



WEATHER: High 53, Low 38, Overcast

Thursday, January 22, 2015

Miss JSU Pageant turns heads

Lyndsey Bonner
Staff Writer

Last Friday night, Leone Cole Auditorium was booming with people who came to watch the singing, dancing, and funny jokes at this year's annual Miss JSU scholarship pageant.

The Miss America program has 53 pageants throughout the country (including Miss JSU) and remains the world's largest scholarship giver to young women.

Nine of our very own JSU students participated in this event which was themed "Old Hollywood." Jessica Hill, Ashton Hamil, Jesslan Sharp, Alexis Gravlee, Kacey Jacobs, Marissa Law, Abbey Walker, Kaleigh Garner, and our new Miss JSU Cortlyn Watson were among the competitors.

The competition is scored based upon the following

categories: evening wear (20%), private interview (25%), lifestyle and fitness in swimsuit (15%), talent (35%) and the on-stage question (5%).

The talent competition was especially tough, with acts ranging from opera singing to piano playing to clogging and dancing and even several monologues.

This year there were many prestigious judges, including head judge Tanya Pettway, who in 1986 was the first African American to take home a Miss America title.

Before our new Miss JSU was crowned, however, our past Miss JSU 2014 Jayme Wagner took her emotional final walk. Wagner then joined this year's contestants in a final dance to "That's Entertainment," and finally Kacey Jacobs took the second runner up position and Kaleigh Garner took the title of first runner up.

Taking home not only a scholarship worth up to sixteen hours for two semesters, a JSU Campus Bookstore scholarship, a free manicure and several other prizes.

Watson also took home the title for the Swimsuit competition.

When asked about her reaction to being crowned Miss JSU, Watson said she was "excited, speechless... I just busted out in tears, I was so happy."

Watson's father, Stan, was also very excited about his daughter's new title. "She has worked so hard to get here ever since she has been a baby... Her dream has always been to be in the Miss Alabama pageant and now she's just one step closer. We are very supportive of all these girls and are very proud of everyone who competed!" he said.

Watson will go on to compete at the Miss Alabama competition this June.



Jacksonville State University

Freshman Nursing major Cortlyn Watson takes the Miss JSU crown on January 16, 2015 during the annual Miss JSU Pageant.



Lyndsey Bonner/The Chanticleer

For full list of contestants and their talents, see Page 3

Department Spotlight: The Bursar's Office

Vallean Jackson
Staff Writer

Bibb Graves—it is not a hard place to miss. On the first floor of this building is an office of beautiful, well organized and energized women.

The women of the Bursar's Office definitely believe in working until the wee hours of the night. In the part of the night when the temperatures drops and the frost shields windows and covers the cars entirely, the Bursar's Office is still at work.

Bursar Alice Wudarczyk is the head of the hub of the Bursar's Office and she loves all of her fellow staff members as though they were her

own family. "I'm here with you guys more than I am at home," Wudarczyk once said to her office.

"No, we don't mind coming to work each day because the students are the number one priority," Secretary Tina Trussell said.

Though it was after hours, upon entering their office, they were working like they were working like they were still on the clock.

Mandi Austin, who is over student account refunds, was working on getting refunds ready to be disbursed.

"Refunds are our busiest times," Trussell said.

The Bursar's Office works through the process of getting students back their

refunds, gets students reinstated, sets up payment plans and deals with loans.

Everyone works very well together and everything is very maintained.

"We all have our own set job, but we do a little bit of everything to help each other," says Tonya New, loan collections.

There are thousands of students on the campus of JSU, but the Bursar's Office works on an individual level that appeals to each and every student.

"Sometimes when students are faced with the unknown, I crack a joke or two to break the tension and help comfort them to see the brighter side of the situation," said Shawna Beadles, student account

See BURSAR, Page 3

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Finding a dynamic new president for JSU in 2015

An opinion piece written by JSU's Dr. Timothy Barnett, Associate Professor of Political Science

It is with distinct pride that JSU faculty can reflect upon many positive developments during the administration of President William A. Meehan. A goodly number of persons offered observations of this nature during a November 2014 Faculty Senate meeting with representatives of Diversified Search—a nationally respected search firm tasked with the responsibility of helping JSU recruit a replacement for President Meehan when he likely retires after the Spring 2015 semester.

Recognizing the enormous challenge of replacing a President so endeared to the university and local community, the JSU Board of Trustees' Search and Screening Committee asked the Senate Faculty and university at-large to participate in the quest for excellence by offering suggestions as to what to look for in presidential candidates. Commenting on the recommendations provided by the Senate Faculty, the Search and Screening Committee Chair, William Ronald Smith, expressed gratitude for faculty participation and helpful observations. As the recruitment moves forward, university personnel, students and alumni can be thankful for the professionalism and careful thought going into the critically important process.

While the Senate Faculty recommended that the Search and Screening Committee be attentive to candidates' aptitudes and leadership experience in financial and budgetary matters, there was but limited discussion of the importance of leadership in matters of community economic development. Everyone realizes the importance of university presidents interfacing effectively with alumni, business leaders, and prospective major gift benefactors. But the leadership dynamic must go beyond fund-raising. In an era in which the National Center for Education Statistics expects American higher education growth to slow to 13.9% across the 2012–2022 period (less than 1.4% annually), many regional public universities will need more than strong academic and athletic programs. In many cases, sustainable enrollment growth will be predicated upon whether a university is situated in a locale where there is considerable availability of jobs that help students get through school, and jobs that brighten career prospects.

Auburn University and the University of Alabama are nationally recognized for academic excellence and robust athletic



Steve Latham/JSU

programs. But what many people don't realize is that the cities of Auburn and Tuscaloosa both make recent lists of the *fastest-growing college towns in the U.S.* (2013 blog, sparefoot.com). One recent study puts the city of Auburn's 2000–2010 growth rate at 23%, while Tuscaloosa's growth during the period comes in at 16%. Population growth (especially when it reflects the expansion of high quality jobs) builds the backbone of a public university's enrollment growth prospects, especially for regional universities like JSU with limited national draw.

Fortunately for JSU, the university sits in close proximity to several excellent economic development sites, including the land within the jurisdiction of the McClellan Development Authority. What is needed during the next chapter of JSU's evolution is a visionary university president whose staff interfaces with corporate planners nationwide to attract high quality corporate operations to Calhoun County. The McClellan area could be an excellent site for national customer service and client support centers, communication operations, light and high tech manufacturing, and distribution support

services. Jobs in these categories would trigger others. As the cost of living rises in major metropolitan areas, the area surrounding JSU has a great deal of quality-of-life appeal—a theme that should be strategically marketed. If JSU's incoming president can lead in this area, the benefits will be felt widely.

One of JSU's strengths is its welcoming attitude—a long tradition and point of pride at the school. Delightfully, JSU's Marching Southerners lead the way in setting an inspirational and welcoming tone at the university. One finds little in the region any more awe-inspiring and exciting than seeing and hearing the Marching Southerners in action. Indeed, while the men's football team had a spectacular season until they ran into the Sam Houston State Bearkats in the December 6, 2014 NCAA play-off game at JSU, the Marching Southerners had another resounding triumph on the field!

It is the excellence of the Marching Southerners that draws into such sharp contrast the disappointing nature of the disc jockey music played frequently during the football games and other athletic events in recent years. Music that depreciates human dignity or caters to hedonistic instincts fails to raise the image

of the school or attract noble minds. Indeed, in trying to figure out the JSU football team's twelve penalties for a massive 129 yards in the December 6 playoff game (SHSU had but 4 penalties for 37 yards), one might wonder whether too much of a beach party atmosphere was created for a JSU squad already distracted by the glory of winning the 2014 Ohio Valley Conference title.

Playing high quality defense requires a certain sobriety, focus, intensity and ability to calculate adjustments as the game unfolds. If the mind is blasted frequently with redundant, contemptible lyrics that are debilitating to the mental faculties, how are players to focus and read what is happening on the field or court? Interestingly, one annoyed JSU supporter gave a full-throated objection to the blaring nonsense—a protest barely audible in the din but clearly appreciated by the fans around him. Perhaps, though, some letters sent to the office of the JSU Athletic Director might be heard more consequentially. Indeed, more time for the Marching Southerners to *inspire* and less time for junk music to *distract* might help considerably when it comes to attracting and retaining the type of leader JSU hopes to find in its presidential search.



FACULTY COMMONS JACKSONVILLE STATE UNIVERSITY

-Flipping the Classroom: Real Advice from a REAL Professor by Erik Christensen is now available on YouTube:

The November 14, 2014, lecture presented at JSU as part of the Faculty Commons' REAL Lecture Series is now available on the JSU YouTube channel.

-REAL Teaching Grants Awarded

The recipients for the 2014-2015 REAL Teaching Grants have been chosen. The recipients and their topics are:

- Jan Gryko and Kelly Gregg: Incorporating Mineralogy into Physical and Inorganic Chemistry Laboratories;
- Scott Beckett and Courtney Peppers-Owen:

FastForward Algebra;

Cynthia Connor and Lawrence Beard: Accessing and Utilizing iPads: A Hands-on Approach;

Raina Kostova: New Course Development: EH 431G Non-Western Literature.

Each award includes a budget of \$2,000 to support research, the purchase of needed equipment, and development of pedagogical materials.

For information concerning these and other programs sponsored by the Faculty Commons, contact Gena Christopher at (256)-782-5856 or genac@jsu.edu.

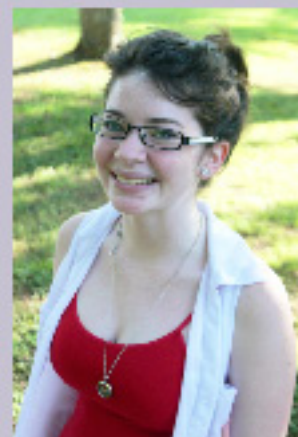
Meet The Chanticleer's 2014-2015 Staff



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!

Miss JSU Contestants



Jessie Hill
Talent: Vocal
Classification: Sophomore
Hometown: Jacksonville, Ala.
Major: General Music



Ashton Hamit
Talent: Dance
Classification: Junior
Hometown: Spanish Fort, Ala.
Major: Family & Consumer Science with a concentration in Dietetics



Josslyn Sharp
Talent: Monologue
Classification: Sophomore
Hometown: Sylvania, Ala.
Major: Political Science



Alexis Gravelle
Talent: Vocal
Classification: Sophomore
Hometown: Dora, Ala.
Major: Political Science/Pre-Law



Corlynn Watson
Talent: Dance/Clogging
Classification: Freshman
Hometown: Cleveland, Ala.
Major: Nursing



Kacey Jacobs
Talent: Vocal
Classification: Senior
Hometown: Jacksonville, Ala.
Major: Communications



Marissa Law
Talent: Piano
Classification: Junior
Hometown: Oxford, Ala.
Major: Elementary/Early Childhood Education



Abbey Walker
Talent: Monologue
Classification: Senior
Hometown: Grove Hill, Ala.
Major: Accounting



Kaleigh Garner
Talent: Dance
Classification: Sophomore
Hometown: Gadsden, Ala.
Major: Communications/Public Relations

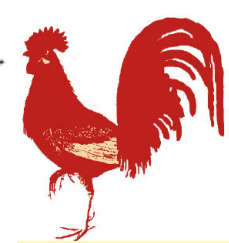
BURSAR, from page 1

collections/payment plans. “I also remind students that we want them here,” said Beadles. When that financial hurdle gets in the way, it is certain the staff of the Bursar’s Office is working diligently for solutions of ways to accommodate the student. When asked how it’s all done and able to come together, Austin said, “We transition easily.” Cashier Amanda Cash, who was unable to attend the interview, was glued to her computer working away. “We burn the midnight oil trying to get everything done,” Trussell said. The office works around the clock with the students in mind. “To support the students is the ultimate goal,” said Wudarczyk. The work that goes into keeping JSU functioning takes a lot of work, but it is well done with plenty of dedication and love to get the job done.

Campus crime report

- 01/15/2015
Unlawful breaking & entering a vehicle
Eagle Point II Apartments
- 01/15/2015
Medical emergency
Martin Hall
- 01/16/2015
Medical emergency
Sparkman Hall
- 01/17/2015
Violation of Student Code of Conduct
Colonial Arms Apartments
- 01/17/2015
Duty upon striking an unattended vehicle
Sparkman Hall Parking Lot
- 01/19/2015
Medical emergency
Curtiss Hall
- 01/19/2015
Possession of marijuana & drug paraphernalia
Jax Apartments
- 01/20/2015
Violation of student code of conduct
Mountain Street
- 01/20/2015
Information report
Martin Hall
- 01/20/2015
Medical emergency
Stone Center
- 01/20/2015
Suspicious person
The Quad

Chicken Scratch

She the type that will never cancel class.

If you can't pronounce it, I don't care. #artappreciation

Two most coveted words on any college campus: free/cancelled.

It's so stupid that I have to reload my print bucks in only five dollar increments, THEN they charge me a one dollar "convenience fee." What?

Call an ambulance! I'm dying of boredom. In class.

I remember I used to wake up with good morning texts, now I just wake up to 100% battery.

RIP JSU squirrel on Mountain Street. Campus will miss you.

Didn't make it to STU because Gamecube.

I truly feel that the crosswalk in front of Brewer is gonna get me before my GPA does.

I swear I'm in class more hours a week than I sleep.

Submit today!

Have something you want us to see? Use #chanticleerjsu

Write on!

John Sterling
Staff Writer

Writing, to me, is an adventure, an experiment in expression. When you write, you tell a story, convey information, inspire an emotion, and sometimes even provoke new lines of thought. With writing, you can tell anyone anything, but you can also show them everything. Sometimes we write to record information, to leave behind an account of who we are, what we did, where we did it and why. Sometimes we write simply to write; there is no point to it, and perhaps that is the point. Just to tell a story because we can. Whatever the reason behind it, it's something we all do. There can be comfort in that. Whoever you are, wherever you may be, if you want to, you can write. It may never touch paper, it may never leave your mind, but you can still do it. Words are links in a chain binding people together, one way or another. Good or bad, words are how we express ourselves and communicate, how we know what came before, and maybe what'll come after. It's what I do, pick up pen and paper, or flip open my laptop, and I see what happens. Would you like to try?

7-day weather outlook

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
Overcast High: 53° Low: 38°	Rain High: 44° Low: 34°	Partly Cloudy High: 49° Low: 29°	Sunny High: 56° Low: 37°	Partly Cloudy High: 48° Low: 27°	Sunny High: 47° Low: 30°	Partly Cloudy High: 50° Low: 27°

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

JSU Jazz explores a new frontier

Patrice Green
Staff Writer

Jacksonville State University Jazz is back this semester, presenting the campus with a new way of experiencing its music.

Last year, Jazz I was given the opportunity to record an album comprised of their very best repertoire, appropriately named "Everything in Its Right Place" at Bates Brothers Studio in Hueytown.

"It's a very nice state-of-the-art facility, and the owners are super professional and really know what they're doing," said tenor saxophone player Jarrett Irish of the studio.

The musicians involved had a good idea of the opportunity provided to them, never taking their experience for granted and returning with unique takes on their personal benefits from their time in the studio.

"I think it's important to have recording experience because whether you're going to be a performer or an educator, you're going to want to track your progress at some point in your career," said Irish. "It's better to do that and have that experience earlier on so when it's your band or

your school, you know what to expect going into it. Plus, it's such a great way to grow as a musician."

The members of Jazz I are pretty well acquainted with live performances, but according to some of the students, the experience in the studio was a little different.

"When you play a live show, you only have that one chance to play the chart to perfection," says trumpet player, Mark Knauss. "In the recording studio, we spent hours just recording one or two songs, doing multiple takes on them just to make sure it was the best quality we could play. We still had that performance mindset when we recorded, keeping us as efficient as possible in the studio."

The students had no issue holding themselves accountable for the task given to them, and though they were there to work, they still managed to enjoy themselves.

"Concerning the difficulty of music Jazz I plays, we want to compete with other top jazz ensembles in the country," says Knauss. "My favorite tune we played was "Extra Credit." It's one of the harder tunes we've played, and it was great to see it come together into some-

thing that was put in our album."

The students were equally impressed with their instructors' contribution to their body of work. "Another one of my favorites is the Faculty Trio's rendition of "Sweet Home Alabama," added Knauss. "We're incredibly lucky to have some of the best musicians in the world teaching at JSU."

As with any other musical endeavor, the students put an incredible amount of work into their album. "We knew about the recording since the beginning of that semester when Dr. Nevala passed out the music. So from the start, we knew what we were working for," said bassist Nick Staff. "I think we put a little more effort in the charts because each and every note was going to be recorded and it had to be perfect. Everyone had an individual mic, so their part was recorded independently. It was pretty nerve racking for a while."

Dr. Andy Nevala provided several reasons for recording the album. "The main purpose was to give the students an opportunity to experience the recording studio environment," explained Nevala. "The students were in an environment of high pres-

sure, and there's nowhere to hide. A second reason is to have something that's representative of who we are and what we do as JSU Jazz."

Nevala doesn't hesitate to commend his students and colleagues on their work ethic as he continues to promote the jazz program, as well as the university, to the community and beyond. "For recruiting, no other jazz program in the state has a recording out that sounds as good as ours," said Nevala. "As we get these [recordings] in the hands of people throughout the Southeast, the reputation of JSU will grow in a positive way."

The instructors and students expect one another to go above and beyond to further the cause of music, as often exhibited by Dr. Nevala. "Recording and releasing a CD is no easy task; it requires a monumental effort from the students and faculty involved. I spent many days driving to the studio to edit and mix," explained Nevala, "You have to have a band good enough to record. You have to have the right songs rehearsed the right way. All in all, it was a lot of work."

In the end, the students and their instructors were very proud of the finished product.

"It's very satisfying knowing that my name is now in the history books for the professional development of our Jazz department," said tenor saxophone player Jessica Creel.

Through hard work, musical imagination, and some of the most admirable accountability, the members of the JSU Jazz program have truly outdone themselves, and concerning its future, the possibilities are endless.

The album will be released at the March 5th Jazz Festival for a \$10 donation.

For more information on JSU Jazz performance, visit jsujazz.webs.com. Merchandise featuring the music department and ensembles is available at all performances for a recommended donation.



JSU Jazz/Special to The Chanticleer

The JSU Jazz Ensemble I had the privilege of recording an album named "Everything in Its Right Place" at Bates Brothers Studio.

Softball to hold annual Fan Day on February 1

The Jacksonville State softball team will host its annual Fan Day on Sunday, Feb. 1 at University Field. The event will begin at 2 p.m. and admission is free for all fans.

The 2014 Ohio Valley Conference Champions and six-time NCAA Regional participant Gamecocks will be on hand for a day filled with free prizes and snacks. Free T-shirts will be among the many giveaways, while soda and popcorn will also be free to those in attendance.

Fans are encouraged to come out and meet and interact with the members of the 2015 JSU softball team, as well as its coaching staff. Also, all members of the Gamecocks' ros-

ter will be available for autographs during the day. Cocky will also be in attendance.

In her 22nd season, OVC Coach of the Year Jana McGinnis is prepping her team for the 2015 season, which begins on Feb. 6 at the Mercer University Tournament in Macon, Ga. The Gamecocks open their home schedule on Feb. 25, when they host Alabama at University Field.

Tickets for the 2015 season will be available for purchase at Fan Day.

Please continue to check www.jsugamecocksports.com for updates. You can also follow the softball team on twitter, @JaxStateSB. ~JSU Sportswire

Upcoming events on and around campus

January 26, 2015

There will be a free concert in the Leone Cole Auditorium starting at 7:30 p.m. featuring the US Air Force Band of the West Clarinet Quartet.

January 28, 2015

Sleep out for the Homeless will be held on the Quad beginning at 5 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.

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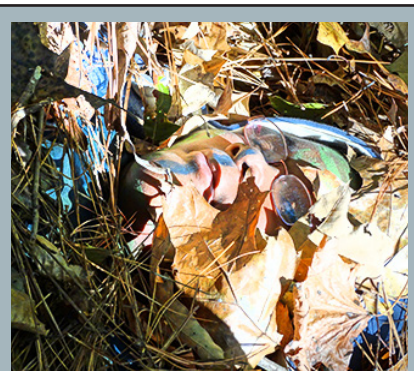
"You have been chosen because you are the brightest, most creative, powerful thinkers in Calhoun County!" shouts Sergeant Benefield as he greets 50 Calhoun County Gifted Program 7th and 8th grade students brought to the JSU Mountain Center for a JSU Field Schools' Experiential Learning Field Trip.

After Sergeant Benefield reviews safety rules, Commander Otter (Renee Morrison, JSU Field Schools' Assistant Director) steps up to welcome the group of students.

"Welcome ZERO recruits," Morrison says. "You have entered a secure location. Not only is this location an EMA site, it is a JSU top-secret ZERO Training Facility. Today you will be trained and certified in zombie evasion and survival skills. You will visit four educational stations to master these skills. These include Water Filtration/First Aid, Shelter Building, How NOT to Be Found (Camo), and Primitive Fire/Trapping Techniques."

Commander Otter introduces the ZERO Team: Commander Wolf (Teje Sult, JSU Technology Department), Commander Chameleon (Dr. Allison McElroy Benefield, JSU Art Department), Doctor Cajun (Dr. Jim Rayburn, JSU Biology Department), Commander Bear (Mandy Pearson, JSU Biology Grad Student), and Commander Buck (William Johnston, Local Hunting/Fire Safety Specialist).

The students divide into four groups, elect a captain and are given a backpack filled with an odd assortment of "survival" items including a rub-



JSU Fields Schools/JSU

Participants were able to use the learned skills right away, hiding from others who were looking for them.

ber duck, teddy bear, and sock.

Excitement and energy fill the atmosphere around these "recruit teams" as they delve into a field trip filled with problem solving, mental challenges, art merging with science and educational FUN!

"Inventory your items," requests Dr. Cajun. "What items could you utilize to make a multi-level water filter?"

Quickly the students rummage through their backpacks and discover the teddy bear that has "stuffing" that makes a perfect mid-layer filter.

When a team arrives at the "How Not to Be Found" station, they first have to find the previous team hidden in the trees, under the pine straw and behind bushes.

Commander Chameleon explains how to offset their features by using camouflage makeup, leaf litter and other natural materials.

"This program is awesome on so many levels," said Morrison. "To develop this program we merged the hot topic of zombies with environmental education, outdoor recreation, place-based learning, arts and sci-

ences applications, technology, and nursing with an emergency management twist. We are able to connect these students with samples of what they may decide to study when they attend JSU."

Calhoun County Gifted Program teacher John Moore said in an email to Morrison, "You and your staff did an awesome job! Our kids thoroughly enjoyed it. Each instructor did an excellent job instructing the students in their area and the kids went home talking about it being the greatest field trip ever! We look forward to more adventures with you and your team!"

After posting the Calhoun County field trip photos on the JSU Field Schools Facebook page, Morrison said she has received seven other requests for similar field trips.

"When our Facebook friends heard about this awesome program, we also received a great demand for a Saturday ZERO Camp program," Morrison said, "So we are offering a ZERO Camp on Saturday January 24, 2015 at the Cleburne County Mountain Center. The fee is \$15 per person. There will be a van shuttle from JSU in case JSU students would like to participate."

To find out more about the 400+ programs offered annually through JSU Field Schools, visit www.jsu.edu/epic or email fieldschool@jsu.edu.

To contact Renee Morrison about doing a field trip for your school similar to this, email rmorrison@jsu.edu or call 256-782-8010.

~JSU Newswire



JACKSONVILLE STATE UNIVERSITY

Starting the semester in color

Katelyn Schneider
Staff Writer

The JSU Art Department saw the opening of the Professor's Pic(k) art show in the Hammond Hall art gallery. Pieces featured in the show have been chosen by professors from JSU's art department as good examples of art from the students.

The Professor's Pic(k) art show had a large opening with concessions and artists standing beside their work to discuss it with viewers.

The art show features works from classes of all different varieties and levels. The classes exhibited range from photography to drawing to painting.

The works are labeled with the class, professor's name and artist's name. Some works also include descriptions on what they are displaying.

The art itself varies in subject matter, along with the medium and canvas used. Some of the backgrounds used are traditional canvas, paper, and even wood. The artists used mediums such as acrylic paint, graphite, charcoal and much more.

The gallery will be open to students as well as the general public until Thursday, January 29. Visitors may stop by between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4 p.m. If the gallery doors are locked, see Department Secretary Jane Greene and she will unlock the doors for you.

The next art show is set to premiere on Thursday, February 5. It will be open from 5 p.m. until 7 p.m. in Hammond Hall. This show will feature an unnamed visiting artist.



By: L. A. Bonté



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OPINION & EDITORIAL

President Obama's State of the Union Address

Brett Johnson
Staff Writer

On Tuesday night, President Barack Obama delivered his seventh State of the Union Address. This time, he was more confident and enthusiastic than we have seen since the beginning of his term.

"The shadow of crisis has passed," Obama said in his speech. "And the State of the Union is strong."

This was how the president introduced his message to the world.

The president went on to outline many economic indicators that have significantly improved over the past few years: unemployment rates, fuel prices, stock exchange rates, etc. Then, with a smile and a wink, President Obama declared: "This is good news people."

The presidential address has often been used for outlining specific agenda items and detailed proposals the president wants implemented. However, President Obama used this address more so as one to encourage faith in the nation's economy and future.

In fact, about half of his speech was dedicated to highlighting the hardships Americans have gone through since the Great Recession. By reminding viewers of where the nation was when he took office, the president was able to reflect on how far it has since come.

While President Obama used his time to convince us of a 'turning of the page,' he did not completely forfeit the opportunity to spout off a few of his own policy proposals. This package, he announced, is centered on an idea of middle class economics.

What is that? Middle class economics, to the president, means: affordable child care, guaranteed paid sick/maternity leave,

gender pay equality, raising the minimum wage, free community college, and the opportunity to lower monthly student loan payments – just to name a few.

Now, just because the president proposed it does not mean it will become reality. Oddly, the president seemed like one whose party had just taken over Congress – not one that lost its majorities just two months ago.

President Obama is entering this seventh year of his presidency with a Congress completely controlled by the opposing party. It's safe to say that he has an uphill battle with almost all of his agenda proposals.

One only has to glance at the election returns from the 2014 midterm elections. The American people gave a resounding mandate for conservatism and a shift to the right in national policy: specifically concerning domestic policies like those that President Obama discussed in his speech.

As for the President's proposals? Well, the proverbial proof is in the pudding. We will see how far his poise and confidence will get him with this new Congress.

Whether or not any of his policies are given the light of day is one thing. Whether or not he will veto legislation that goes against his vision is another.

But one thing's for sure; the American people have always appreciated a confident, strong-standing leader – even if they disagree wholeheartedly with his policy positions.

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

Overcoming the sweet addiction of technology

Myron Jones
Staff Writer

Mobile devices are great for many different purposes, but their greatest strength is being a distraction.

There is no easier way to kill time than pulling out your phone or tablet, and the constant stream of notifications makes it more difficult than ever to keep the devices off of your mind. Even if you hear vibrations from someone else's device, you often feel inclined to check your own.

For years, I was entirely under the command of my smartphone. It vibrated to summon me, and I responded dutifully. The funny thing is that most of the alerts I received were far from urgent. Once the phone was in my hand, it became nearly impossible to put down.

It was insanity and I had to put an end to it. I had to decide what was important enough to make me take the phone out of my pocket. I don't immediately need to know when someone likes my new Facebook status. I don't need to know when there are new tweets for me to read. All that really matters is that I can take a call or receive messages.

Once I realized that, I decided to take greater control over my smartphone. I didn't uninstall Facebook or Twitter, but I disabled notifications. I only see what happens on social networks when I consciously decide to check. Without notifications, I found that this was far less often. However, I still found that I was using my phone more than I would like to because of a larger problem.

All of my favorite apps used feeds. I quickly learned that feeds are a great way to take up huge amounts of time. If you don't constantly check the notifications you could

potentially have a lot to catch up on since they constantly update.

I turned to a fairly radical solution. I gave up the apps entirely and uninstalled them from my phone. I knew that I could still get access to them all through my web browser so it was not a big deal. However, that takes extra work and most of the time, I was just not up for it. As a result, I spent significantly less time on the services than ever before.

Despite all of this, I still get a considerable amount of notifications from my phone so I decided to buy a smartwatch. The idea was simple: If my watch vibrates, I can see at a glance whether or not it is worth pulling out my phone. More often than not, the answer is no.

After making these changes, I no longer feel compelled to use my phone for the purpose of entertainment. I moved all of my entertainment apps to a separate device and I have never felt better. While I am still working to reduce my phone's presence, I feel that I have made a very significant start. The big issue is it takes additional work and setup. You can't just buy a phone that only tells you information that is relevant. Perhaps they aren't so smart after all.

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Smoking: the age-old habit that our generation won't quit

Brittany Robertson
Staff Writer

Hack. Cough. Wheez. No, no one is sick, that is just what you hear when someone breathes in the smog from a cigarette.

Cigarettes contain about 600 ingredients and, when they burn, generate more than 7,000 chemicals according to the American Lung Association. Many of those chemicals are poisonous and at least 69 of them can cause cancer.

I hear it every morning on

my way to classes, whether it is from me, another student who passes by a smoker or even the smoker themselves. The campus policy on smoking is that smokers must be 20 feet away from campus buildings.

This does not help since the smell of the smoke will either linger in the air over the sidewalks or the wind will just carry it closer to the building and students. This results in second hand smoking. Smoking and even second hand smoking are both dangerous to

the smoker and the students who inhale the smog. Research done by the American Cancer Society proves that second hand smoking causes cancer and heart problems.

Most would argue that the electronic cigarettes are better because they are made of vapor and flavoring. Yes, but that is not entirely true. Electronic cigarettes also contain nicotine, an easily addictive drug, that during withdrawal causes irritability, depression and anxiety.

Also, with real cigarettes the

smoker is drawing in tar and other nasty substances that will damage their lungs, destroy teeth, and kill their sex drive.

Even with a smoky flavors of chocolate, maple syrup or mojito, bottom line is smoking is not good for anyone, electronic or not. If you do not believe me look up the videos with the coal black lungs and see if that is worth a puff of smoke.

Why eat organic food if it might not be all that "organic?"

Adam Higgins
Staff Writer

Over the past ten years, organic food has become regularly accessible at most supermarkets. Customers often question why they should pay more for food that appears identical to its non-organic counterpart.

According to the Mayo Foundation for Medical Education and Research, Organic foods are free from "synthetic pesticides and herbicides, preservatives, artificial sweeteners, artificial colors, and monosodium glutamate (MSG)." The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) mandates that all items bearing the organic label must be at least 95% organic.

Critics argue that consumers who eat only organic food are merely paranoid, and have fallen victim to a scheme to increase profits. Perhaps there is some validity to this claim.

According to Mayo Foundation for

Medical Education and Research, a recent study and concluded that organically and conventionally produced foods "are not significantly different in their nutrient content."

Therefore, eating non-organic fruits and vegetables may not make much of a difference to one's health, aside from the potentially harmful effects of pesticides and herbicides. However, non-organic processed foods tend to contain some odd ingredients such as Butylated Hydroxyanisole, disodium guanylate, etc. Perhaps we should examine the ingredients labels of our food to make sure that we know what we are putting into our bodies.

With the organic craze sweeping the nation at supermarket chains everywhere, it's hard to tell what really is organic anymore.



SPORTS

Late comeback falls short for JSU Men's Basketball



Dana Laing/JSU Sportswire

In the above picture, Malcolm Drumwright of the Jacksonville State Gamecocks goes up for a lay-up.

Timothy Cash
Staff Writer

The Jacksonville State Gamecocks (8-12, 1-5 OVC) fell 55-52 to the University of Tennessee-Skyhawks (11-6, 3-1 OVC) on Saturday in Martin, Tenn. Avery Moore led the Gamecocks with 17 points. Jamal Hunter led the team with six rebounds, while JaQuail Townser led with three assist. Coming into the match-up, JSU was averaging 63 points per game and a .369 field goal percentage, while UTM was averaging 71 points per game with a

.462 field goal percentage. UT Martin struck first with 1:23 into the contest. Moore scored first for the Gamecocks with a shot from beyond the arch that was good for three. Another shot by D.J. Felder lifted the Gamecocks to a 5-4 lead. Unfortunately, JSU did not hold the lead for long. The Skyhawks would go on a 7-for-7 field goal completion run that would produce 14 points. JSU went 2-for-8 during the same four minutes before Moore hit another three-pointer. UTM would maintain a comfortable 10-12 point lead over the Game-

cocks for the remainder of the first period. The first half saw four lead changes. Jacksonville State lead for 45 seconds. The Gamecocks went 9-for-30 and 4-for-10 from three-point land. UT Martin went 14-for-25, 4-for-6 from behind the arch, and lead for 17:55. JSU did not score first in the second half, but they scored seven points in the first five minutes. However, the Skyhawks scored 15 and extended the lead to 49-32 with 13 minutes left in the conference contest. Things started looking up for the Gamecocks at the 13-minute mark. They

went on a 9-0 run over the next three minutes that brought JSU within 11 points of the Skyhawks. JSU would go on a 12-0 run within the last eight minutes that allowed them to tie UT Martin. However, the Skyhawks would squeak by the Gamecocks with a score that was only three points better. JSU improved greatly in the second half. They were able to bring their shooting percentage to 36 percent, while UT Martin's fell to 50 percent. The Gamecocks return home on Thursday, January 22, when they take on Eastern Kentucky at 7 p.m.

The New England Patriots and the Seattle Seahawks will face off in the Super Bowl

Marvel Robinson
Sports Editor

The New England Patriots will meet the Seattle Seahawks in Glendale, Ariz. at University of Phoenix Stadium for Super Bowl XLIX. Tom Brady looks to lead the Patriots to victory with help from his favorite target, Rob Gronkowski. Brady has a 64.1 completion percentile with 4,109 passing yards and 33 touchdowns this season. Gronkowski has 82 receptions, 1,124 yards, and 12 touchdowns this season. The Seahawks are known for their defense that is No. 1 in the NFL. Richard Sherman leads the Seahawks defense and is tied for first with two interceptions this postseason. Marshawn Lynch carries the offense and has 1,306 rushing yards and 13 touchdowns on the season. Seahawks quarterback Russell Wilson is a game manager and does what he has to when his team needs him the most. This will mark the Patriots eighth visit to the Super Bowl and the Seahawks third. The Patriots first appearance dated back in 1986 for Super Bowl XX. They lost 46-10 to the Chicago Bears. Their last appearance was the 2011-2012 season where they lost 21-17 to the New York Giants in Super Bowl XLVI. The Patriots last Championship win was in Super Bowl XXXIX in the



Shrapnel/YouTube

The Patriots and the Seahawks will play in the upcoming Championship.

'04-'05 season when they defeated the Philadelphia Eagles 24-21. This is the Seahawks second straight Super Bowl appearance where they look to repeat as champions. The Seahawks demolished the Denver Broncos 43-8 last season in Super Bowl XLVIII. Seattle's first Super Bowl appearance was in 2006 where they lost Super Bowl XL 21-10 to the Pittsburgh Steelers. This is the 17th meeting between the Patriots and Seahawks where the series is tied 8-8. This Super Bowl will claim the champion and the tiebreaker. The last time these two teams met was in 2012 when the Seahawks won 24-23. In the Patriots playoff run to Super

Bowl XLIX, they defeated the Baltimore Ravens and the Indianapolis Colts. The Patriots beat the Ravens 35-31 in the divisional round. Then, in the AFC Championship, the Patriots won 45-7 against the Colts. The Seahawks playoff run to Super Bowl XLIX consisted of wins over the Carolina Panthers and the Green Bay Packers. Seattle defeated the Panthers in the divisional round 31-17. In the NFC Championship, the Seahawks beat the Packers 28-22 in overtime. The Super Bowl XLIX match-up is set for February 1 at 5:30 p.m. on NBC.

Gamecocks Side Bar

2015 Jacksonville State Football Schedule

- 9/5 @ Chattanooga, TBA
- 9/12 @ Auburn, TBA
- 9/19 vs FURMAN (Band Day/Red Out), 1 p.m.
- 9/26 @ UT Martin, TBA
- 10/3 vs *TENNESSEE STATE (Preview Day), 1 p.m.
- 10/10 - OPEN
- 10/17 @ *Tennessee Tech, TBA
- 10/24 @ *Austin Peay, TBA
- 10/31 vs *EASTERN KENTUCKY (Homecoming/Family Day), 1 p.m.
- 11/7 @ *Eastern Illinois, TBA
- 11/14 vs *SOUTHEAST MISSOURI (Hall of Fame), 1 p.m.
- 11/21 vs *MURRAY STATE (Southerners Reunion), 1 p.m.

All Caps = Home Games
* = OVC Games

Upcoming action

- 1/22
-M. Basketball vs Eastern Kentucky
7:00 p.m.
- 1/23-25
-Tennis @ Southern Miss Invitational
- 1/24
-Rifle vs Withrop Invitational
- Track & Field @ UAB Invite 2
10:00 a.m.
- W. Basketball vs Morehead St
2:00 p.m.
- M. Basketball vs Morehead St
4:30 p.m.
- 1/28
-W. Basketball vs Eastern Kentucky
11:30 a.m.
- 2/6
-Softball season opener
- 2/13
-Baseball season opener

Softball fan day on Feb. 1 at University Field at 2 p.m.

JSU Football posted a Team G.P.A. of 3.0 this past season for the first time in school history.

FYI Sports

- NFL Pro Bowl on Jan. 25 @ 7 p.m. on ESPN. Irvin vs Carter
- NFL Super Bowl on Feb. 1 @ 5:30 p.m. on NBC. Patriots vs. Seahawks

Lady Gamecocks fall against UT Martin

Rebekah Hawkins
Staff Writer

After taking care of business against Southeast Missouri on Wednesday, the Gamecocks would take a 67-47 loss against reigning OVC Champs, UT Martin.

It was an evenly matched battle in scoring for most of the first half with 25 points on the Gamecocks end, and 28 for the Skyhawks of UTM. It was in the second half where UT Martin managed to pull away as they scored 39 to Jacksonville State's 22 to put the game away.

After a quick first score, the Gamecocks appeared ready to play. They took the lead early and held on to it until UTM took it away by one with around 15:40 left in the first half.

UTM's Haley Howard turned the ball over at 12:33, and then, Jacksonville State's Gretchen Morrison took it for two back-to-back three-pointers. Kelly Naughton would then score again to push the Gamecocks' lead out to seven.

The game would then go on to be tied three times before the end of the first half with JSU only having the lead once more before half-time. UTM would go into the locker room with a 28-25 lead over JSU.

The Gamecocks were 11 of 30 for field goals taken in the first half, which was nearly matched with UT Martin's 12 of 31. There were also 14 3-pointers taken between the two teams and only three were made. Two of them came from the Gamecocks' side.

It was the second half where the Skyhawks would put space between themselves and the Gamecocks. They were already ahead as they came out of the half and would not surrender that lead the entire second half.

While the Gamecocks did score, they could never come back from being down so low. UTM managed to stay ahead by at least 15 from the 13-minute mark until the end of the game.

After several last ditch efforts to make up some extra points by



JSU Sportswire

In the above picture, Destany McLin of JSU looks to shoot a lay-up.

the Gamecocks the game ended and the final score read 67-47.

Despite the loss, the game proved effective for Destany McLin who scored a team high 12 points. Morrison also had her two successful three-point attempts that were a help in giving JSU the lead early on in the game.

The loss dropped the Gamecocks to 12-6 and 3-3 in conference play. They remain much improved from this time a year ago where they had only won six games. They sit just above their next opponent, Belmont, in the OVC standings. They will play the Bruins Jan. 21 in Nashville.

Jackonville State announces 2015 football schedule

JACKSONVILLE – Five home games and trips to Auburn and Chattanooga highlight the 2015 Jacksonville State football schedule, which was released by interim Athletics Director Greg Seitz on Friday.

The reigning Ohio Valley Conference Champion Gamecocks, who finished the 2014 season ranked No. 9 in both polls, will open the season at Chattanooga on Sept. 5 before taking on Auburn for the first time a week later on Sept. 12. JSU will conclude its non-conference schedule and open its home schedule on Sept. 19 against Furman at 1 p.m.

The season opener with the Mocs will be the second-straight trip to Chattanooga for JSU, who earned a 26-23 overtime win on Sept. 6 of last season. It will be the 29th meeting between the two schools in a series that has seen JSU win seven of the last nine. It will be the first time the Gamecocks have opened with UTC since 1980 and could pit two top 10 teams against each other after UTC finished No. 8 in both 2014 polls.

Week two will be an historic one for the Gamecocks with their trip to the Plains to face Auburn for the first time. It will be their seventh game against a member of the SEC but the first against one of the state of Alabama's two SEC programs.

The home opener against the Paladins on Sept. 19 will also be Band Day and a Red Out at Bur-

gess-Snow Field. JSU will welcome Furman to Jacksonville for the second time, with the first a 37-35 thriller in the 2005 season opener that was won by the Paladins on the game's the final play.

The defending champs will open OVC play at UT Martin on Sept. 26 before returning home to face Tennessee State for Preview Day on Oct. 3 at 1 p.m. An open date follows on Oct. 10 and then road games at Tennessee Tech and Austin Peay await before JSU finishes with three of its final four games at home.

Eastern Kentucky visits Jacksonville on Oct. 31 for Homecoming. The Halloween game will kickoff at 1 p.m. and will also be Family Day at JSU. The Colonels finished the 2014 season ranked No. 21 in both polls last season.

Jax State's final road game will be at Eastern Illinois on Nov. 7 before finishing the schedule with back-to-back home games against Southeast Missouri and Murray State. SEMO visits on Nov. 14 at 1 p.m., which will also be JSU's Athletic Hall of Fame Weekend. The season finale against Murray State on Nov. 21 will also kickoff at 1 p.m. and will be the Marching Southerners' annual reunion in addition to Senior Day.

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 and finished fourth in the nation in total offense.

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

JSU Rifle beats Murray State in first match of 2015



JSU Sportswire

The Jacksonville State Rifle team won their first match in 2015 over the weekend.

JACKSONVILLE – After being idle since last November, the nationally-ranked Jacksonville State rifle team picked up right where it left off last semester with a solid outing against Ohio Valley Conference foe Murray State on Sunday at the Gamecock Rifle Range.

The Gamecocks accumulated an aggregate score of 4677 to oust the Racers by 28 total points. MSU finished with a 4649. JSU turned in a 2314 in smallbore, adding a 2363 in air rifle for the win. The Racers were 11 marks back of Jax State in smallbore and 43 behind the Red and White in air rifle.

In smallbore, the Gamecocks were led by senior Brent Books and junior Samantha Bullard.

Who shared medalist honors with a mark of 579. Sophomore Austin Cock and sophomore Brandon Muske added scores of 578 to bolster JSU's smallbore tab.

Books followed his high marks in smallbore with the best mark of the air rifle portion of the match. The Tippery, Penn.-native recorded a 592. Senior Cole Tucker matched Books with the same score.

The Gamecocks will travel to Murray, Kentucky next weekend to compete in the Withrow Invitational. The invitational will serve as a tune up for the OVC Rifle Championships, which will be hosted by Jax State on Feb. 7-8 at the Gamecock Rifle Range in Rowe Hall on the JSU campus.

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