Law, said Tsarnaev's trial will be a long and complex one.

"The stakes could not be higher, so both sides will be meticulous in their presentations," he said in an email. "More than anything, his objective will likely be to avoid the death penalty."

~UWire



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**FACULTY AND STAFF!**

**Check this section each week for shout-outs from the Faculty Commons.**

**Attention students and faculty!**

**This spring, The Chanticleer will be running a series each week that spotlights one specific department on JSU's campus.**

**Check back each week and see if your department is in the spotlight!**

## 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](http://www.jsu.edu/chanticleer)!**



## Robotics team wins national title

Over Thanksgiving break, the JSU Robotics Team traveled to St. Louis, Missouri, where it placed first in the 14th annual Association of Technology, Management, and Applied Engineering (ATMAE) Student Robotics Competition. It's the second time the team has won since it was established four years ago.

The 17-member team had to design a robot able to compete in four Olympic events without manual adjustments – including kicking a mini football over a six-foot goalpost. Judges combined scores from competition with points for overall design, a poster session, and audience voting to determine the overall winner.

The team is advised by Terry Marbut, head of the Department of Technology and Engineering, and instructor Phillip Dean.

As a prize, the team received \$100. Select members will receive a week of extensive industrial robotics training at Rixan Associates, which sponsored the competition. Membership to the JSU Robotics Team is open to students of all majors. For more information, contact Terry Marbut at 256-782-5034.

~JSU Newswire



Steve Latham/JSU

## College of Nursing to host Run/Walk For Your Life 5K

The JSU College of Nursing is hosting Run/Walk For Your Life 5K on Saturday, April 11, 2015.

Entry fees for the race that are postmarked by Tuesday, April 7, are \$20. All JSU students, faculty and staff, as well as members of the Anniston/Gadsden Runners Club can enjoy a \$15 fee. Online registration closes Thursday, April 9 at midnight. Race day registration will be \$25 for all participants.

All proceeds will be used to support nursing scholarships.

Run/Walk For Your Life 5K will be healthy, fun and educational! Every half-mile nursing students will be on the trail holding signs with health facts and providing entertainment. The race will start and end at Wallace Hall, located behind the library. A health fair will be offered during and after the event.

On-site registration will

begin at 6:30 a.m. at JSU's Wallace Hall and the race will begin at 8:00 a.m. Following the race, there will be an awards ceremony at Lela Sarrell Learning Center.

For more information, please contact Carla Willingham at 256-591-5694

or James Stanton at 205-516-4694.

~JSU Newswire

# Chicken Scratch



What did the vegetables say at the garden party? Lettuce turnip the beet!

What did the ghost eat for dinner? Spooketti

If I kept track of every time I thought about you, the list would be as long as Rapunzel's hair. After extensions.

Growing up in the technological age has taught me a few things. As in when I become a parent I know that taking a phone/laptop/tablet won't do much to a child. That charger though is where the fear is.

My mom got me an iPad and it's really nice but why do I need as iPad when I have a phone and a laptop?

Jacksonville needs a movie theater.

I love how it starts to rain right as I park my car in the back of the library parking lot...

Made eye contact again today, we're totes in love!

In honor of the \$500 I just spent on books, I celebrate with Waffle House. Appropriate.

*Submit today!*

*Have something you want us to see? Use*

*#chanticleerjsu*

I always forget I have gum in my car and when I get to class I'm like "I should have gotten a piece of gum."

All my friends that got a job and skipped college are buying new cars... I'm over here scraping up change for Ramen Noodles.

Are there any questions after going over the syllabus in class? "Yes! Is it too early to use one of my cuts in class?"

I like Mondays almost as much as I like my GPA...I hate my GPA!

I think JSU desks should have cup holders.

Didn't protect your GPA last semester? Avenge it this semester.

Sleep. Eat well. Be motivated. Have some fun. Nothing will be able to keep you down.

Have you ever designed a puzzle? Have a puzzle you would like to see published in the paper? Let us know using #chanticleerjsu or email us at chantynewstips@gmail.com and you may see it!

## Campus crime report

01/06/15  
Medical Emergency  
Theron Montgomery Building

01/07/15  
Arrest- Obstruction of Governmental Operations & Eluding Law Enforcement  
Highway 21 North

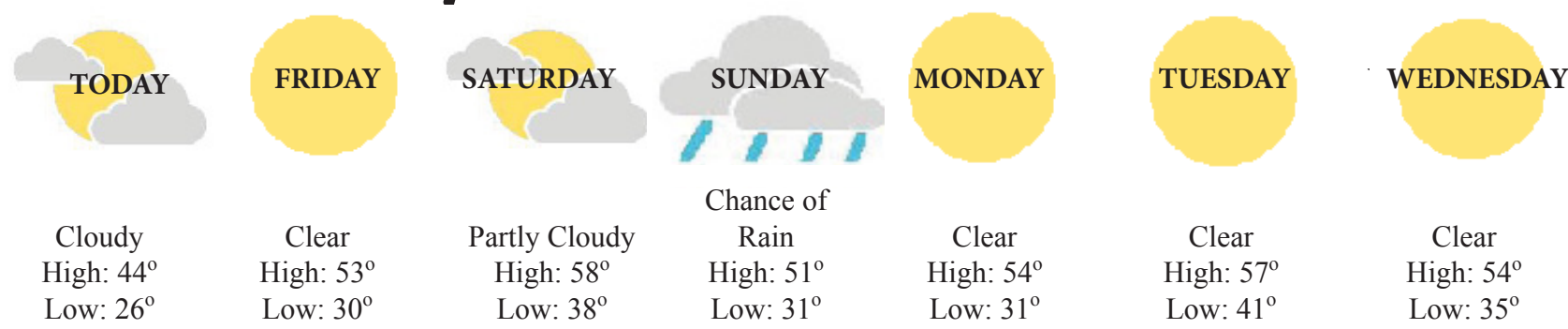
01/09/15  
Arrest- Driving Under the Influence & Resisting Arrest  
Paul Carpenter Village

01/10/15  
Towed Vehicle  
Pete Mathews Coliseum Parking Lot

01/12/15  
Criminal Mischief  
Brewer Hall Parking Lot

01/12/15  
Medical Emergency  
Bibb Graves

## 7-day weather outlook





# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

## JSU Drama Department begins spring productions

**Megan Wise**  
Staff Writer

The new semester brings many exciting changes to campus, but the most anticipated are the light-hearted, singing amphibians and a local murderess that will be coming to our stage at Jacksonville State University for the Drama Department's spring season.

A fun, lively production, "A Year With Frog and Toad" is a musical based on the children's books by Arnold Lobel. Like in the classic literary works, best friends Frog and Toad go through their day-to-day lives, encountering other animals along the way.

This production takes audiences through the seasons as they make their way from the page to the stage.

Waking from hibernation in the spring, Frog and Toad embark on many adventures ranging from planting gardens to telling scary stories in the dark in this whimsical tale.

Whether it be raking leaves or sledding, these two pals celebrate and rejoice in the differences that make them unique and special, all

the while entertaining audiences both young and young-of-heart.

Directed by Michael Boynton, "A Year With Frog and Toad" will be hopping to the stage February 19 through March 1, 2015.

"The music is jazzy and fun, and the show has a lot of genuine heart, which is actually very difficult to pull off authentically in this cynical age of ours," said Boynton.

"With that in mind, I feel like our audiences are in for a very special treat with this production: it's a rare little gem, and certainly not to miss," Boynton added.

Based loosely on true events, "To Tread Among Serpents" sheds light on the aftermath of a double murder in Rabittown, Alabama and the woman convicted of the crime, Violet Haight. Juanita Cohen, a New York reporter seeks to find out why the pig farmer murdered her boyfriend and his brother.

Not satisfied with what she finds, Juanita begins to publish her own version of the events as she continues to dig for the truth. The question is, will she really find what she is looking for?

Written by Kelly McBurnette-Andronicos and directed by Caroline Price, it's plain to see why "To Tread Among Serpents" is highly anticipated. The show will run from April 9 through April 12, 2015.

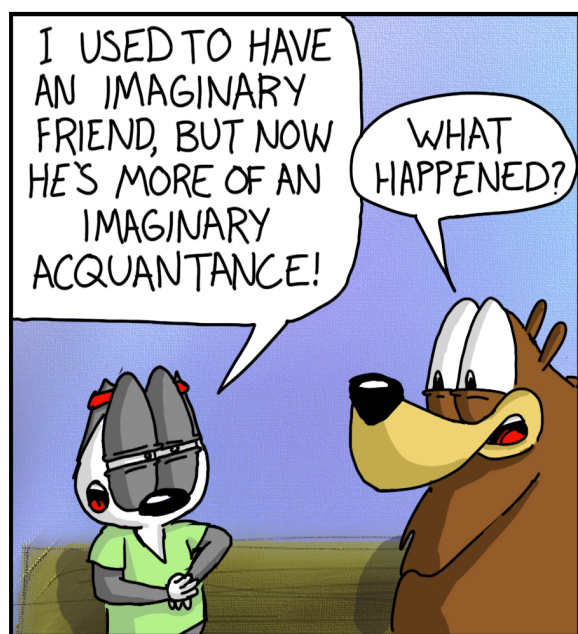
In addition to these shows, the Drama Department will uphold its tradition of doing the "One Acts," small one act works di-

rected and produced by students in the program. Anyone from across campus can audition to be part of these miniature performances. Specifics about these shows will be released at a later date.

Tickets are currently available and for more information on the shows or concerns check with the ticket office in Stone Center outside the theater.



JSU Drama Department



By: L. A. Bonté



For more comics and animations visit [FilbertCartoons.com](http://FilbertCartoons.com)

### Upcoming events on and around campus

January 20, 2015

Day of Unity is from 6:00-7:00 PM in the TMB Auditorium, in place of the normal Organizational Council meeting.

January 22, 2015

There will be a resume writing workshop on January 22nd from 5:00 to 7:00 PM in the TMB Auditorium.

January 27, 2015

Karaoke in the Caf will be at 6:00 to 7:00 PM in Jack Hopper Dining Hall. Bring a friend and see what happens.

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## 7 signs you're over winter break (and ready for school)

Don't get us wrong: We at the Clog love winter break. We get food cooked for us and laundry done for us and can wear red without being booed out of the house. There comes a time, however, when we have to admit that we're, well, over it. Here are seven signs you're with us.

### 1. You're having dreams about cooking for yourself again — and they're not nightmares.

It's not like you aren't super appreciative that your parents are cooking for you — we know you're reading this, mom — but all we're saying is that we'd like to have some junk food every once in a while. We start to crave the frozen foods we subsist on back at our apartments. Oh, GBC chicken strips, you're sorely missed.

### 2. You find yourself longing for just a tiny bit of stress.

You never thought you'd say this, but life feels a little directionless without the crushing stress of constant schoolwork. It's not like you're wishing for dead week to come back, but you wouldn't mind a little last-minute assignment reminder or a job application due tomorrow. Stress eating just isn't the same without, you know, the stress.

### 3. You're having a little existential crisis ... for the third time this week.

Although you feel that an existential crisis about your future career path merits a little sympathy, your friends are tired of you asking them about open hours on Tele-BEARS. Everyone knows you're not actually going to change your whole schedule — you had to wake up at 8 a.m. to get those classes in the first place.

### 4. Your Facebook refresh rate is up to 23 times per minute.

Even though Facebook only fuels your crisis — all of your friends are clearly having more fun than you — you can't look away. Logically, you know that refreshing your feed every two seconds isn't going to change what shows up, but you're going to do it anyway. You want to be the first to see all of your friends' winter break adventures ... until you realize they went to Sliver without you.



UWire

### 5. You haven't changed your pants in days

...

... and you're beginning to see the problem there. At first, living in your freshman year UC Berkeley sweatpants was a dream come true, but now they're starting to smell. There are only so many times you can use the "lounging around the house" excuse before you have to put on real clothes.

### 6. You're starting to talk to your parents about your life.

You're finding yourself in dire straits since you've been deprived of your UC Berkeley baes. Because your friends can't listen to your crazy stories, you guess your parents will work just as well. Although you find they don't display the appropriate amount of horror at some of your UC Berkeley stories — the

time you had to wait in line at Chipotle was a bona-fide outrage — it's better than nothing.

### 7. Your Snapchat friends are getting annoyed with your constant bed selfies.

One selfie from your bed was OK, two was pushing it — but by the third, your friends are ready to stage an intervention. You can't help it: You're bored (and, clearly, haven't left your bed in weeks). It's time to get back to the Bay so that your Snapchat Story once again contains pictures of the Campanile and brunch shots at La Note. Then, you're annoying, but for a different reason.

Emma Schiffer  
UWire

## Counseling to cooking: A JSU graduate's journey to owning his own business

Heather Greene

JSU Public Relations

From suffering personal tragedy during his freshman year to washing dishes for campus dining and realizing a love for the culinary arts, the ups and downs of Tradale Jefferson's time at Jacksonville State University molded him into the person he is today — a true Jack-of-all-trades.

A native of Birmingham, he originally pursued a degree in biology pre-med. However, during freshman year, his father committed suicide, leaving him deeply grieved. "It was very unexpected," he said. "I did not perceive that happening at any time."

After seeking assistance from JSU Counseling Services, he felt led to help others dealing with similar circumstances. He changed his major to social work and became an assistant to Linda Shelton, JSU's lead counselor. Together they established a student chapter of the National Alliance on Mental Illnesses, now known as Active Minds.

Shelton, who has known Jefferson since he was a freshman, describes him as "down-to-earth" and said she always felt she could talk to him. "He was not so heaven bound that he couldn't be earthly good," she said.

As a student, Jefferson founded the JSU Pep Squad, which devotedly attended every JSU football game wearing matching fan T-shirts. He was also actively involved in campus ministries, participating in Faith Outreach Campus Ministries and developing an active Bible study group, All About Jesus.

In addition to helping him cope with the loss of his father, JSU also introduced Jefferson to the hobby that became his career — cook-



Darryl Matthews, In Touch Atlanta Photography

ing. The Bible says, "Never despise meager beginnings." Jefferson, who is now a talented chef, began his career in food service by working in the dish room for Sodexo at JSU. The kitchen manager soon recognized his potential and placed him on the grill. After a semester of working on the grill, he was promoted to night cook and eventually full-time student manager.

But Jefferson discovered that cooking served

as more than a means of working his way through college. It was also a great stress reliever, especially during finals when he would cook everything in his refrigerator and invite all of his friends over to his apartment for a pre-finals dinner. "I would then go to sleep, take my test the next day, and be great," he said.

After graduating from JSU in 2009, Jefferson first served as a restaurant manager and then a social worker, but transitioned out of that line of work in March 2012, when he decided to pursue his love of cooking full-time. He is now the owner of 180 Grill Catering based in Hoover.

From "small parties here and there," Jefferson's business has grown into catering everything from weddings, bridal showers and birthday parties to corporate events. He recently received a contract to make lunch for a private school during the week.

"I've always liked to cook, but being at JSU helped me learn technicalities and legal things, gold standards that are out there," Jefferson said. "It also helped me prepare in bulk, or large mass quantities."

Jefferson is about to begin an exciting new chapter of his life, as he recently became engaged to LeighAnn Canzano. Who will cater the chef's wedding? He will, of course.

He is even qualified to serve as parson. Having received the call to preach at the age of 15, he is a licensed and ordained minister. He currently attends City Church in Rainbow City and serves as an "armor bearer" for his pastor.

When asked how JSU prepared him for where he is today, Jefferson said, "Connections! To this day, I still have major connections with people on campus and around the country who have graduated and gone on to do great things."



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# OPINION & EDITORIAL

## Do you want a degree for free?

**Brett Johnson**  
*Political Columnist*

President Barack Obama has announced a proposal to provide free community college education to any student with a 2.5 GPA. Too good to be true? Perhaps.

As someone considering a career in higher education, it's hard for me to say that millions of dollars in funding (and likely new jobs) for community colleges isn't the best thing. Maybe it is, maybe it isn't.

Let's first consider some implications that come along with such sweeping reform. First, the biggie: where in the world will this money come from? Many will answer: China, duh!

Everyone is well aware of the lackluster financial situation of the federal budget. Yet the president's plan would cost \$6 billion per year and \$60 billion over 10 years.

The plan would also require states to opt-in to the program and provide 25 percent of the funding. Let's stop here.

Alabama has already rejected an "opt-in" deal where the federal government has offered to pay: 100 percent of the costs for Medicaid expansion for the first three years, and 90 percent after that. Comparatively, it's hard to imagine Alabama opting into the college plan, if it were to pass Congress.

But what if Alabama did opt in? What would it mean for education in Alabama? First off, it would mean thousands of Alabamians would have a shot at higher education that they never would have before.

On the other hand, the program would require states that opt in to "meet certain academic requirements." Translation: "Schools who take the

money will be subject to more federal academic regulations."

This ambiguity can make a higher education professional cringe. As a condition, I would prefer to see those "certain requirements" spelled out before my school or state signed its collegiate programs over carte blanche.

The plan is modeled after a similar program signed into law by the State of Tennessee last year. In my State and Local Politics course (go back to sophomore year), we studied a theory that referred to states and localities as "laboratories of democracy."

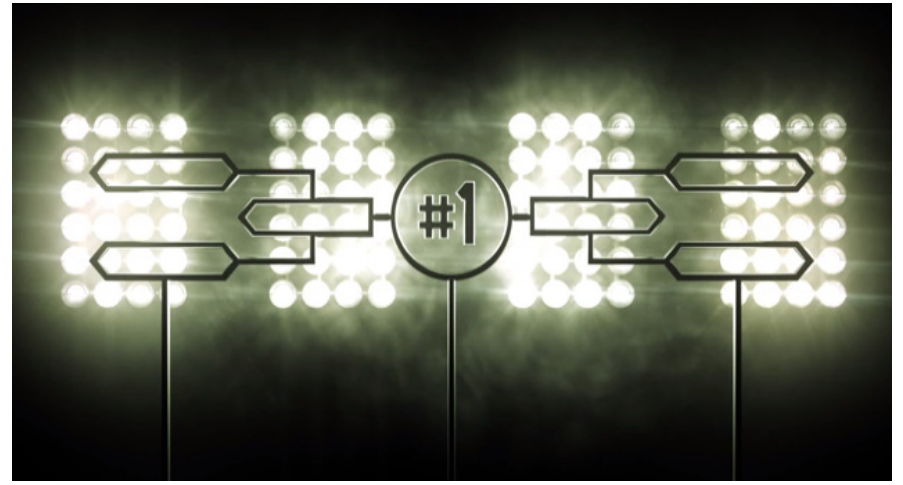
In this case, Tennessee is the laboratory. Free college education the experiment. With the Tennessee program being implemented in 2015, and no empirical evidence of success yet determined, some are concerned it's a bit soon to be duplicating the experiment nationwide.

All these concerns aside, President Obama's proposal faces an uphill battle in Congress – now completely controlled by Republicans. With an overwhelming conservative mandate from the 2014 midterm election, it's doubtful many GOP members will support such a vast new spending measure.

Though it may not pass Congress, the plan is generating lots of buzz in the media, on campus and in the public.

The lasting effect of President Obama's proposal may not be that community college becomes immediately free for thousands of Americans.

It may be that free higher education becomes a part of the discussion for millions of Americans. And that can be just as powerful as any bill in Congress.



gamedayr.com

## New FBS playoff system overview

**Timothy Cash**  
*Staff Writer*

The Ohio State University Buckeyes took on the University of Oregon Ducks in a very historic game on January 12.

It was historic not for the fact that the state of Alabama did not have a representative playing, nor did the Southeastern Conference; but for the first time in the history of Division I's Football Bowl Subdivision there was a playoff to decide who would play for the national championship.

For years, people hated the computers that decided the rankings for the Bowl Championship Series, citing the fact that you were allowed to play "powder-puff" teams week after week, or come from a conference that was not one of the 'power-five'; and were still able to play in a major bowl, or for a national title.

Now, a 13-member committee takes the place of computers to try and find not the two best teams in the land, but the top four.

The new College Football Playoff is not the FBS's savior that many wanted, though. Long before the committee started publishing rankings in week 10, many were crying for the playoff to be expanded to 6, 8 or even 10 teams.

Casual sports fans and hardcore collegiate sports enthusiasts were asking the question: What if the committee got it wrong? If there were more teams in the playoff, there is higher chance the right team has the chance

raise the championship trophy in a sea of confetti, signaling the end of the college football season. After TCU's massacre of Ole Miss in the Peach Bowl, can you blame them for asking?

It seemed that most sports-opinion makers could not fathom how a playoff in collage football could work. It was almost like they were all saying, "Sure, there is the Division I basketball tournament, and all of the different professional sports have playoffs; but none of those are college football!"

It seemed like they were blind to the fact that the Football Championship Subdivision, the FBS's brother subdivision in Division I and the subdivision that JSU competes in, has had a playoff for years.

The FCS has a 24-team playoff that allows the top eight teams to have a first round bye week. The FBS could expand to a more competitive system too.

Adding two teams to the FBS playoff system would allow the top two teams to have a first round bye and still have two rounds, while adding four would allow eight teams to play in a three round bracket.

Adding six teams, bringing the playoff to 10 teams, would keep both the first round bye for the top two teams and a three round playoff.

When the contract expires I doubt we will lose the playoff system, but I would be surprised if it were not expanded.

## Esports grow in popularity among universities

**Chris Morgan**  
*Staff Writer*

The rise of the video game industry is nothing new, according to Forbes, the industry is estimated to reach \$70.1 billion by 2015 combined with mobile, PC, console and online gaming.

With this rise in the industry, there is also a new competition being brought. This new competition has earned the name esports.

For those who are not familiar with the term, esports are essentially video game competitions between professional gamers.

That sounds simple enough but like people that play any other sport, professional gamers are playing at the highest possible level.

While I will say that playing a video game is not what people normally think of when you say sport, playing these games does require a specific set of skills and talents that most people don't possess without the proper amount of training and conditioning.

Some might wonder how you

can even live off of playing games. Well, for one they get paid a salary by a team much like any football or basketball player would.

Secondly, is tournament winnings. For example the 2014 League of Legends world championship was played for a prize pool of over 2 million dollars with 1 million going to the first place winners.

Another question that comes around is how interesting can it be to watch people play a video game? Just to give you some numbers to go by, according to NBA.com the NBA finals had an average viewership of 15.5 million.

According to a statement by the developers of the popular online game League of Legends, Riot Games, pulled in 27 million viewers for the finals that were held in South Korea.

With the fan base of these games growing, many colleges are looking to get these competitions on their campus. Over the last year, several colleges around the United States have started to

offer scholarships for people that play games on a competitive level.

Two of these include San Jose State University located in Northern California and Robert Morris University Illinois Located in Chicago.

These schools have gone all out going as far as adding the game to the athletics department and also hiring coaches for the students. The students also have to uphold a certain GPA as well as setting aside certain time for practice.

This is a great thing that more and more colleges should adapt into their schools. The popularity of these games is growing at a fast pace and collegiate leagues are popping up all round the United States for games such as Hearthstone, League of Legends and my personal favorite, Starcraft 2.

With this being said, the schools could also make a couple of bucks in the process. Having a good collegiate level gaming program could be to some schools what Auburn or Alabama's football team is to their respective universities

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# SPORTS

## Gamecocks ranks ninth in final FCS football polls



JSU Sportswire

In the above picture, the Jacksonville State Gamecocks celebrate with their OVC Championship trophy.

**JACKSONVILLE** – The Jacksonville State football team added another notch in its belt on Monday, when the Gamecocks were voted ninth in The Sports Network and FCS Coaches polls, the highest final ranking in the program's Division I history.

The Gamecocks went 10-2 and a perfect 8-0 in Ohio Valley Conference play in 2014 to earn the No. 3 seed and a bye in the first round of the FCS Playoffs. They won 10-straight games and became the first Gamecock team to go undefeated in OVC play while winning the program's fourth OVC title.

The Gamecocks' lone losses came at Michigan State in the season opener and to Sam Houston State in the second

round of the Playoffs.

The Gamecocks finish in the top 10 of the final poll for the second time in their Division I history but for the second-straight year. The previous high for a final ranking at the Division I level was JSU's 10th-place spot in the 2013 final poll released by TSN. The Gamecocks were 12th in last year's Coaches Poll.

It marks the seventh time in 12 seasons of Division I competition that the Gamecocks have been in the final poll and the 17th time in school history they have been in the polls at season's end.

Under first-year head coach and OVC Coach of the Year John Grass, who took over after serving as coordinator of the Gamecocks' record-breaking

offense in 2013, JSU continued to post big numbers in 2014. Its 510.8 yards of total offense per game demolished the previous school record of 442.6 yards per game set in 2004.

The Gamecocks amassed 6,129 total yards on the season, fourth-most in FCS and second-most in school history behind the 2013 team. A program that hadn't had a 5,000-yard season in school history before 2013, the Gamecocks have now posted back-to-back seasons with more than 6,000 yards.

Led by a trio of running backs in senior DaMarcus James and juniors Troymaine Pope and Miles Jones and quarterback Eli Jenkins, the Gamecocks ranked fourth nationally and set a school

record with 285.3 rushing yards per game.

James was second in the OVC with 104.6 rushing yards per game and 20 rushing touchdowns to lead an OVC-record 18 all-conference selections. Junior defensive tackle Devaunte Sigler was named the OVC Defensive Player of the Year and offensive lineman Justin Lea was tabbed OVC Freshman of the Year in that group. JSU had eight first-team selections to the All-OVC squad. Sigler, senior center Max Holcombe and junior cornerback Jermaine Hough each earned All-America honors at the conclusion of the season.

~ JSU Sportswire

## North Dakota State wins their fourth-straight FCS Championship

**Marvel Robinson**  
*Sports Editor*

In the 2015 FCS Championship, No. 2 North Dakota State surpassed No. 5 Illinois State 29-27 to claim their fourth-straight FCS Championship. This was the first FCS title game between two conference teams (Missouri Valley Football Conference).

North Dakota State was down 27-23 with 1:35 left to play in the game and started from their own 17 yard-line. On the game-winning drive, Carson Wentz first completed two big first down passes. However, North Dakota State would find themselves in a third and 10 situation with 57 seconds left. Wentz found RJ Urzendowski for a 33-yard pass to bring them down to the 5 yard-line. That would set up the game-winning 5-yard touchdown run by Wentz with 37 seconds left.

Illinois State still had a chance to come back, but Esley Thornton intercepted a pass to secure the North Dakota State win.

For NDSU, Wentz passed or 237 yards with a touchdown in the air and on the ground. Urzendowski had five receptions for 100 yards.

Tre Roberson led Illinois State with three passing touchdowns, 161 rushing yards and a rushing touchdown. His teammate, James O'Shaughnessy, had two catches that resulted in two touchdowns.

The win gives NDSU their fourth-straight FCS Championship. In the last four seasons, NDSU has more championships than losses with a 58-3 record.

In the path to their 2015 FCS Championship, NDSU defeated South Dakota 27-24 in the second round of the playoffs. They went on to beat Coastal Carolina 39-32 in the Quarterfinals. In the Semifinals, NDSU played Sam Houston who beat Jacksonville State 37-26 in the second round. NDSU convincingly won 35-3 to advance to the Championship game and earned the victory over Illinois State.

Illinois State struck first with Roberson finding Jon-Marc Anderson on a 13-yard touchdown pass. Adam Keller kicked a 41-yard field goal for North Dakota State's first points. This made the score 7-3.

In the second quarter, Luke Albers caught a 6-yard touchdown pass from Wentz to put NDSU up

three with score 10-7 at halftime.

The second half presented more scoring. After another 41-yard field goal by Keller, John Crockett ran seven yards for the touchdown that extended the lead 20-7.

Illinois State soon found the end zone on a 41-yard pass from Roberson to O'Shaughnessy. The touchdown made the score 20-14 until NDSU added three points with another field goal by Keller. This time it was a 24-yard field goal.

Illinois State found themselves down by just two points when Roberson and O'Shaughnessy connected once more for a 3-yard touchdown pass.

With the score favoring NDSU 23-21 with under two minutes left, Illinois State scored to take the lead. Roberson scored on a 58-yard touchdown run to put his team up 27-23. Illinois State failed on the two-point conversion which would've made the score 29-23. That was very critical since NDSU drove down the field and scored, but had their extra point blocked. The game ended 29-27.

The game could've easily went into overtime if Illinois State converted that two-point conversion.

### Gamecocks Side Bar

#### FCS 2014-2015 Final Top 25 (The Sports Network)

1. North Dakota State
2. Illinois State
3. New Hampshire
4. Eastern Washington
5. Coastal Carolina
6. Sam Houston State
7. Villanova
8. Chattanooga
9. Jacksonville State
10. Northern Iowa
11. Montana
12. Southeastern Louisiana
13. South Dakota State
14. Fordham
15. Harvard
16. Richmond
17. Liberty
18. Indiana State
19. James Madison
20. Montana State
21. Eastern Kentucky
22. Bethune-Cookman
23. Sacred Heart
24. William & Mary
25. Youngstown State

#### Greg Seitz Named Interim Athletic Director

#### Max Holcombe Named Academic All-Star and Finalist for FCS ADA Post-Graduate Scholarship

#### Upcoming action

1/17  
-W Basketball @ UT Martin  
4:00 p.m.

-M Basketball @ UT Martin  
6:00 p.m.

1/18  
-Rifle vs Murray State

1/21  
-W Basketball @ Belmont  
6:00 p.m.

1/22  
-M Basketball vs Eastern Kentucky  
7:00 p.m.

1/23-25  
-Tennis @ Southern Miss Invitational

2/6  
-Softball season opener

2/13  
-Baseball season opener

#### FYI Sports

-Ohio State won National Championship

-Manny Pacquiao agrees to fight Floyd Mayweather

NFL Playoffs on Sunday  
-Green Bay Packers @ Seattle Seahawks 2:05 p.m.

-Indianapolis Colts @ New England Patriots 5:40 p.m.



# JSU Women take down Murray State in overtime



JSU Sportswire

In the above picture, Candace Morton drives in to shoot a lay-up for the Jacksonville State Gamecocks. The Gamecocks won 78-73 in overtime.

**Rebekah Hawkins**  
Staff Writer

The JSU women snapped their two-game conference losing streak by beating Murray State Saturday afternoon in front of the home crowd at Pete Mathews.

The win gave the Gamecocks an 11-5 overall record with a 2-2 conference record and left the Racers of Murray State with still no wins in the OVC. However, the win did not come easy for JSU as they were forced to fight in overtime for their 78-73 victory.

Murray State jumped out to the early lead as JSU would only have two lone points before they took an impressive 13-2 run and claimed the lead for themselves. Once JSU caught up to the Racers, the game would go back and forth between the two teams until the tie at 22 with 8:29 left in the half. After a missed three-pointer from MSU, the

Gamecocks made a three-point shot on the arm of Gretchen Morrison. The shot put JSU up by three and prompted an 18-8 run by the Gamecocks over the last part of the half. They would go into the locker room with a 43-30 lead over the Racers.

The 43 points that were scored by the Gamecocks in the first half is the most in a half for Rick Pietri's team.

Despite JSU's success in the first half, the MSU Racers were not out for the count. They came out ready to fight the Gamecocks to the bitter end.

By the time nearly four minutes had dwindled off the second half clock, JSU had a 20-point lead and what seemed like the upper hand. But MSU was not finished. After Leasia Wright made a three-pointer at 16:28, the Racers would go on an 18-2 run and cut Jacksonville State's lead to one with 9:43 left in the game.

Another three minutes ticked away and JSU had managed to push their

lead back out to 11 with a 67-56 score.

The Racers scored 11 unanswered to tie it up at 67 and send the game into overtime after the final two minutes dwindled down without another score.

The Gamecocks and the Racers would battle for the lead for the most of overtime before JSU grabbed a three point lead with 1:40 left. Briana Benson nailed two free-throws and successfully put JSU ahead by five with 17 seconds left. Despite attempts made by MSU, they could not score again and the Gamecocks would win 78-73.

Candace Morton shined in overtime as seven of the 11 JSU points that were scored belonged to her. Benson and Morrison had six three-pointers made between the two of them, while Leah Strain made both of the ones she took. Morton also led the team in scoring as she had 21 points on the night. Benson was next with 15 and Destany McLin had 12.

The Gamecocks will play Southeast Missouri next on Jan. 14 at Pete Mathews.

## Track & Field indoor at UAB

**BIRMINGHAM** – The Jacksonville State track and field team opened the indoor portion of the 2015 season at the UAB Blazer Invite at the Birmingham Crossplex Arena on Friday and Saturday.

The season-opening indoor meet is the first of six and the first of two straight trips to Birmingham and the Birmingham Crossplex Arena.

The Gamecock distance runners highlighted the opening weekend of competition. JSU senior Whitley Towns finished sixth in the 1,000 meter run after covering the length in 3:07.38. Sophomore Ju-ells McLeod turned in a top-10 placement in the same event with a time of 3:14.12. Towns also clocked a top-10 time in the 800 meter run. McLeod also finished in the top-15 of the mile run after crossing the finish line in 5:25.97.

Competing in her first meet as a Gamecock, freshman Kayla Thompson ran the fastest time of her section of the 300 meter dash en route to placing in the top-15 of the event with a time of 41.38. Sophomore Victoria Dumas carded a top-20 finish in the 500 meter event with a time of 1:22.06 to post the best time in her heat.

In the field events, freshman Blake Perry nearly posted a top-10 finish in the triple jump after registering a leap of 37-04.00. Senior Danielle Moss got off to a good start in the shot put competition with a throw of 43-00.25.

The Gamecocks return to Birmingham on Jan. 24 to compete in UAB's second home meet.

~ JSU Sportswire



Matt Reynolds/JSU

Darion Rackley of JSU tries to make a play as he ended the night with a career high 28 points.

## Gamecocks suffer first home loss

**Marvel Robinson**  
Sports Editor

In the 19th meeting between the two teams, Murray State (12-4, 3-0 OVC) defeated Jacksonville State (8-10, 1-3 OVC) 84-57. Murray State now leads the head-to-head series 18-1.

Darion Rackley led JSU with a career high 28 points, shooting 13/14 from the free-throw line. D.J. Felder was the only other player for JSU in double-digits. Felder rounded off with 10 points.

Jarvis Williams as the high man for Murray State with 25 points. Cameron Payne and Jeffery Moss were the other two players for the Racers in double-digits with Payne scoring

21 and Moss scoring 15. Williams also had a big rebounding game pulling down 11 rebounds with Jonathan Fairell.

Murray State shot 53 percent for field goals to Jacksonville State's 31 percent.

Points in the paint played a big role in the Murray State win. Murray State scored 38 points in the paint to Jacksonville State's 16.

The Racers opened with two three-pointers in their 12-2 run. Jacksonville State capitalized and was only down by three when Rackley shot a three to make the score 19-16 with 11:23 left in the first half. JSU stayed close for as long as they could until Murray State began to pull away.

Murray State went on a 7-0 run

to go up 34-24 with 3:50 left in the half. By the end of the half, Murray State was up 43-30.

The second half only continued to favor Murray State as they extended their lead to the largest at 35 with 7:25 left in the game. Jacksonville State continued their troubles with shooting and just couldn't make a comeback.

The Gamecocks was out-rebounded 49-26 in the game and shot 21 percent from three-point range.

This loss marks JSU first home loss of the season.

The Gamecocks will have a chance to redeem their home loss when they play Southeast Missouri at 8 p.m. on Jan. 14 at Pete Mathews Coliseum.



**WHERE YOU'RE GOING.**