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# WELCOME HOME, GAMECOCKS!

## Welcome Week kicks off new year at JSU

By **Katie Cline**  
*Editor-in-Chief*

Cars fill the dorm room parking lots, and cardboard boxes are stacked outside trashcans. That can only mean one thing: the students are back. And that means that a new year at JSU is about to begin.

Welcome Week is the first week that students are on campus, beginning the night of move-in. It has traditionally been hosted by the SGA as a way to get students, both new and old, active in campus activities. This year, the SGA has partnered with University Housing and Residence Life (URHL) to host Student Services Welcome Week 2016.

Students have already been able to

attend several Welcome Week events this week, and on August 25, URHL will host the Cocky Daze block party on Dillon Field from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. followed by the Cocky Dance-a-thon from 10:00 p.m. to midnight in Stephenson Hall. All Welcome Week activities are free to students.

Welcome Week is planned largely by the SGA Executive Team. The executive team is made up of six elected students. This year the team is Jesslan Sharp, SGA president; Hayden Clay, vice president of student senate; Ranger Rumrill, vice president of student activities; Amy Sims, chief justice; Dylan Jones, vice president of organizational affairs and Casey Payne, di-



**Dr. Pam Beehler, Jesslan Sharp and President John M. Beehler celebrate Welcome Week. Jesslan Sharp/Facebook**

rector of publicity.

“Welcome Week is a fun time for everyone to come out, meet some people and really get involved and immersed in the culture of the campus the first week back,” Payne said.

“It’s a really great opportunity, because it kick starts the ‘new experience’ feeling I want everyone to have when they come to college, that openness and that willingness to do new things.”

One such event is Cookout with the Cops. In an effort to improve the

relationship between JSU students and the University Police Department (UPD), the SGA is sponsoring a free cookout on Dillon Field from 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. on Friday, August 26.

“We’re trying to change everyone’s attitudes,” said Payne. “We want students to see that UPD is here for a good reason, and we want UPD to understand that there are things they can do to make themselves more appealing to students. We want to humanize the badge, and UPD is really excited. They’re on board, and they want to improve this relationship.”

Also new this year is the SGA’s community spirit initiative. Twenty-eight local businesses

pledged to support JSU by advertising on their buildings. For a \$100 donation, businesses received a game day poster to post in their windows.

“We noticed at the end of playoffs last year that Jacksonville really started to feel like a college town,” Payne said. “Everyone had ‘Go Gamecocks!’ in their windows and things like that. And we really wanted to cultivate that community spirit year-round, because Jacksonville’s success is JSU’s success and vice versa.”

For more information on SGA activities, contact Casey Payne at [sgadop@jsu.edu](mailto:sgadop@jsu.edu) or stop by the Office of Student Life, room 402 on the fourth floor of the TMB.



# Sorority recruitment 2016 a success

Lauren Jackson  
Staff Writer

The largest Formal Panhellenic Sorority Recruitment in Jacksonville State University history hosted 212 women seeking to join one of the five sororities on campus. Women of all different backgrounds began the journey to finding their sorority on August 16 with an orientation and ended the journey with an exciting run from the Theron Montgomery Building to their new sisters on August 21.

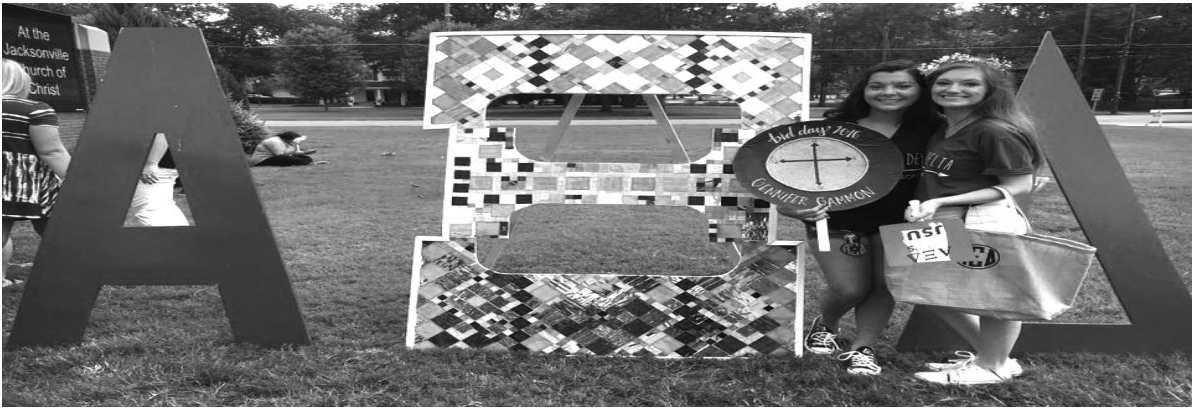
The process of recruitment allows potential new members (PNMs) the opportunity to interact with each of the sororities on campus to find the one they fit best with.

“Joining a sorority can be beneficial because it can help a student gain leadership skills, advance their academic achievement and become involved in philanthropies and community service,” said Terry Casey, the Director of Student Life at JSU.



Madie Whisenant/Facebook

**Freshman Alexis Ragsdale embraces Phi Mu sister Madie Whisenant on the TMB lawn after receiving her bid.**



Emilee Arledge/Facebook

**Emilee Arledge, a sister of Alpha Xi Delta, welcomes freshman Gennifer Gammon to the sorority as part of Bid Day on August 21.**

Recruitment is a mutual process in which the PNMs and the sorority members meet each other in a structured setting. The PNMs base their decision on a variety of factors such as academics, character and community involvement. The sororities evaluate the PNMs to match their personal values. PNMs are guided through the decision by a sorority woman that has disaffiliated from her particular sorority to help with recruitment and are referred to as Rho Gammas. Throughout recruitment, the Rho Gammas keep their sorority a secret, counsel the PNMs in making their decisions and host fun activities for the groups to get to know each other.

Recruitment includes four days for the PNMs to get to know their potential sisters. Each day is themed: meet and greet, philanthropy, sisterhood and values and preference day. Meet and greet allows the PNMs to meet with sisters from each sorority and have casual conversations.

During philanthropy day, the sororities share the community projects that the chapter hosts and the particular cause or awareness that the sorority supports. According to Casey, Greek Life on campus donated 7,300 hours of service to both local and national charities and raised a total of \$85,549 in 2015.

Sisterhood and values day focuses on the characteristics that each particular sorority focuses on. Typically, conversations center on academics and behavioral standards that each sorority upholds.

The fourth and final day before Bid Day is Preference Day, which consists of ceremonies that allow PNMs a better glimpse at what the sororities value. Following Preference Day, the PNMs make their final decision on which sorority they wish to join. The sororities also choose which PNMs best suit their sorority values, and the selections are mutually matched.

On Bid Day the PNMs arrive at the TMB to receive their “bids” from their prospective sorority. Before the bids are revealed, the Rho Gammas also reveal which prospective sorority they are affiliated with. The new members then receive shirts from their sorority and line up to run to their waiting sisters outside. Each sorority welcomes their new members with shirts and other accessories featuring their new letters. Each new member typically run to a member who will help her transition smoothly into her new sisterhood. This year’s recruitment them was ‘All you need is love’ in order to “promote a community of sisterhood, family and love,” according to Casey.

# Freshman Convocation rings in new semester

Alexander Cooper  
Staff Writer

For many students at Jacksonville State University the start of the 2016-2017 academic year brings a return to an established routine of classes, studying and extracurricular activities, but to the many first-year freshmen gathered in the JSU stadium on Monday Aug. 22 it means the beginning of their first college experience and a brand new chapter in their lives.

Incoming students were assembled Monday evening for Jacksonville State’s Freshman Convocation, which serves an introduction of sorts to start of their time at the University.

The program started with Shelby King and Mark Thrower welcoming the students to Convocation, as well as the University itself. Shortly after, the Jacksonville State Faculty made their way onto the field, including JSU President Dr. John Beehler.

Beehler spoke first, encouraging the students to make use of the JSU faculty as a resource and assured the students that every member of the university staff behind him was there to help. He also expressed the importance of hard work and involvement with extracurricular activities, and how it would help make for a better experience at Jacksonville State.

After President Beehler finished speaking, Freshman Bailee Bryant walked onto the field for the official Bell Tapping ceremony to ring the bell that signaled the beginning of the school year for both she and her new classmates.

As the ceremony ended, JSU’s cheerleaders and Marching Southerners led the new class in their first Pep Rally as students at Jacksonville State. Here they learned both the spirit chants and southerners’ cheers, as well as the JSU fight song.

After the cheers and fight song had been played SGA president Jesslan Sharp got up

to speak. She encouraged the new students to take advantage of the opportunities that would come their way during their time at JSU and for each student to push him or herself “to be the very best” and further encouraged campus involvement, saying “There is something for each and every one of you at Jacksonville State.”

Sharp also spoke about her belief in the importance of this introduction to campus life saying “I think Freshman Convocation is important because it is an intro for the Freshmen. You get to hear the band. You get to learn the cheers. You get to learn things before you’re thrown out there.”

The Convocation ceremony ended after President Beehler and the Marching Southerners led the students in an enthusiastic version of “I’ll Fly away” and JSU’s fall 2016 freshman class gathered together for a group picture.

After, many of the students made their way

to the cookout at “Get on Board’ day on Dillion Field next to the stadium. Here, many JSU organizations had tables and booths set up for the University’s newest students to explore.

Two freshmen, Samantha Guthrie and Jessica Williams, had just met at this event, and, walking among the various tables, expressed their feelings about the start of the new school year.

“I’m nervous, but excited,” Guthrie said. “There’s a lot of anticipation.”

Williams also expressed similar nervousness saying: “I’m nervous, and a little hyper and I want coffee”. Both expressed appreciation for the convocation and “Get on board day” as a whole.

“It helps bring more people together,” Guthrie said. “The first few days I didn’t really know what to do. If it wasn’t for this I wouldn’t have met as many people or felt as comfortable.”



Blake Wilson and SGA President Jesslan Sharp greet freshmen at Convocation.  
Jesslan Sharp/Facebook





Matt Reynolds/JSU

James R. Bennett, Chairman of the Board, speaking during the 2016 Sprince Commencement.

# JSU mourns loss of prestigious alumnus

By **Nathan Cavitt**  
*Associate Editor*

The campus of Jacksonville State and the entire state of Alabama are mourning the death of James R. “Jim” Bennett, a former JSU student and Alabama Secretary of State. Bennett arrived on the campus of JSU in 1957, and throughout the 1960-61 year he served as editor-in-chief of The Collegian—the Chanticleer’s predecessor. Bennett also served on the student government and played trumpet for

the Southerners during his time on campus. Bennett, however, was best known as the incumbent chairman of the JSU Board of Trustees and as the former Alabama Secretary of State for 10 years. “Jim Bennett will be missed and long remembered,” said former JSU president Dr. William A. Meehan, who was in office when Bennett became chairman. “He was a dedicated public servant, talented musician, writer and actor. The Chairman was my boss, friend and JSU’s

#1 Gamecock! I have a large empty spot in my heart. God bless the Bennett family.” As a member of the JSU Board of Trustees, Bennett oversaw a massive growth in attendance as well as expansion in the college. As the Secretary of State, Bennett fought for political reform, specifically when it came to elections. What many people don’t know about Bennett was his work in journalism. Before becoming a politician, Bennett spent 1961-71 working for the Bir-

mingham Post-Herald during a period that can only be described as a harsh time for the city of Birmingham. In 2014 Bennett played a reporter as an extra in the movie “Selma,” but in reality he lived the life of a reporter during the Civil Rights Movement. Bennett helped cover the riots in Birmingham where he witnessed Bull Connor ordering fire hoses to be used against civil rights protesters. Bennett spoke to an Al.com reporter in 2014, and said that

it wasn’t unusual for him to interview Gov. George Wallace, Connor and Martin Luther King Jr. in a single day. He described it as sometimes feeling like “Forrest Gump” the way he was involved with history. In 1969 the American Political Science Association selected Bennett for a national award for his reporting on public affairs. Bennett completed his master’s degree at the University of Alabama in 1980 and went on to be politically active up until his death on Aug.

17 from complications with liver cancer. Despite living with illness, Bennett was remained active in politics, and the day before his death he had been approved to be on the ballot as one of 538 members of the Electoral College who select the U.S. president. He also attended the JSU Board of Trustees meeting on July 18. Bennett was a member of the JSU family all the way to the core, and the JSU students and faculty as well as his immediate family will mourn his death.

## Putting a new face on an old place

### Academic restructuring to begin soon

By **Nathan Cavitt**  
*Associate Editor*

Jacksonville State’s plans to reorganize its academic divisions have been postponed until Sep. 1, according to Dr. Rebecca Turner, Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs. For those who haven’t heard, JSU started making plans in early July to alter the current academic organization, which consists of two large colleges of Arts and

Sciences and Education and Professional Studies, and two smaller colleges of Nursing and Commerce and Business Administration. The plan has been to split the four schools into six new schools, with the hope of organizing certain areas of study with a more logical fit for the required disciplines. Planned changes will include splitting the College of Arts and Sciences into three separate schools as well as moving

Communications, Applied Engineering and Sports Management from the College of Education to the new School of Business and Industry. The Kinesiology Department will be moved from College of Education and Professional Studies and into the new School of Health Professions and Wellness, which will also include Nursing and Respiratory Therapy. There will also be a new School of Human Services

and Social Sciences which will feature a career focus based upon the protection of others, such as criminal justice and forensics, emergency management, military science, social work, psychology and sociology. The School of Arts and Sciences will be separated, forming the School of Arts and Humanities and a School of Science. With the institution of two new schools, the Univer-

sity plans to hire two new deans. As of this writing, there have been no announcements regarding the new deans, but according to the information sent out by the JSU Board of Trustees, the deans will be selected from within the University. Listed beneath the article is a graphic format of the two new Schools, as well as their departments.

School of Human Services & Social Sciences		School of Science	
Academic Centers and Services	Academic Departments	Academic Departments	Academic Centers and Services
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Center for Applied Forensics</li><li>Center for Behavioral Studies</li><li>Center for Disaster Preparedness &amp; Community Resilience</li><li>Center for Emergency Preparedness</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Criminal Justice</li><li>Emergency Management</li><li>Military Science</li><li>Political Science &amp; Public Administration</li><li>Psychology</li><li>Sociology &amp; Social Work</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Biology</li><li>Mathematics &amp; Computer Information Sciences</li><li>Physical and Earth Sciences</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Center for Information Security Assurance</li><li>Center for Mountain Longleaf Pine Ecosystems</li><li>Center for Tick-Borne Disease Ecology</li></ul>

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# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



Katy Nowak/Special to The Chanticleer

Head drum major, Daniel O'Donnell, cues members of the Marching Southerners at Stars and Salvation. This is the official start to band camp.

## Southerners set most of 2016 show

Alissa Camplin  
Staff Writer

The Marching Southerners wrapped up the eleven-day long band camp on Monday night with a final rehearsal after Freshman Convocation at Burgess-Snow field. They are one step closer to debuting their 2016 production, “Heroes: Lost and Fallen.”

A record-breaking 533 people auditioned to fill around 460 marching member spots. It was the most that have ever auditioned, according to director Ken Bodiford.

While eleven days of twelve-hour a day rehearsal blocks may seem long, it was actually one of the shortest band camps that the Southerners have seen.

The band still managed to memorize around 80 pages of drill of the opener and closer this week. The current goal is to have

the entire show on the field for their upcoming exhibition in Satsuma, Alabama on September 9th.

The band will debut the closer at upcoming football game on September 1 against the University of North Alabama. The game starts at 6 p.m. and is at the home stadium, Burgess-Snow.

“I’m always surprised by how fast the members learn their show,” says Mark Du Pont, a long-time photographer of the Southerners and alumnus of the program.

“It’s been the quickest I’ve seen a show put on the field in years,” he continues.

This year’s production is written to honor the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the attacks on Pearl Harbor and to remember those who have served in the military to protect America’s freedom.

In deciding a show concept for this year, it was important to

director Dr. Ken Bodiford to honor late founding fathers of the program, Dr. John T. Finley and Dr. David L. Walters as as the ensemble approaches its 60<sup>th</sup> year anniversary this year.

“We knew we wanted to do a patriotic show,” says Ken Bodiford, director of the Marching Southerners. “Both Dr. Walters and Dr. Finley were servicemen. We wanted to honor them and give our students a show to remember their upcoming Hawaii trip,” says Bodiford.

The band has been invited to Hawaii to observe the anniversary of the Pearl Harbor attacks. The Southerners’ trip will be from December 9<sup>th</sup> to December 15<sup>th</sup> of this year, and they will perform a ceremony near the USS Missouri battleship.

Bodiford continues with, “We all feel like our nation is facing



Katy Nowak/Special to The Chanticleer

Members of the Southerners Trumpet Line work in sectionals.

tough times and we could all be reminded of patriotism. The country almost seems to be split down the middle.

We hope that this production will make people forget politics and remember one thing: we’re all Americans and in the long run, we fight for the same things. And we hurt for the same things.”

The Marching Southerners ended their last rehearsal of band camp with

a special recording of the band singing, “I’ll Fly Away.” It is Southerners tradition to sing the hymn at the end of every stadium rehearsal, football game, or exhibition.

The video will be sent to Louisiana State University in condolences to the recent flooding that the state is facing.

“After 23 years, I still get choked up hearing ‘I’ll Fly Away,’” says Bodiford. “It is so special to know that the band dedicated it to the

people of Louisiana. I’ve never experienced a band program like this; it’s so much more than marching and playing an instrument. This band has a soul. You can feel it.”

The Southerners, alongside the football players and cheerleaders, are in the process of organizing a campaign to collect non-perishable canned goods for the flood victims. More information about this will be released as soon as it is finalized.

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# Jacob Davis signs record deal at CMA Fest

**Renee Lyons**  
*Special to the Chanticleer*

What started out as a trip to Nashville for a private party with promises of something special quickly turned into a day that we would never forget with a life-changing event.

As part of the Jacob Davis Squad, a fan club for up-and-coming country artist Jacob Davis, Katelyn Schneider and I got to attend a private CMA Fest performance in June with Jacob. The two of us and 29 other squad members showed up from all across the country to Black River Sound Stage studio in Nashville and were treated with more of a treat than we ever imagined possible.

Once seated in a small recording studio located in the historic Sound Stage studios, Gordon Kerr, Chief Executive Officer of Black River Entertainment, entered the room to address the squad and let us in on a huge secret.

Not only were we about to witness a private performance, we were about to

witness Jacob sign a record deal with Black River Entertainment. What made that secret even more exciting for the squad was the fact that Jacob and his band had no idea it was about to happen.

Jacob and his band, Teddy Christenberry, Caleb Allensworth, Brian Campbell, and Justin Burgess, played an acoustic set of songs in the same studio his music video for “Something to Remember You By” was recorded in.

Halfway through the set, Kerr stopped Jacob and the band to tell the audience a little bit about the history of the building we were in. This speech, unknown to Jacob, was all part of a grander plan.

Mid speech Jennifer Solonzo, Squad Leader, interrupted Gordon Kerr to give Jacob a present. This threw Jacob and his band for a shocking loop.

Jacob being the go-with-the-flow type of guy he is began opening the box still unaware of what was below the silver and black wrap-



Ashley Mooney/Special to The Chanticleer

**Renee Lyons and Katelyn Schneider, hosts of “Cocky Country”, witness Jacob Davis signing his record deal with Black River Entertainment during a private performance given to the Jacob Davis Squad.**

ping paper.

“What is this? What’s in here?” Jacob asked as he realized what was in the box.

“It’s a record deal, and it’s for you to be a Black River artist,” Kerr replied.

With his band, squad, family, friends, and Black River reps surrounding him Jacob signed his record deal with a “well this is something special.”

“We will ink this thing and get going on this journey,” said Kerr.

So much love, support, tears, and “oh my goshs” filled the room as Jacob signed the paperwork and made things official.

It was an amazing, rare moment to get the opportunity to witness.

To watch Jacob sign his

record deal and see performances from the party, check out my YouTube channel, “Renee Lyons.”

Also, be sure to check out Jacob Davis on all social media avenues to stay up-to-date with his recording progress, and request a free CD from the Jacob Davis Squad. It is full of songs downloaded from Jacob’s Soundcloud.

# Pokémon GO takes over Jacksonville

**Collins Maroa**  
*Staff Writer*

Pokémon GO is the game of the season. At least that is what millions of people around the globe think. Jacksonville and JSU as a whole have not been left behind when it comes to the Pokemon phenomenon.

Pokémon GO is an interactive, free-to-play game that connects to a smartphone device gps signal and allows the player to go around their area locating pokemon and even taking part in virtual battles with fellow players.

A drive by the city

square is enough to confirm that Pokémon GO is taking over the world by storm. Old and young gather around the Jacksonville square in huge numbers to collect the number of pokemon made available in that area.

According to Joshua Blumenschein, a former JSU student and Pokémon GO enthusiast, the square happens to have the highest concentration of pokemon in the area, therefore explaining the high number of people there.

There have been reports of players walk-

ing aimlessly into private property in search of pokemon making many critics to refer to the game as a hazard. However, Blumen-schein disagrees with such arguments saying that the game has caused more good than bad by making millions of people enjoy themselves while staying physically active.

“The assumption that Pokémon GO may be causing accidents, trespassing incidents, among other things may have some merit but it’s all about following instructions. It’s right on the intro screen that you need to watch out,” he added.

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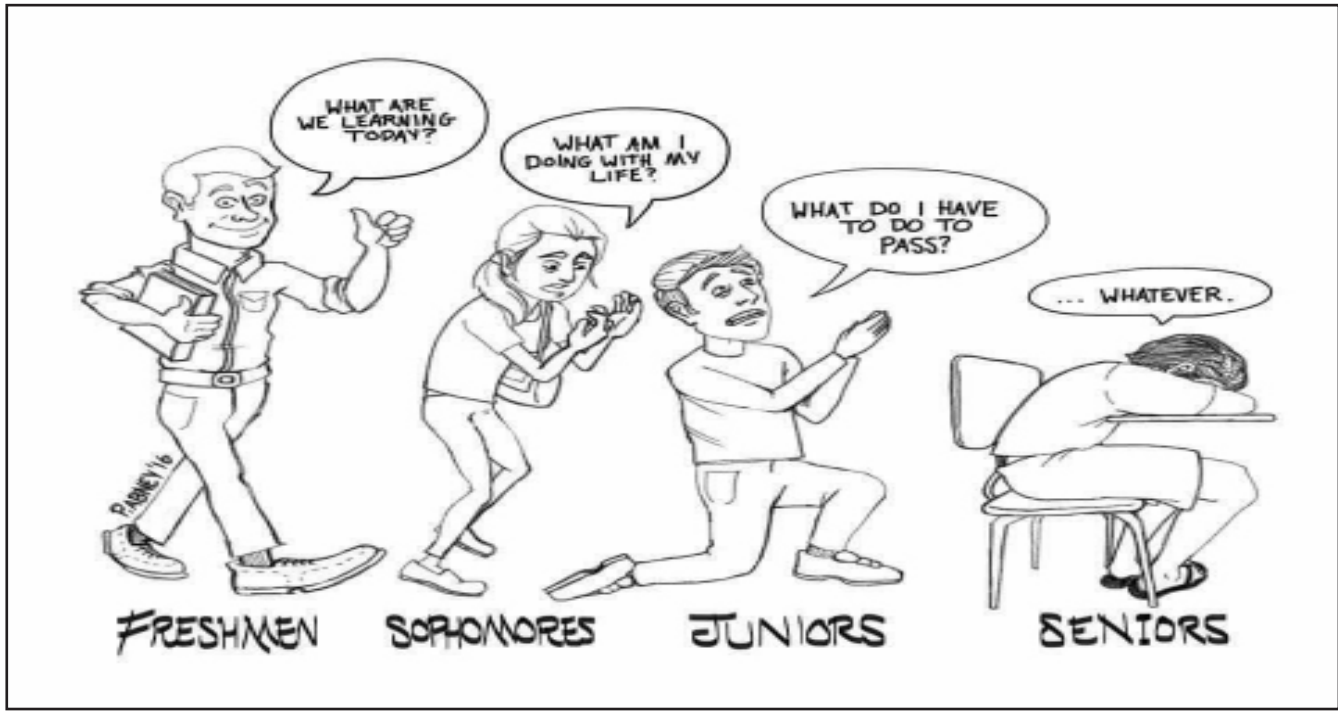
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# STUDY BREAK



By Peter Abney

## Campus crime report: 08/19 to 08/24

08/19/2016  
Abandoned vehicle  
Paul Carpenter Village

08/19/2016  
Automobile accident  
Logan Hall parking lot

08/19/2016  
Criminal mischief  
Campus Inn Apartments

08/20/2016  
Automobile accident  
Logan Hall parking lot

### Witness a crime?

For emergencies, dial  
6000 from any campus  
phone.



08/20/2016  
Automobile accident  
University Circle

08/20/2016  
Criminal mischief  
Campus Inn Apartments


08/22/2016  
Medical Emergency  
Fitzpatrick Hall

## PARKING PASSES:

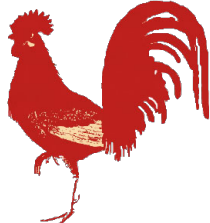
The website for purchasing parking passes will be up in the near future. This year, parking passes will ONLY be available through this site. UPD is currently NOT issuing tickets for having the wrong decal and will NOT issue tickets for this violation for 10 business days following the activation of the site. Tickets currently being issued include: parking on Trustee Circle, parking in the central bus stop, parking on a yellow curb and parking in handicap parking without proper tags.

When you purchase your decal, please make sure that you are purchasing the correct color for your housing arrangement:

- Gold- faculty & staff
- Silver- commuters
- Green- Dixon, Crowe, Patterson, Logan, Pannell and the International House
- Orange- Curtiss, Fitzpatrick, Meehan, Paul Carpenter Village, Colonial Arms, Campus Inn, Penn House College and Jax Apartments



# Chicken Scratch



JSU. All you people who are gonna drop out in 3 weeks, can you just stop now? I need your parking spot.

I thought college was supposed to be about napping the day away. I was wrong. I was lied to.








Arrived at my first freshman class 25 minutes early. This sounds about right for me. I hope college makes my timing better.

I think I greatly underestimated chemistry 2...

Welcome back  
Gamecocks!

From your editors.  
Katie, Nathan, Tim and  
Katelyn

## 7-day weather outlook

 TODAY	 FRIDAY	 SATURDAY	 SUNDAY	 MONDAY	 TUESDAY	 WEDNESDAY
Partly Cloudy High: 93° Low: 72°	Rain High: 93° Low: 71°	Partly Cloudy High: 94° Low: 71°	Partly Cloudy High: 75° Low: 47°	Partly Cloudy High: 91° Low: 72°	Partly Cloudy High: 93° Low: 71°	Rain High: 92° Low: 71°

### WANT TO SEE YOUR NAME IN PRINT?

Come to The Chanticleer interest  
meeting!  
Monday, Aug. 29, 2016 at 5:00 p.m. in  
Self Hall Room 189

Meet the editors, learn about college journalism  
and enjoy FREE pizza!

## Like what you see?



The Chanticleer staff would like to thank Peter Abney for designing our new flag over the summer. Peter is a junior graphic design major and one of the cartoonists for the paper. Thanks, Peter, for all you do to keep us #ChickenItChantyStyle!



# SPORTS

## Gamecock Side Bar

### Upcoming Gamecock Action

**8/26**  
**- Soccer**  
vs. South Alabama  
Troy, Ala. 4 p.m.

**- Volleyball**  
at U.S. Air Force  
Academy  
Colorado Springs,  
Colo. 7 p.m.

**8/27**  
**- Volleyball**  
vs. Grand Canyon  
Colorado Springs,  
Colo. 11 a.m.

**- Volleyball**  
vs. Montana State  
Colorado Springs,  
Colo. 5 p.m.

**8/28**  
**- Soccer**  
at Troy University  
Troy, Ala. 3 p.m.

**8/30**  
**- Soccer**  
at Georgia State  
Atlanta, Ga. 6 p.m.

**9/1**  
**- Volleyball**  
at Georgia Southern  
Statesboro, Ga. 1 p.m.

**- Volleyball**  
vs. The Citadel  
Statesboro, Ga. 5 p.m.

**- Football**  
vs. North Alabama  
Burgess-Snow Field  
6 p.m.

### OVC Soccer Standings

School	OVC	O/R
Austin Peay	0-0	2-0
SEMO	0-0	2-0
SIUE	0-0	1-0-1
Jacksonville State	0-0	1-1
Tennessee Tech	0-0	1-1
Belmont	0-0	0-0-2
Eastern Illinois	0-0	0-2
Eastern Kentucky	0-0	0-2
Morehead State	0-0	0-1
Murray State	0-0	0-1
UT Martin	0-0	0-2

## A look at upcoming fall sports

Timothy Cash  
Sports Editor

We are starting another exciting year of Gamecock athletics! Soccer has already kicked things off with a 3-1 victory over Georgia Southern. Volleyball starts on the road at the Air Force Tournament at the U.S. Airforce Academy on Friday, Aug. 26. The football team looks to try and return to the FCS National Championship Game when they start their season on Thursday, Sept. 1, against old foe North Alabama. Here is a look at other sports that will compete this fall:

### Rifle

Rifle is an individual sport, with the season starting with invitational in early October and lasting until NCAA qualifying begins in mid-to-late February. The 2015-16 season saw two Gamecocks selected to compete in the NCAA Rifle Championships. The Rifle team has won 10 conference championships, with the latest coming in 2015. They compete in Rowe Hall.



JSU Sportswire

### Cross Country

Cross country is an individual sport, consisting of both men and women. The cross country season starts in early September and lasting until the OVC championship begins in late October or early November. The JSU Cross Country Course is located in Oxford, Ala.

### Women's Basketball

The Women's Basketball finished the 2015-16 season with a 10-18 (5-11 OVC) season record in 2015. Coach Rick Pietri looks to rebound from the Gamecocks' injury-plagued season. They won conference championships for the 1992-93 and 1993-94 seasons. The women's basketball season coincides with the men's.

### Men's Basketball

The Men's Basketball team had a tough 8-23, (4-12 OVC) season in 2015. The university has decided to bring in Ray Harper from Western Kentucky to help rejuvenate the program. The men's basketball won the 1985 Division II national title, and has won 6 conference titles with the latest coming in 1992. The season lasts from mid-November to late February or early-March when the OVC tournament begins. Pete Mathews Coliseum is the home court for the Men's Basketball program.



Steve Latham/JSU Sportswire

Troymain Pope (LEFT) and Eli Jenkins (RIGHT) both scored rushing touchdowns in the 58-38 victory over Charleston Southern in the third round of the 2015 FCS playoffs.

## Recapping the 2015 football Season

Daniel Mayes  
Staff Writer

The 2015 season was a veritable roller-coaster ride of emotions for the Jacksonville State Gamecocks football team and its fans. After falling to Auburn in a heartbreaking overtime loss early in the 2015 season, the Gamecocks dominated the rest of their regular season schedule en route to their second consecutive Ohio Valley Conference (OVC) title. Jacksonville State finished the regular season with a 10-1 record, earning them the number one overall seed, and a first-round bye, in the 2015 Football Championship Subdivision (FCS) playoffs. JSU faced their familiar foe and rival University of Tennessee at Chattanooga in the second round. The Gamecocks squeaked by in overtime with a score of 41-35. Red shirt quarterback Eli Jenkins and senior running back Troymaine "Buster" Pope led the Gamecocks as they cruised through the quarter- and semi-finals, defeating Charleston Southern and Sam Houston

State 58-38 and 62-10 respectively, to reach the National Championship Game in Frisco, Texas. In the championship game, JSU faced off against four-time defending champions North Dakota State and future first round NFL draft pick quarterback Carson Wentz. Despite the efforts of Jenkins and Pope, the Gamecocks fell just short in their quest to become National Champions, falling to the North Dakota State Bison 37-10. Despite the disappointing end to the season, several Gamecocks received national recognition for their stellar performances. Jenkins, Pope and senior defensive back Jermaine Hough were named to the FCS All-American teams by the Associated Press. Center Casey Dunn and defensive end Chris Landrum joined Jenkins, Pope and Hough as Sports Team Analysis and Tracking Systems (STATS) All-Americans. Jenkins also received the OVC Male Athlete of the Year Award, and Head Coach John Grass was named American Football Coaches Association Na-

tional Coach of the Year. The Jax State Gamecocks football team excelled not only on the field in 2015, but also in the classroom. Wide receiver Dalton Screws was named the Doris and Eddie Robinson Scholar-Athlete of the Year by STATS. Five members of the football team—Screws, Josh Clemons, Nate Craft, Spencer Goffigan and Christian LeMay—were OVC Academic Medal of Honor recipients. Several key contributors from Jacksonville State's superb squad in 2015 will depart from the team after graduating. JSU will miss wide receiver Ruben Gonzalez along with defensive stars Landrum, Devaunte Sigler and Hough, as all have finished their careers at Jax State. Pope, the leading rusher on the offensive side of the ball in 2015, will also be missed by the Gamecocks this season. He was picked up through free agency by the National Football League's Seattle Seahawks, and has accumulated 96 yards on 12 carries, including a touchdown run against the Min-

nesota Vikings, during the first two preseason games of the 2016 season. Jenkins and wide receiver Josh Barge will return to the Gamecocks for the upcoming season, as they look to add to their already storied careers in their senior seasons. One key addition to Jacksonville State's squad for 2016 is Auburn transfer running back Roc Thomas. Thomas is already familiar with JSU and its coaching staff, as he played for Coach Grass at Oxford High School, and saw Jax State's football team up close as he played against them with Auburn last season. With the 2016 season comes high expectations for Jacksonville State. The Gamecocks are ranked third in both the Preseason FCS Coaches Poll and the STATS FCS Poll, and are projected to win the OVC and compete for the top seed in the FCS playoffs once again. Jacksonville State will open the 2016 season against the University of North Alabama on Thursday, Sept. 1, 2016 at 6 p.m. on Burgess-Snow Field at JSU Stadium.





JSU Sportswire

# Gamecock soccer opens at home with a win

**Rebekah Hawkins**  
*Staff Writer*

After a disappointing loss in their season opener against Middle Tennessee, the Gamecocks returned home for a victory against Georgia Southern. The Eagles had 17 shots on the day, three more than JSU's 14, but the Gamecocks ultimately connected with the goal more for their 3-1 win.

It was early in the match that the Gamecocks scored their first goal.

14 minutes in Nicola Dominikovich snuck a shot past the keeper for Georgia Southern with help from Danelle Lindo.

It was one of only two shots that she took during the match.

After nearly 20 more minutes of play and two attempted shots



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**Nicola Dominikovich (FAR LEFT), Nadia Plawick (LEFT) and Kayla Thompson (RIGHT) all scored goals in the Gamecocks 3-1 victory over Georgia Southern. Goal keeper Carolina Robinson (FAR RIGHT) managed nine saves.**

from the Gamecocks, Nadia Plawiuk connected with the goal on her shot assisted by Emma Meadows.

The Gamecocks led 2-0 30 minutes into the match.

Carsen Taylor attempted her only shot of the night before the end of the first period but couldn't connect.

The Gamecocks ended the period ahead by two.

Georgia Southern's

Alana McShane gave the Eagles their first goal of the match less than ten minutes into the second period.

The Gamecocks' Kayla Thompson, after a failed shot early in the second period, made her second shot of the period and connected for the much needed goal.

The goal pushed the Gamecocks out in front 3-1.

The Gamecocks

attempted six more shots before the end of the match while the Eagles attempted eight but there were no more goals.

Although Thompson only connected with the goal once, she made six shots on the day.

Dominikovich also had two shots on the day along with Mackenzie Bellows and Claire Petersen.

Goalkeeper Caroli-

na Robinson had nine saves for the match against the Eagles' Lauren Karinshak who only had two saves.

The Gamecocks head to Troy to compete in the Trojan Classic against South Alabama on Aug. 26 and then they will face host Troy on Aug. 28.

They will return home on Sept. 2 to play host to Louisiana Tech.

Gamecock Soccer Home Schedule 2016		
8/21	Ga. So.	W 3-1
9/2	La. Tech	7 p.m.
9/9	Jackson St.	7 p.m.
9/30	E. Illinois*	7 p.m.
10/2	SIUE*	1 p.m.
10/7	SEMO*	7 p.m.
10/9	UT Martin*	1 p.m.
10/27	Belmont*	7 p.m.
*OVC Fixtures		

### 2016 Home Schedule

9/7  
North Dakota\*\* 10 a.m.  
Alcorn State 6 p.m.

9/9  
Jackson St. 11:30 a.m.  
New Orleans 7 p.m.

9/10  
MVS 11:30 a.m.  
UAB 4:30 p.m.

9/16  
Kennesaw St. 2 p.m.  
Nicholls St. 7 p.m.

9/17  
Evansville 11:30 a.m.  
UL Monroe 5:30 p.m.

9/23  
Morehead St.\* 7 p.m.

9/24  
E. Kentucky\* 2 p.m.

10/9  
SEMO\* 2 p.m.

10/21  
E. Illinois\* 7 p.m.

10/22  
SIUE\* 2 p.m.

11/4  
Belmont\* 7 p.m.

11/5  
Tennessee St.\* 2 p.m.

11/8  
Tennessee Tech\* 7 p.m.

*\*\*Jacksonville High  
\*OVC Match*



JSU Sportswire

## Volleyball prepares with first alumni scrimmage

**JACKSONVILLE-** Head coach Terry Gamble's staff invited former Gamecocks and their families to return to campus Saturday to take part in his team's preseason scrimmage.

The Gamecocks capped their second week of pre-season practice with the Red/White alumni scrimmage as they near the opening match of the season on Aug. 26 at the Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colo.

The day began with current players meeting some of those who came before them spanning back to the program's earliest days in the 1970s, to others more recently who were part of JSU's transition into the Ohio Valley Conference.

Many of the returning



**Volleyball head coach Terry Gamble is preparing for his third season with the Gamecocks.**

alumni had yet to see Pete Mathews Coliseum since its 2015 renovations. Aside from the arena itself, alumni were given a tour of the team's updated locker room

as well as the new film room. On the court, the Gamecocks went through their pregame warm ups and a handful of drills before the alumni took to the opposite side of the net.

Coach Gamble stresses the importance of a family atmosphere around his program, and was pleased with the initial turnout.

"It was great having some of the Gamecock volleyball alumni on campus today, said Gamble. "It was an honor and pleasure meeting them. I know my players enjoyed it.

It was something I wanted to do since I started here and now I'm already looking forward to next year."

Even in the friendly environment, the Gamecocks

worked with mixed rotations continuing to gain experience for a young squad which features 10 newcomers and zero seniors.

Despite the lack of experienced players, coach Gamble is optimistic about his squad.

"We have 10 new kids coming in, nine freshmen, one transfer, and no seniors," said Gamble just before the start of fall camp. "We are very talented. It's going to take time, we're very young. But we're very physical, very athletic. I think we're ahead of the game recruiting-wise."

The Gamecocks will be back home on Sept. 7 in the opening home match of the season against Alcorn State

**-JSU Sportswire**