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Yik Yak, an app that launched in 2013, has become a part of the college experience for students on campuses across the nation. Students on our campus have made “yaking” part of their daily routines.

Ride the Yak

Yik Yak becomes hit craze on campuses across the nation

Katie Cline
Staff Writer

The anonymous social media app known as Yik Yak has been sweeping college campuses across the nation since last summer. To date, students on over 1,600 campuses use Yik Yak to share opinions, vent frustrations and elicit the occasional helping hand.

Furman University students Brooks Buffington and Tyler Droll created Yik Yak in November of 2013.

“They thought, ‘Why doesn’t everyone have this power to reach out their community and say what’s on their mind?’” said Ben Popkin in an exclusive interview with The Chanticleer last week. Popkin is the lead community manager for Yik Yak, and his department manages aspects such as customer support, press releases and overview and monitoring of the Yaks.

“[They wanted] a way to give everyone an equal playing field and an equal voice,” said Popkin.

For students with the app, an “equal playing field” is not necessarily the first thought that comes to mind. While there are gems to be found (What student doesn’t appreciate Patrick Star’s voice in their head when they read, “We should take Stone Center and push it somewhere else.”) they are often hidden underneath scores of Yaks

looking for one night stands or raging parties.

And, of course, not everyone is fond of Yik Yak. Many people, especially those who work for or have children in high schools, see the app as just another medium for cyberbullying. In fact, several high schools from Connecticut to California petitioned Yik Yak to ban the app in middle schools and high schools during the app’s early days.

Yik Yak’s response was geofencing, a software feature that blocks the app from being accessed within 1.5 miles of a high school.

“We recognize that with any social media there’s a likelihood for misuse by certain small groups, [but] we see it mostly used the way we intended it to,” Popkin said. “Occasionally, like all social media apps, we don’t have 100% perfect use on college campuses. They’re mostly mature. The good stuff gets upvoted and the bad stuff gets downvoted, so usually the bad things get rid of themselves.”

In regards to the threats of violence that have shut down high school and colleges campuses alike, Popkin said, “It is anonymous social media site, but being anonymous doesn’t give people the right to make threats. It’s like any other social

See YIK YAK, page 2

SGA candidates voice opinions

Katie Cline
Staff Writer

The seven candidates for SGA’s executive offices braved sleet, snow and ice last Monday night to deliver speeches to a crowd in the TMB auditorium. Candidates for the Vice President of Student Affairs are sophomore Alexis Gravlee and senior Ariel Tolson.

Gravlee currently serves the SGA as an associate justice.

“I think if we really reach out to certain organizations, if we really reach out to certain majors and departments within our campus we can really broaden our events that we have and find out how we need to improve them,” Gravlee said during her speech.

Tolson currently serves as the Vice President of Organizational Affairs for the SGA and was inspired to run for VPSA after working closely with past VPSAs.

“The reason that most students don’t come

See SPEECHES, page 2

Four score and seven years ago

Department spotlight:
History/Foreign Language

Chris Morgan
Staff Writer

When students select majors, one of the most overlooked and underrated is History and Foreign Language. Dr. Gordon Harvey, the head of the department, said “Our department has some of the best teachers on campus. They make [history and foreign language] interesting and they make it alive.”

The History and Foreign Language Department offers a Bachelors degree in Foreign Language in a concentration or either Spanish or French. They also offer an undergraduate and Master’s degree in History.

“We get a lot of people who did not want to be a history major coming in,” Dr. Harvey said, “But you got into a history class, you took it, you had fun and now you want to do this for your major.”

The department as a whole has a commitment to their students. They can always be found in the hallway interacting with students or organizing events for their extracurricular activities to put a more hands on approach to learning the material.

In terms of extracurricular activities, the department offers the History Club. This club has a \$10 annual fee and anyone can be a member. They take field trips every semester, for example, this year they are going to Montgomery to see a play at the Shakespeare Museum and also see some other historical sites around Montgomery.

See HISTORY, page 2



Yik Yak

Students have the ability to “upvote” or “downvote” Yaks. In addition to this, they can use the “peek” feature to see what students who attend other universities are “yaking” about.

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Smith takes national title

Katelyn Schneider
Staff Writer

Jacksonville State University has the immense pleasure of recognizing student, Kenneth Smith, who has been elected as the 41st President of the Southeastern Interfraternity Conference (SEIFC). The SEIFC is one of three of these associations. This particular voluntary association handles fraternities in the southeastern United States. It includes institutions in New Mexico all the way to Virginia. Sometimes conferences can have up to 600 fraternity leaders from various institutions. The mission of this organization is to bring the individuals and institutions that commit to fraternities together. Kenneth Smith is the president of the Sigma Nu chapter here at Jacksonville State University. He discovered the Southeastern Interfraternity Conference because of Kristen Smith, the advisor of the Interfraternity Council that works with JSU Student Life. She took Kenneth to a leadership conference in Atlanta that initially got him involved. Kenneth gave much of the credit to Kristen, and she is quite thrilled over his success. This success began last year when Kenneth served as the Vice President of the SEIFC. In order to get elected, Kenneth had to apply for the board and give a speech in front of more than thirty delegates. He was also competing for the position against two other candidates. One candidate was representing Florida State University and the other was from the University of Central Florida. In reference to Kenneth’s election, advisor Kristen said that, “It is great that a smaller campus can make an impact like that.” Kenneth will be required to handle conference calls every week as well as plan for and set up the July board meeting, which will also be held in Atlanta. This is an overwhelming position that the Southeastern Interfraternity Conference offers. “It is stressful, but worth it. I’m really excited to represent JSU,” said Kenneth.

HISTORY, from page 1

They also have the History Honors Society, Phi Alpha Theta, which is a little more exclusive. Students have to have a certain amount of hours in history as well as maintain a certain GPA. This is a huge honor being that there is only one history honorary society in America. One of the most frequent questions that the department seems to get is “What can I actually do with a degree in history or foreign language?” “You come out of the liberal arts majors (History, Foreign language, English) with a skill set that employers can’t teach. You know how to read you know how to write and you know how to critically think and that is what most employers are looking for today,” said Harvey. Some of the biggest names in today’s world have a liberal arts degree. People like Conan

O’Brien, Steve Carell and even Howard Stringer, the Chairman and CEO of Sony Corporation. This degree has a spectrum ranging from politics to public servants, all the way to CEO’s. “To put it simply,” Harvey stated, “You can do anything you want.” With this being said students still may have to get a graduate degree such as a Master of Business Administration or some specialized training such as a 5th year program to teach. But with the skill set that this degree can give students, the sky is the limit. Students who enjoy a challenge and would like a broad range of job opportunities would fall in love with this major. The faculty and staff have a passion for what they teach and it shows through the entire department.

YIK YAK, from page 1

other social media site. If threats are made and the police get involved, we have to comply.” And then there’s a more recent controversy. Yik Yak has been accused of systematically downvoting all Yaks containing a competing app’s name, such as Fade and Sneak, even if it is completely out of context. For example, if someone were to Yak, “Who wants a sneak peek of the Southerners’ 2015 show?”, an algorithm would detect the

word “sneak” and automatically downvote the Yak once every minute until it disappeared. “Yik Yak’s security and anti-spam measures are meant to improve the user experience and aligns with Yik Yak’s goal of creating beneficial social communities,” Popkin said. “The company recognizes the importance of constantly improving the technology to ensure users are having the best possible experience on the app.”

Yik Yak recently contacted The Chanticleer about JSU’s Yik Yak feed, stating that it has become one of the most active campuses in the region. “JSU is a good community,” Popkin said. “It’s a good, close college campus. You guys kind of came together and bonded over that [snow day]. You guys really use the app in the way it’s meant to.” So, there’s something for you to yak about, Gamecocks!

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SPEECHES, from page 1

come to events is because they don’t know about them,” said Tolson. “So, one of my main goals, if elected, is I would want to work very closely with the Director of Publicity and publicize all the events. Don’t just stop at the Greek organizations; go to the really small ones.” The race for Vice President of Organizational Affairs is between Dylan Jones, Austin Thigpen and Hunter Wallace. Jones is a sophomore at JSU double majoring in political science and public relations. “One of my goals is to have at least seventy-five percent of attendance at every [Organizational Council] meeting,” Jones said. “Another thing I’m really looking forward to is the community service that I’m looking to drive in through the organizations. This gives a way for the people who make up the organizations to bond.” Thigpen emphasized the necessity of organizations to the university’s continuity. “I really want to represent all the organizations on campus to my peers in SGA and to the administration. Without organizations at Jacksonville State University, we’re just a boring place where you go to take tests, and I would dare to say that we wouldn’t be the Friendliest Campus in the South, because our students wouldn’t be happy.”

Wallace stressed the need for action. “To me, emphasizing what I plan to do in the future is more important than what I have accomplished in the past. We need to bring campus involvement up; we need to bring the campus as a whole together, and [this is] where it starts. I want to be that little piece that can star putting all of them together.” Sophomore Jesslan Sharp is running unopposed for the position of Vice President of Student Senate. “I was chosen to represent our university at the Collegiate Legislature Conference, and that’s when I really realized my passion for the Senate,” said Sharp. “I decided to run for VPSS because I want to further the mission that our past VPSSs had.” Tyler Brown, a junior and the current Vice President of Student Senate, is running unopposed for the SGA presidency. “Serving as the next SGA president, I think I have big shoes to fill. Not only have we had all this great leadership before us, but we also have new leadership coming from the top down with a new university president. It’s our job to make sure that we’re showing the best light to the student body, and I honestly can’t wait to continue that role.” SGA elections will be held online on March 12th from 12 p.m. to 5 p.m. All students are encouraged to go online and vote.



Check back each week for announcements from the JSU Faculty Commons

Meet The Chanticleer’s 2014-2015 Staff



Marie McBurnett
Editor-in-Chief



Alex McFry
Associate Editor



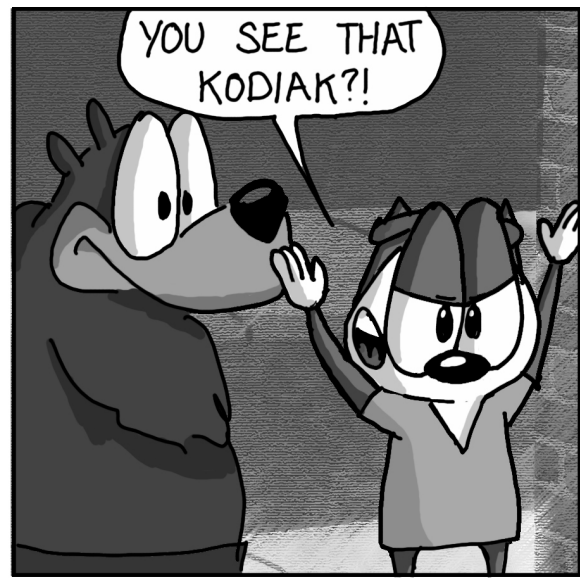
Christiana Tyler
A&E Editor



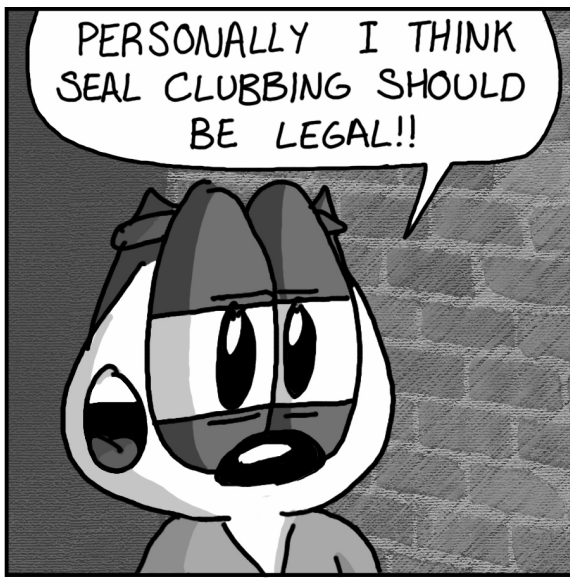
Marvel Robinson
Sports Editor

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


STUDY BREAK



YOU SEE THAT KODIAK?!



PERSONALLY I THINK SEAL CLUBBING SHOULD BE LEGAL!!



I MEAN LET THEM DANCE!

By: L. A. Bonté

For more comics and animations visit FilbertCartoons.com


Campus crime report: 02/19 to 03/05

02/19/2015		03/02/2015
Criminal Mischief		Theft of Property
Jax Apartments		Stone Center
	02/27/2015	
	Medical Emergency	
	Crow Hall	
02/23/2015		03/02/2015
Information Report- Parking		Violation of Student Code
Salls Hall		of Conduct
	03/01/2015	Pannell Hall
	Damaged Property	
02/26/2015	Stadium Tower	
Theft of Property	Parking Lot	
Brewer Hall		03/03/2015
		Trespass Order
	03/02/2015	Crow Hall
	Medical Emergency	
02/26/2015	Ayers Hall	
Violation of Student Code of		03/03/2015
Conduct		Information Report- Lost
Ladiga Street		Property
		Stone Center

Need Advice?

The Chanticleer staff is happy to help!
Email chantynewstips@gmail.com with your problems and look in the paper next week for our newest "Dear Chanty" section.
NOTE: All entries will remain anonymous, and Chanty will respond to all inquiries.

Chicken Scratch



Sorry professor, the first backpack has been zipped. There's no going back now.

The daily show: 4 days per week.

How I Met Your Mother: The longest story ever told.

The struggle of getting up from a nap curled up with bae to go to class.

Use the code "Netflix" to receive 50% off your next midterm.

Love is given. Hate is acquired.

Fellow Gamecock Villagers: we are proud to announce that the giant pothole that has ruined our tires for almost 4 months now has finally been resolved.

Campus tours make me feel like an exhibit at a zoo. "To your left, you can see a failing, sleep-deprived, freezing student. Please do no feed. It has a meal plan."

Teachers saying that the review is harder than the exam are the source of my trust issues.

Submit today!

Have something you want us to see? Use [#chanticleerjsu](https://twitter.com/chanticleerjsu)

Dear Chanty,

I am getting ready to move out of my parents' house. This is my second year in college and I am ready to spread my wings. My parents are completely fine with me moving out. They say that they'll help me out financially if I really need it too. They told me that living on my own is part of the learning process. If I have to live out-of-state when I graduate and get a job on my own, the experience I gain while living alone now will carry on to that time, where my parents may not have the opportunity to take me back in. Because they told me that they would help me out, I'm tempted to just live on my own in a one-bedroom apartment. I planned well, and financially, I would be able to survive each month—barely. I don't want my parents to think that I'm using them, but I really don't want a roommate because I've heard horror stories.

Sincerely,
Moving Out










Moving Out,

Moving out is a big deal—and a huge commitment. If you had been living with a roommate for a while and then decided that it wasn't for you, I would say try to live on your own. Since this is the first time you'll live on your own, however, I think you should find a roommate. There is a lot of risk involved if you plan to barely survive. There are a lot of unexpected expenses that go along with living alone. While your parents offered financial help, the point of living on your own is to learn to live without them. You'll make financial mistakes sometimes, but you need to learn the ability to bounce back on your own. To cut down the financial burden, a roommate will help. You won't spend your entire paycheck each month, and you'll be able to save up a buffer for those unexpected expenses.

Yours truly,
Chanty

7-day weather outlook

						
TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
Rain High: 41° Low: 24°	Clear High: 50° Low: 28°	Clear High: 59° Low: 32°	Cloudy High: 60° Low: 38°	Cloudy High: 61° Low: 40°	Rain High: 62° Low: 43°	Rain High: 67° Low: 53°

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

JSU to hold Jazz Festival this weekend

Christiana Tyler
Arts & Entertainment Editor

This year, the Jacksonville State University Jazz Program will hold the fourth annual Jazz Festival on March 6th. High school and college groups from the area will gather to attend the Festival. The Jazz Festival is a non-competitive educational and musical experience that is designed to grow the love of jazz by gathering students, directors and guest clinicians in one place. According to Dr. Andy Nevala, a jazz professor here at JSU, “every major Jazz Program in the country has a festival of some sort.” JSU’s festival is to help recruit new students, spread awareness of Jazz Education, and provide the city of Jacksonville and JSU an opportunity to hear students perform at a high level. In accordance with this, most of the day students will spend in classrooms, clinics and masterclasses. About 20 bands will be participating in the festival this year, ten of which are JSU groups and combos. In all, four JSU Jazz ensembles, six combos and the JSU Latin Ensemble, as well

bands from Gadsden State Community College, Northeast Alabama Community College, Jacksonville High School, White Plains High School, Southside High School, and Escambia County High School will be participating. Clinicians will provide written and verbal feedback to directors and students and each participating school will be awarded a commemorative plaque. Nevala says of the guests, “That’s all the space we have. Without an adequate performance facility, we are limited at what we can do and who we can bring to campus.” While the Jazz Festival is designed primarily for students, it is a public event and there will be live performances throughout the day that all are invited to attend. Not only will the festival be open to the public, but the festival is also serving as the release party for the JSU Jazz Ensemble I and faculty’s CD. Nevala says of the CD, “Our goal was to make a quality CD to promote JSU and its growing Jazz Program, to help with recruitment and to give our students who participated something they could be proud of. I remember each

of the cd's I have played on; I hope the students will always remember all the hard work and sacrifices that went into recording this one.” The CD includes 3 Radiohead songs and 2 Jim McNealey arrangements that the Jazz Ensemble performs. The jazz faculty recorded original compositions by Dr. Dave Lambert and Chris Enghauser, with a Jazz Trio arrangement of “Sweet Home Alabama.” The CD and several different shirt designs will be available at the festival for a \$10 donation. The festival begins at 9 a.m., with clinics and masterclasses taking place at 11 a.m. After the noon concert, there will be more clinics and masterclasses on every instrument, with performances by the bands from 2-5 p.m. The noon concert, which will be held in the Leone Cole Auditorium, will be a brown bag concert and all are invited to spend their lunch listening to jazz music and enjoying their lunch. The performances will be split between the Leone Cole Auditorium and the Theron Montgomery Building Auditorium.

4th Annual JSU Jazz Festival schedule

Leone Cole Auditorium

8:00 Jacksonville State University Jazz III (Directed by Jarret Irish and Tom Burnett)

9:00 BB Comer High School (Directed by Daniel Seaborn)

10:00 Northeast Alabama Community College (Directed by Stacy Morris)

11:00 Clinic: Piano, Guitar, Bass (w/ Dr. Andy Nevala, Ben Weatherford, Stacey Morris)

Noon Concert with JSU Jazz I, Latin Ensemble, Jazz Faculty, and Special Guests

1:00 Clinic: Trumpet and Trombone (w/ Dr. Chris Probst and Dr. Dave Lambert)

2:30 Jacksonville High School (Directed by Graham Bennett)

3:30 Gadsden State College (Directed by Matt Leder)

4:30 Jacksonville State University Jazz II (Directed by Dr. Andy Nevala)

Theron Montgomery Building Auditorium

8:00 Jacksonville State University Jazz IV (Directed by Dr. Andy Nevala)

9:00 White Plains High School (Directed by Wendy Etter)

10:00 Central High School (Directed by Roger Redden)

11:00 Clinic: Saxophone (w/ Kenyon Carter)

Noon Concert in Leone Cole

1:00 Clinic: Drumset (w/ Dr. Tony McCutchen)

2:00 Grissom High School (Directed by Theo Vernon)

3:00 Southside High School (Directed by Matt Weaver)

4:00 Escambia High School (Directed by Hayley Canterbury)



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JSU Creatives bring home Addys

The American Advertising Federation of Birmingham recently recognized artistic contributions by and on behalf of JSU during the annual Birmingham Addy Awards held on February 20 at Old Car Heaven in Birmingham. The American Advertising Awards, or the Addys, is the nationally-acclaimed awards competition for advertising creatives. Winners at the local and regional levels are eligible for national recognition. JSU staff and faculty who brought home silver Addys include Mary Smith ('93), coordinator of publications, and Morgan Christopher ('10), graphic designer, for their JSU Welcome Packet “You Are In” letterhead and envelope (brochures category); Shannon Crutchfield, lead interactive designer, JSU Drama Season Animation (animation and special effects category); and Jamie Runnells, art faculty, and Steve Latham, university photographer, for their “We Are JSU” soccer posters (campaign category). JSU was also represented in the student awards. Gadiel Flores brought home Addy gold for his Bongoose brand packaging (packaging category). Four students picked up silver Addys for posters they designed: Hunter Amberson, “All About That Space” (Advice to Freshman Art Students); Toby Satterfield, “Stepping Back Helps” (Advice to Freshman Art Students); Joshua Benefield, Arbor Day; and Blake Dodgen, “Breathtaking” Arbor Day poster. JSU alumnus Ford Wiles ('96), a partner at BIG Communications, was named Creative Director of the Year. Among Wiles’ achievements during the past year were the “Go Build Alabama” consumer regional/national campaign for the Alabama Construction Recruitment Institute, an integrated campaign for the musical group St. Paul and the Broken Bones, and the Vulcan Park and Museum campaign, "110 Years, Standing for Birmingham." BIG Communications also won a silver Addy for the Technology and Innovation video they produced for JSU’s Collaborative Regional Education (CORE) partners (Audio/Video Sales Presentation category). Along with Addys, JSU students and alumni were recognized in EDMA competitions and CAA competitions. All winners are posted on the Collegiate Advertising Awards website at www.collegiateadawards.com. ~JSU Newswire

Southerners will blow crowds away with 2015 show

Katelyn Schneider
Staff Writer

As the clock ticked closer to February 14th, every member of the Marching Southerners hovered around computers and smart phones waiting for the 2015 show announcement. That was a day that the members anxiously waited for. The Marching Southerners is one of the largest organizations affiliated with JSU. Every year new members and returning members come together to put on a production for a wide variety of audiences. The Southerners combine different instruments, ballerinas, and color guard members spinning different types of equipment to make an incredible production. The Marching Southerners is under the direction of the two Assistant Director of Bands Jeremy Stovall and Clint Gillespie, and the Director of Bands, Dr. Kenneth Bodiford. The Ballerinas are under the direction of Noel Stovall and Color Guard coordinator is Rodney Bailey. All of their hard work and different skills combine on the field to make one sound. These five people lead a 400 plus member band and Bodiford says it's not too bad. It is easy to manage all of the members because of his use of student leadership. "They assist me and the assistant band directors tremendously," said Dr. Bodiford. The Marching Southerners' one sound for the 2015 show will be exceptional. The upcoming show is entitled "Celebration." This show will be presented to honor the Jacksonville State University campus. In reference to the audiences that will see the performance, Bodiford said "They're really going to enjoy the middle part." "Celebration" will blow away the audience with the Southerners remarkable sound, but each member will have a different look. The Marching

Southerners will be show casing their new, never before seen uniforms. Bodiford revealed that the show was originally inspired by the new uniform. JSU is going to have a lot of changes next year and the show will exhibit that. "Each song unveils something new," Bodiford explained. A show announcement is not only important to current and aspiring members, but it is also very important to the organization's alumni. In fact, the Southerners have a motto that they take very seriously, and that is "Once a Southerner, always a Southerner." After the show announcement was made, a 1976 trumpet alumnus, Len Moon said, "I can't wait to see it! It sounds fun!" Mr. Moon comes to watch the Southerners as often as he can. He does not tire of the

halftime performances. "The Southerners have always been unique. Always!" The show announcement is crucial to every Southerner because of how close this organization is. The Southerners spend hours upon hours practicing on the black top in front of the Pete Mathews Coliseum as well as the football stadium. They travel at all hours of the day and night. They play together, sweat together, and work as hard as they can to make every performance perfect. That kind of dedication can only have one result. It allows the Marching Southerners to be described in one word. The Southerners can be described as "life changing" and "loud," but more often than not the word that members use to describe the Southerners is "family."



A Cappella Choir makes final fundraising push for trip to Carnegie Hall



photo courtesy of Cary McKinney

From left to right (behind the piano), LeAnna Fleming, Abbi Eblen, Megan Day, Jared Shiver, Christopher Serrano, Gavin Haynes, Nicole Johnson, Noya Levy, Elizabeth Gargus, Kristin Griffin, Brianna Garrett, Michael Greenwood, Alexis Thornton (seated Left), Jessica Hill (seated right)

JSU's A Cappella Choir will soon depart for NYC's Carnegie Hall for the performance of a lifetime. Before they hit the road, they are conducting one more fundraising activity to help fund their trip. On Thursday, March 19, 14 members of JSU A Cappella Choir and JSU Director of Choral Activities, Patricia Corbin, will be traveling to New York City to join other choirs perform at Carnegie Hall. The concert is Sunday, March 22nd at 2:00 p.m. They will perform Morten Lauridsen's Lux Aeterna under the direction of Peter Hendrickson and Bob Chilcott's Canticle of Light under the direction of Douglas Mears. The choir members will be staying at a hotel in downtown Manhattan for five days and will have an opportunity to explore New York City when they are not in rehearsals. Students have been fundraising since August for this trip, with yard sales, book sales, and most recently, singing Valentines. Their final fundraising activity will be bake sales in Mason Hall during Music Department Scholarship auditions, Friday and Saturday, February 20-21, and 27-28. "Many of these students have never traveled out of the southeast," says Dr. Corbin. "As stressful as it is to fundraise for an expensive trip like this, I am so excited that these students will have this experience! I am con-

fident it will be something they will never forget." Discounted tickets for the Carnegie Hall concert are available until March 4 through Piptix, (info@piptix.com). After March 4, full price tickets may be ordered through CarnegieCharge at (212) 247-7800, or purchased at the Carnegie Hall Box office, located at 57th Street and Seventh Avenue in New York, or purchased online at www.carnegiehall.org For a preview of the New York concert the entire A Cappella Choir will be performing the Lauridsen's Lux Aeterna at their spring concert, Sunday, March 15, 2015 at 3:00 p.m. at First United Methodist Church in Anniston, accompanied by guest organist and former A Cappella choir member, Joshua Bullock. Mrs. Jean Corlett is the choir's regular accompanist. This concert is free and open to the public. Donations to assist these students with their travel expenses are gratefully accepted and may be made through the JSU Foundation. Please make checks payable to "JSU Friends of Music/Choirs." Checks may be mailed to or dropped off at the David L. Walters Department of Music, or the JSU Foundation. ~JSU Newswire

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OPINION & EDITORIAL

Session begins, Alabamians grit teeth

Brett Johnson
Political Columnist

“It’s time we change course,” said Alabama Governor Robert Bentley in his 2015 State of the State address. “It’s time for a bold move.”

Lawmakers in the room were hoping the governor was laying out his agenda for a new golf course, not a course of tough legislative action. Alabamians across the state are hoping Governor Bentley just wants us to show off bold moves on the dance floor, not moving cash from our pocket books to the state.

To the governor, to lawmakers and to all Alabamians I have to say: it’s time to grit your teeth. Because the course is going to be rough and the boldness of the Alabama legislature is yet to be tested and leaves us all wondering what changes lie ahead.

Governor Bentley proposed eight pieces of legislation that will, essentially raise taxes in Alabama. Many include bringing back or getting rid of old tax credits, but some are actually brand new tax increases.

In fact, two increases include a 2 percent increase on the tax collected from automobile sales and the other is a 3 percent increase on the tax paid when renting a vehicle in the state of Alabama. The third new tax increase is an additional 82.5 cents per pack on cigarettes.

The governor’s tax proposals will have combined estimated total new revenue of about \$541 million. That’s \$541 million more coming out of



Alabamians’ pockets per year. Gritting those teeth yet? Blood boiling yet? This is how the upcoming legislative session is going to go for lawmakers all across the state. Wondering, wishing, hoping, debating, crying, and begging for better solutions to the state’s problems.

In the legislature, it will be a knock-down, drag-out fight between those ‘no new taxes’ candidates (even though Bentley was one) and the ‘we need new revenue’ legislators. The legislative leadership have voiced skepticism over any new taxes, but at the same time they admit that our state is facing, at minimum, a \$300 million budget shortfall – if not much more.

This is just the beginning of the many issues the legislature will be debating this year. Others include: charter schools, changes to the Alabama Accountability Act, same-sex marriage bills, the lottery, compacts with the Poarch Creek Indians – just to name a few.

I will do my best over the next few weeks to outline the hot issues and relevant topics taken up by our state’s lawmakers. I wish I could pain a picture of high hopes, but with polar opposite options of underfunded budgets or new taxes, it’s hard to do so.

The best I can say is keep your fingers crossed and grit your teeth. This legislative session is going to be a bumpy, but necessary ride!

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

New mobile devices for the world

Myron Jones
Technology Columnist

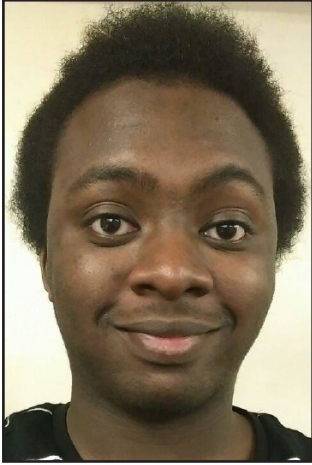
On March 2, 2015 Mobile World Congress started in Barcelona. Mobile World Congress is an annual event where many popular manufacturers announce their latest technology.

This year, Mobile World Congress was filled with news and announcements. New flagship devices were announced alongside new services and accessories.

The Samsung Galaxy S6 is the newest addition to the galaxy line and has made significant changes to the typical Samsung style. There is also an alternative version called the Samsung Galaxy 6 Edge. Reviewers have cited the Galaxy S6 as having a build quality that is very similar to the iPhone. Unlike previous Samsung models, the Galaxy S6 will not have a removable battery or removable storage. Instead, the Galaxy S6 features a unibody design. The glass front and back are encased in metal. The Galaxy S6 Edge is identical aside from having a screen that curves over the edges for some additional features.

Samsung Pay is the official name of Samsung’s new mobile payment system. With the new Magnetic Secure Transmission, owners of the new Samsung phones should be able to pay at existing terminals without merchants needing to upgrade.

The HTC One (M9) is the latest version of the HTC One and does very little to differentiate itself from its predecessors. In previous models, HTC focused on providing strong camera performance in low



lighting situations via the UltraPixel branding. This time, HTC has decided to use a 20 Megapixel camera on the back. The front camera will use a 4 MP UltraPixel sensor that users may be more familiar with.

Sony announced the Xperia Z4 Tablet and the Xperia M4 Aqua smartphone. The Z4 tablet is a 10.1” tablet that is IP68-certified (dust-tight and waterproof). According to the official specifications, it is supposed to be able to survive 30 minutes in fresh water almost 5 feet deep. The M4 Aqua is a midrange smartphone with similar waterproof features.

Microsoft announced two new Lumia smartphones. The Lumia 640 will have a 5 inch display and a larger version called the Lumia 640 XL will be available as well. Neither of these devices will launch with Windows 10, but Microsoft intends to provide it in a future update.

These were not the only manufacturers present at Mobile World Congress. However, most of the names are less familiar. For Android and Windows fans, Mobile World Congress is usually an exciting time of the year. New devices provide users the opportunity to experience new features and new versions of Android.

American carriers are not guaranteed to get any of the devices announced at Mobile World Congress, but the Galaxy S6 and HTC One (M9) will certainly be available here in the United States.

Myron Jones is a senior majoring in communication. His column is published weekly.

Comparing adult intelligence to wisdom of youth

Marie Simpson
Staff Writer

“Youth is wasted on the young” – this idea is centered on adolescents and young adults lacking the realization of how lucky they are to be young.

The idea that we, as an age group, do not appreciate the optimism, professional potential and unbridled spirit towards life one may lose in the harsh light that is the “real world.”

In a lot of ways this accusation is justifiable.

The greatest struggle with youth is the forming of one’s identity. Who are you as a person morally and ethically; what are your passions?

I pose a counter argument. As children we are taught about adulthood: what is important, socially acceptable and just. The irony is that all adults want their “childlike wisdom” back when they reach adulthood. Growing up robs individuals of the most primary, youth-like wisdoms: being kind, respecting others, and without realizing, grasping that being different is a gift, not a burden.

To be young is to be present and mindful. Instagram, Facebook and the blogging/tweeting/social media epidemic that dictates the “power of cool” are stealing the most precious times of our lives.

Today’s youth should be more mindful of themselves, and at the same time mindful of others. My mother always said “I’m not raising kids, I am raising adults.”

It is with this mentality that I challenge us all to live with youth-like wisdom and mold ideals that can follow us to wherever our path may lead.

Movie review: Putting a magnifying glass on *Focus*

Vallean Jackson
Staff Writer

Actor Will Smith is certainly not an amateur when it comes to the big screen. Smith’s recent movie release *Focus* shows that his acting skills are well intact. The storyline of *Focus* embodies the swiftness of thieves, the entanglement of lies and the power of love.

His character Nicky Spurgeon comes from a line of con artists that always valued the luxuries and currencies earned or stolen from other people.

Spurgeon trains many to be witty and slick like him, but never found his match or anyone like him until he met Jess, played by Margot Robbie. Jess learns how to perfect the tricks of the trade, but could not avoid the charm of Nicky.

The two become romantically involved and partners in the business

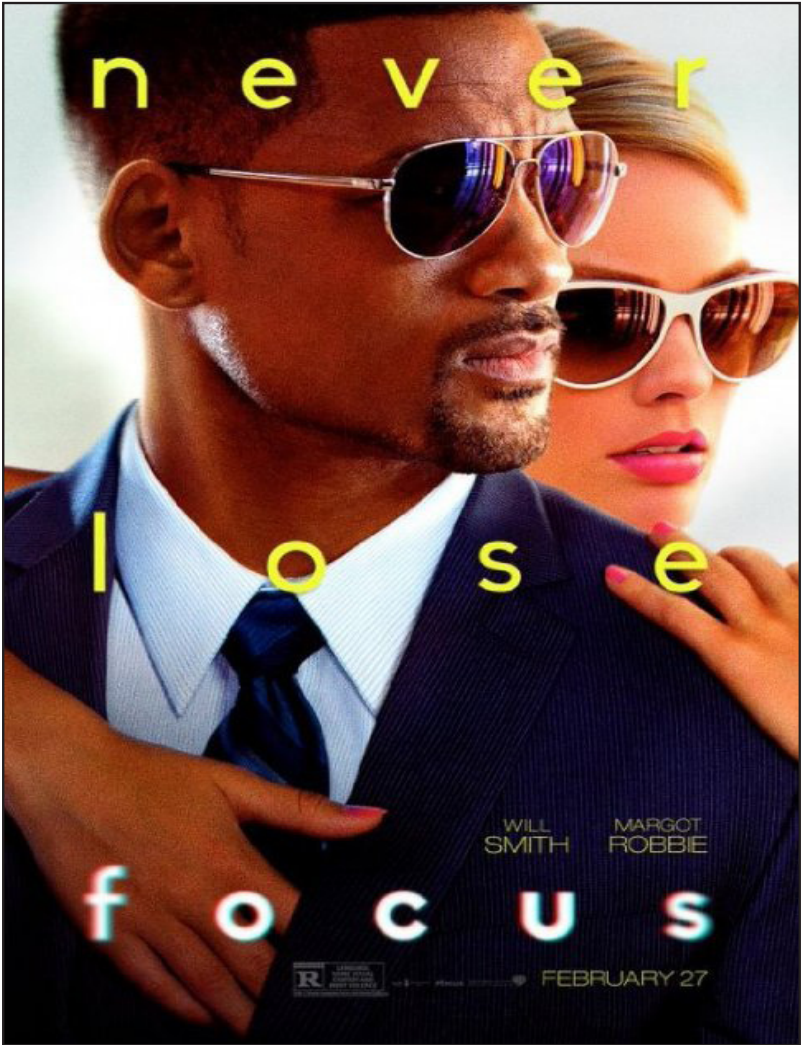
of playing on society’s lack of focus. They generate millions of dollars by simple shoulder taps or bumping into some one that takes his or her attention long enough to take their watch off their wrist, or money from their wallet without their knowledge.

The two con artists accumulate a lot of money, but it is all put at risk with Nicky’s gambling habit and deception that threatens his life after conning a NASCAR driver.

Focus is truly a movie that is worth its ticket price. It certainly has the feel of a wicked love story, but it is more than that.

This movie points out the lack of focus that we as humans have, and how we can quickly lose sight of things or is easily caught off guard.

Within this movie is the entertainment of laughter, action, romance, and a twist at the end that will make your mouth drop.



SPORTS

Gamecocks Side Bar

Upcoming Action

- 3/5
- W. Basketball vs Belmont
12:00 p.m.
- 3/6
- W. Basketball vs. OVC Tournament
- Softball vs. Wright State
9:00 a.m.
- Softball @ Charleston Southern
11:00 a.m.
- Baseball vs. SIU Edwardsville
6:00 p.m.
- 3/7
- W. Basketball vs. OVC Tournament
- Softball vs. Wright State
9:00 a.m.
- Softball @ Charleston Southern
11:00 a.m.
- Baseball vs SIU Edwardsville
2:00 p.m.
- Soccer vs. UAB
4:37 p.m.
- 3/8
- Men's Golf @ Jason Dufner Tiger Invitational
- Women's Tennis vs. Georgia Southern
11:00 a.m.
- Baseball vs. SIU Edwardsville
1:00 p.m.
- 3/9
- Men's Golf @ Jason Dufner Tiger Invitational
- 3/10
- Men's Golf @ Jason Dufner Tiger Invitational
- 3/11
- Softball @ Georgia Tech
4:00 p.m.
- Baseball vs. Troy
6:00 p.m.

Jacksonville State second baseman Clayton Daniel earned the Ohio Valley Conference Player of the Week honor

Senior Candace Morton and junior Destany McLin were named to the All-Ohio Valley Conference Second Team. This is the first time in JSU's NCAA Division I Women's Basketball history where two players earned this honor in the same season.

Despite Hunter's record-breaking performance, JSU loses final game



JSU Sportswire

Jacksonville State's Jamal Hunter blocked nine shots for a school record in his last game as a Gamecock.

Chris Hubbard
Staff Writer

The Jacksonville State Gamecocks fell for the second game in a row at Morehead State Saturday with an 87-55 loss to the Eagles. The loss dropped the Gamecocks to 12-19 overall and 5-11 in conference play. It was the regular season finale for the Jacksonville State men. Jamal Hunter set a school-record with nine blocked shots in the game. He broke his previous record which was seven. Avery Moore led all scorers for the Gamecocks with 19 points. Darion Rackley had 12, while D.J. Felder contributed 10. Rackley also add-

ed two blocks in his performance. Moore started the day off with a three for the Gamecocks as they took an early 3-0 lead at the 19:43 mark of the first half. Morehead State got on the board with a layup with 18:48 left. Both teams continued to swap baskets until the Eagles took the lead for good with 11:23 left to play in the first half 15-14. The lead went as high as 13 points for Morehead State. The half ended with a three point basket from Felder for the Gamecocks to make it a 41-31 lead for the Eagles heading in the locker room. Moore started the second half just like he did the first half for the Gamecocks. With 18:49 re-

maining, he cut the lead down to 7 with a three making it 41-34. Both teams then exchanged baskets. The Eagles went on a 15 point run increasing their lead to 58-36 with 14:36 left in the game. Jacksonville State finally got back on the board after a scoring drought with a layup by Rackley at the 13:22 mark making it 58-38. Both teams would continue to go back and forth with baskets. The Gamecocks ended the day with two free throws from Randall Smith, however that was not enough as the Gamecocks lost 87-55. The Gamecocks will not participate in the OVC tournament.

JSU Baseball slides past Auburn

Timothy Cash
Staff Writer

The Gamecocks (6-3) won 10-9 in the final game of the their series against Auburn (9-3) in back-and-fourth game that ended the Tigers seven game win streak. Taylor Hawthorne and Clayton Daniel both scored two runs and had a RBI in Saturday's game. Paschal Petrongolo, Ryan Sebra and Ty Pierce each scored two RBI's and one run apiece. Elliot McCummings would score both a run and a RBI, while Hayden White also scored a run. Travis Stout would pick up his second save of the season for the Gamecocks. The Gamecocks had 11 hits, one error and stranded 15 men on base in the win over Auburn. The Gamecocks allowed the Tigers to score three runs in the first inning when Blake Logan sacrificed to left field that allowed Anfernee Grier to score the games first run. Hunter Tackett then doubled to left center to allow both Jordan Ebert and Damon Haecker to cross the plate. The Gamecocks answered in the second with a mon-

strous five-run inning. Hawthorne scored on a walk by Pierce before McCummings scored on a Daniel single. A single up the middle by Petrongolo scored both Pierce and White. Daniel scored off of a sacrifice fly by Sebra. Auburn's Kyler Deese batted in Alex Polston in the second before he batted in Cody Nulph in the third to tie the contest at five runs apiece. A Sebra double to right center allowed Petrongolo to cross home, and regain a Gamecock lead in the top of the fourth. Auburn once again took the lead in the bottom of the fifth with a four-run inning. Grier doubled that allowed both Polston and Nulph to score be-

fore Grier was able to score on a wild pitch. Logan batted in Haecker with a single to left. A Hawthorne single to left in the sixth allowed Daniel to chip away one run of Auburn's three run lead. The seventh inning was the first inning of the game that did not see the Gamecocks or Tigers score at least one run. The eighth saw Jacksonville State retake the lead. McCummings was able to reach base on an error that allowed Tyler Gamble to score. Both Pierce and Paul Angel were then walked and Sebra and Hawthorne were able to score. Jake Walsh started out on the mound for the Gamecocks, going 2 2/3 innings that saw six hits

and five runs. Walsh rose his ERA to 9.82 for the season. Graham Officer relieved Walsh. Officer allowed six hits and four runs before Joe McGuire was handed the ball. McGuire went 1 1/3 innings that saw two hits and a strike out. Grant Chandler would be the Gamecocks fourth pitcher for the contest. Chandler would allow one hit and a strike out before Travis Stout was sent out to pick up his second save of the season. The ninth did not allow either a Gamecock or Tiger run as JSU would take home the victory. Friday, the Tigers held the Gamecocks to a 6-4 loss. The teams then swapped up on Saturday. Instead of playing Auburn in the second game of their series, the Gamecocks pitted themselves against Western Illinois (0-4), while Auburn faced Oklahoma State (6-3). Jacksonville State were too much for the Leathernecks, winning 11-3. The Gamecocks will travel to Birmingham on Wednesday to take on Samford University in a mid-week game before Ohio Valley Conference rivals SIU Edwardsville come to Jacksonville on Friday for a three game weekend series.



JSU Sportswire

Paschal Petrongolo (left) and Ryan Sebra (right) celebrate.

Gamecocks win in overtime to earn their 19th win for a program record



JSU Sportswire

Destany McLin of the Jacksonville State Women’s basketball team drives the ball down court as she led the Gamecocks with 23 points in their win.

Rebekah Hawkins
Staff Writer

The JSU Women secured their 19th win of the regular season, breaking the previous record of 18, with a hard-fought win against Morehead State in overtime 83-78. The Gamecocks had already won 18 games this season. It matched the regular season wins from the 2003-2004 squad. Their 19th win secured them a No. 5 seed in the Ohio Valley Conference Tournament that begins next week and moved them to 10-6 in OVC play. Destany McLin led the Gamecocks in scoring with 23 total points. Veteran Candace Morton was behind her with 15. JSU was 13-of-19 for

free throws on the night with Morton making all four of the ones she took. It didn’t seem like the game would end in overtime as both teams never seemed willing to surrender their lead once they had it. The game would bounce back and forth between the two. With 24 lead changes and nine tie scores, it was a battle for both JSU and Morehead State. The first half saw the Gamecocks jump out to score first, but quickly caught up to by MSU to tie it for the first time in the game at two. They would hold on to a lead until a three-pointer by Kelly Naughton at 13:52 put JSU ahead by one at 9-8. The game was tied again at 19 with 7:52 left in the half. Al-

though the Gamecocks went up by three, it only took one shot from MSU’s Almesha Jones to tie the score again, this time at 22. For the remainder of the half, the score would swap back and forth between the two teams with neither team being ahead by more than three points. McLin would send the Gamecocks into the locker room ahead by two on a good three-pointer. The second half opened with the score being tied again at 34 after a quick shot from MSU. The game would suddenly turn to the Eagles’ favor as they took control of the score and kept it in their favor being ahead by as many as six twice. JSU would drive and come back into possession of the lead after Morton hit a layup

and put the Gamecocks up by one. At 10:48 the score was again tied, this time at 48. Again the score bounced back and forth between the two until the 23 second mark saw a Gretchen Morrison free throw tie the score for the final time in regulation at 68. The Eagles scored the first points of overtime and went ahead of the Gamecocks by two. However, it would be the last time that the lead favored MSU. JSU went on a scoring spree and led by as many as seven, their highest lead of the night. The Eagles would manage to come within five, but the game would end with the Gamecocks in the lead 83-78. The Gamecocks open tournament play against Belmont March 5.

Sewell & Moss shines at OVC Indoor Championships

CHARLESTON, III. – The 2015 Ohio Valley Conference Indoor Track and Field Championships came to a close Saturday at the Lantz Fieldhouse on the campus of Eastern Illinois University. The Gamecocks had a solid day with top performances coming from both seniors and freshmen alike. Senior Whitley Towns had strong finish to her final competition. The Boaz, Ala., native shaved two seconds off her Friday trial time to finish fourth in Saturday's finals of the 800 meter run setting a personal best time of 2:12.994 in the process. She posted a time 2:13.40 in the run at the Samford Invitational earlier in February.

Towns joined sophomores Ashley Williams and Victoria Dumas along with freshman Kayla Thompson for the 16000 meter relay where the Gamecocks came home seventh with a time of 3:58.12. JSU shined in the finals of the pole vault event as a trio of freshmen all brought home top-seven finishes. With a top height of 3.06 meters, at more than 10 feet, freshman Laura Sewell won the event edging Southeast Missouri's Kennedy Roderick in total points. The Bremen, Ga., product won a tiebreaker as she required fewer attempts to reach the winning mark. Freshmen Samantha Patterson and Kelsey

Walling each posted a height of 2.91 meters at just over nine and a half feet. Through the points system, Patterson tied for third overall while Walling placed seventh. Senior Danielle Moss made her mark becoming the first JSU athlete to medal in the shot put finals with a third overall finish. In the triple jump, freshman Blake Perry set a lifetime best jump at 38' 2 ¾". JSU will open the outdoor portion of the season on March 14 as it hosts the Gamecock Quad Meet on the re-surfaced Gamecock Track and Field Complex.

~ JSU Sportswire

Bajo Geijo places second at Kiawah Meter Run

KIAWAH ISLAND, S.C. – Junior Melania Bajo Geijo turned in her second 68 in three days on Tuesday to finish second at the Kiawah Island Spring Classic and lead JSU to an 12th place finish. A native of Neuquen, Argentina, Bajo Geijo birdied seven holes on the par-72, 5,964-yard Osprey Point Golf Course on Tuesday, wrapping up a 54-hole score of 215. She finished second in a field of 210 golfers and led the Gamecocks to 12th place in the 40-team event. She started the tournament on Sunday with a career-best 68 that put her in the lead before a 79 on Monday dropped

her to 11th on the individual leaderboard. Bajo Geijo then stormed back on Tuesday, jumping nine spots to finish just two shots behind medalist Jessica Welch of Jacksonville University. She and Welch were the only two players in the 210-team event to finish under par. The 68 is tied for the fifth-lowest round in school history and is tied for the fourth-best round vs. par in school history. Her 54-hole total of 215 is tied for the third-best 54-hole score in school history. Bajo Geijo is just the fourth Gamecock in school history to finish a 54-hole event under par. Host College of Charleston won the team portion of the

event with a 22-over 886. The Gamecocks ended the tournament with a 927 after turning in their best score of the week with a 306 on Tuesday. Senior Maya Parsons tied for 39th in the event after a final-round 75 gave her a 54-hole score of 230. Sophomore Angie Varona's 78 tied her for 110th with a 240 total. Freshmen Natalia Azcue (tied for 118th) and Maria Jose Lathrop (tied for 177th) rounded out the Gamecocks' lineup. Jax State returns to the links on March 16-17 at Tennessee Tech's Bobby Nichols Intercollegiate in Sevierville, Tenn.

~ JSU Sportswire



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A 68 from Melania Bajo Geijo puts her in second place.



WHERE YOU'RE GOING.