JSU to develop center for autism studies

Alexander Cooper
Staff Reporter

The Department of Curriculum and Instruction at Jacksonville State University announced on January 28 that it will be establishing a new Center for Autism Studies.

The center intends to become a central resource to meet the needs resulting from Autism Spectrum Disorders, according to Dr. Janet Bavonese, the center director and head of the Department of Curriculum and Instruction.

“The main goal is to become a hub,” Bavonese said, “where we can help people advocate for what they need; we can help teachers to do better with these types of students, as well as students themselves, and we can help people to know that they are not alone in dealing with this.”

When speaking on how Autism disorders affect the Department of Education, she said, “We know that there are more and more students in classrooms today that are identified as having autism or may need to be identified. So we started thinking about what we could do from our end to help in that issue.”

For the center’s Associates Director Valerie Wheat, autism is an issue that directly affects her, since her nephew is on the autism spectrum.

“It was always an area of interest, but after that it became very personal; it became a passion of mine,” Wheat said. “She said she wants to use the center “to give a voice to those without a voice.”

The department has held an annual autism conference for the past two years, and according to Bavonese, the conferences spawned the idea for the center.

“We know that when we’ve had our autism conference, we have had a lot of participation. We get a lot of questions and there seemed to be a need,” she said.

Bavonese and Wheat will be the next conference in June, and it is the currently the main focus of the center.

“When we host the Autism conference we get teachers of course, but we get a lot of parents, and also community resources that come,” Bavonese explained.

During the conferences, someone who is on the autism spectrum has always been the keynote speaker.

See AUTISM page 2

University installs recycling bins

Dustin Fox
Staff Reporter

JSU Geography Club

Cocky uses one of the new recycling bins installed on campus with funds from a grant from the Alabama Department of Environmental Management.

The department officially began its new recycling program on February 1 by installing green recycling bins throughout the campus to collect mixed paper and plastic.

Student Government Association representatives, and members of both the Earth and Geography Clubs, passed out flyers and raised awareness for the program in the common area of the Theron Montgomery Building.

Alongside the students was Rachel Brinks, a sustainability outreach coordinator with the Calhoun County Extension Office. Brinks works to educate and inform the community about ways to protect the environment through sustainability.

She has worked with groups on campus to plan the recycling program for over a year. After Brinks sent an application to the Alabama Department of Environmental Management, the university was granted nearly $40,000 to purchase bins and two large trailers — which will

See RECYCLE page 2

DEPARTMENT SPOTLIGHT

JSU at McClellan houses emergency management center

Alexander Cooper
Staff Reporter

The department of emergency management at the JSU McClellan Center in Anniston also houses the JSU Center for Disaster and Community Resilience (CDCR).

The CDCR serves as the emergency disaster support center to coordinate relief efforts during crises if needed; one large room in the main campus building serves as the command center.

The building also has the ability to hook up to a generator if it were to lose power.

“We have actually been activated by the Governor several times for regional events,” says Dr. Jeff Ryan, department head and associate professor of emergency management.

The CDCR has been activated in cases of winter storms, but it is also prepared to host personnel, who are coordinating relief in response to other natural disasters, such as tornadoes.

Chairs and tables take up the majority of floor space. The walls are covered with whiteboards and television screens to monitor developing situations.

“There are four main phases in the life cycle of emergency management: preparedness, response, recovery, and mitigation. And each has a wealth of information behind it in terms of what our students need to learn so that they can be effective emergency managers and fulfill a role in government. Our program looks at all four phases,” he says.

The department has grown — since its beginning in the late 1990s — to include a master’s degree program, as well as the incorporation of a doctoral program in 2011.

“We are one of a few universities in the country that offer emergency management degrees at that level. There are only nine, but we are still the only doctoral program at the University,” Ryan says.

See CENTER page 2
Dr. Jeff Ryan from the JSU emergency management department discusses disaster re-
sponse procedures with Charles Wise of the Alabama Forestry Commission.

“People think the International House is just for the interna-
tionals here, but everyone is welcome,” Jorayev said. The International House will hold the two-hour Coffee Break once a month in the commons area of the dorm.

“We’re just celebrating with each other, and other snacks that were
spread out on a table in the cen-
ter of the room.”

RECYCLE, from page 1

By the end of the day, the
students were asked to share
a banner that read “JSU Re-
signatures.”

#JSUrecycles.

By the end of the day, the
signatures.

Connor Brinks also says that portable
banners will be used at different lo-
cations on campus during large
events to make it convenient
for more people to take advan-
tage of the program.

The department’s courses
are all taught online. Most of
the students are what Ryan
describes as non-traditional,
meaning that they are usually
not 18 or 19, right out of high
school, or living in a dorm.

The majority are mid-career
first responders: firefighters,
cops, military people, para-
medics and professionals that
are already working in the field
without a degree. The ages of
students in the program range
from 18 to around 60.

It’s exciting that it’s finally
happening. We’ve worked on
this for a while, and it’s ex-
citing to see people pledg-
ing to get involved with something progressive like this,” said Austin Lovelace,
a member of the Geogra-
phy Club, as he stood behind
a banner that read “JSU Re-
cycles.”

Students signed the banner,
swearing the pledge to cycle.

“We are quite happy with the
way things have evolved for
our program and our depart-
ment,” Ryan says.

Dr. Jeff Ryan from the JSU emergency management department discusses disaster re-
response procedures with Charles Wise of the Alabama Forestry Commission.

Currently, the doctoral pro-
gressions includes around 40 stu-
dents.

“We knew there would be a
demand, but we didn’t know the
exact demand would be as great as it was,” he says. Dr. Tanveer Islam, assis-
tant professor of emergency management, teaches mostly graduate students, and is also
involved with research for the department. One of the projects
he has worked on involved the building of an app that provides a
map of shelters in neighbor-
ing Elowah County.

“I think all of us are students
in the profession. They are students in the program.

The Coffee Break events will
each focus on a different theme
that celebrates diversity and cultures from around the
world. This month, the theme focused
on Madian Gras.

The next Coffee Break will
be held on the morning of the Cal-
houn County Recycling Cen-
ter, where it will be processed
along with other similar mate-
rials from around the country.

“People think the Interna-
tional House is just for the in-
ternationals here, but everyone is
welcome,” Jorayev said. The International House will hold the
two-hour Coffee Break once in the commons
area of the dorm.

“We’re just celebrating with a
lot of snacks, since today is
Fat Tuesday,” said Elnin Mc-
Netley, International House
coordinator. Students enjoyed
coffee, sweet tea, king cake,
and other snacks that were
spread out on a table in the cen-
ter of the room.

The Coffee Break events will
each focus on a different theme
that celebrates diversity and
cultures from around the
world. This month, the theme focused
on Madian Gras.

The next Coffee Break will
be focused on St. Patrick’s Day,
and will be held at the
International House on March
17.

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map of shelters in neighbor-
ing Elowah County.

“I think all of us are students
in the profession. They are students in the program.

International House hosts Coffee Break

Over 30 students met to hang
out, eat snacks, and just get to
know one another.

Kuvrat Jorayev, an Inter-
national House RA, said the
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know one another.

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out, eat snacks, and just get to
know one another.
Waiting for you is like waiting for JSU to cancel class. Useless and disappointing.

Have you ever dreaded going to the bathroom only for the fact that you know the toilet seat will be cold?

People are like tile. Lay them down right the first time and you can walk all over them for years.

Alabama, home to Guntersville Lake, Channing Tatum, dynamic weather and potholes.

As a student, the most comforting words you’ll ever hear are “I haven’t started either.”

I actually ate breakfast this morning. I feel like I have my life together.

It took $13 to fill up my car. What a time to be alive.

Are you doing what YOU want to do? Are you living a life that makes YOU happy? It’s important. Don’t ever live for others.

Dora the Explorer would be a better president than Trump.
Morgan Burgess
Staff Reporter

High School Voice Day allowed students from numerous high schools to exhibit their vocal talent. On Saturday, February 6, several high school students sang for instructors at JSU, the high schoolers showcased their talent. They received feedback and encouragement from Dr. Patricia Corbin, Dr. Dani Jones, Ms. Teresa Chatham-Sticklin and Dr. Nathan Wight. The critiques helped the students who performed. Many of them practiced for several types of auditions, such as solo and ensembles, college entrance auditions, or NATS student auditions. The High School Voice Day is beneficial to them. Instructors provided vocal coaching, short lectures on tips for auditions, such as strategies for sight-reading, appropriate audition attire, diction advice and pageant preparation. Lexi Hydrick, a senior at White Plains High School, performed two songs. She worked one-on-one with a faculty member for two years preparing for the event. She said she will use the feedback on her scholarship audition. On the songs she sang was in a different language. Kelsey Trussell from Alabaster was another young lady who sang on Saturday. Although she has been performing since she was four years old, she attended the event to advance her skills even further. She said she got involved with the program after being on campus for Preview Day. They heard singers above them, and they “followed the angels” and found an opera going on. One of the songs Kelsey sang was Se tú mámi by Perro. She said she greatly valued the analysis and the critique she received and that it would be extremely helpful to her in the future. Both girls repeatedly complimented the faculty and staff on their kindness. They also expressed gratitude to the faculty for the advice that they provided them. The girls enjoyed their experience and had big smiles on their faces when they walked around. They — along with many others — walked away from this experience feeling optimistic. They sang their hearts out, and got tons of helpful tips for future performances.

Emily Kirby
Staff Reporter

On Tuesday, February 9 from 7 to 9 p.m., Jacksonville State University’s SGA held an acoustic music night in the Theon Montgomery Building. Guests Kyshona Armstrong and Danny Pratt performed for anyone that wanted to attend the event. The SGA provided numerous refreshments and seating for the students that came to enjoy the soulful, spiritual ballads performed by the Nashville-based duo. They encompass a range of Roots, Blues, and Soul music, she is her own songwriter, and her icebreaker stories allowed them to connect and/or listen to Kyshona and Danny’s music, visit their websites, and get tons of helpful tips for future performances.

On Saturday, February 6, from 7 to 9 p.m., a night of acoustic music was given by Patty Griffin and the band MGMT, for the Theron Montgomery Ar- tual Ballads performed by Cary Ann Hearst, and “Dust and Bones” by Halima Kamara, also known as a freshman at JSU, told us as her favor- ite part of the night was the idea in Kyshona’s music of enjoying the journey in life and not the goals. Halima Kamara, also known as a freshman at JSU, said her favorite part of watching Kyshona was the fact that she honored Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in her music, she is her own songwriter, and her icebreaker stories allowed for more involvement and communication with the audience. The group was a funny, yet powerful duo bringing soul shaking ballads to the students at JSU. If anyone would like to connect and/or listen to Kyshona and Danny’s music, visit their websites, twitter handles, and social media links that they provided. Kyshona’s website is http://www.kyshona.com/, her Twitter handle is @kyshona, and she can be found on Instagram by her username (@kyshona). Danny’s website is www.dannypressatt.com, and his Twitter handle and Instagram username are both @dannypressatts.

The Chanticleer February 11, 2016

High School Voice Day at Mason Hall

Guest artists play a night of acoustic music

Emily Kirby
Staff Reporter

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Two Photos Above: Kyshona Armstrong(standing) and Danny Pratt(sitting) work together during their performance in the auditorium of the TMB. Photo Left: Danny Pratt And Kyshona Armstrong are photo- graphed with some members of the audience. The two artists worked hard to keep the crowd involved with their performance.
The Valentine's Day must-see movie

Matt Hill
Staff Reporter

On February 9, in Mason Hall, Jacksonville State University music students AJ Chandler and Colin James gave a thrilling joint percussion recital. From the marimba to timbales, Chandler and James followed pieces arranged by JSU Jazz professor, Dr. Andy Nevala, Jarrett Irish, and Trevor Dailey on bass to play alongside Nevala on piano, Chandler on drum set, and Irish on tenor saxophone.

The particular piece written by Stephen Ridley, “Tu Crees Que” by Cal Tjader brought out a variety of different instruments depending on what the student’s concentration is. While there were pieces that awakened sad feelings, other pieces allowed audience members to groove to the beat. The recital’s fantastic display of musicianship! Congratulations, AJ Chandler and Colin James!

The overall atmosphere of the event allowed for numerous emotions and moods. While the recital started with two sombre music pieces, it was turned around with a safari.

“The Chanticleer February 11, 2016 5

Students perform for percussion recital

Katelyn Schneider
Arts & Entertainment Editor

The new must-see movie, The Choice, was released on Friday, February 5. The movie is a re-creation of the book written by Nicholas Sparks, author of The Notebook and Safe Haven: It is a romance that will leave viewers feeling hopeful.

The cast is a mixture of wonderful, but slightly un-

known actors and actresses with popular ones. The cast includes popular Tom Well-

son, Maggie Grace. The movie shows a power-

ful and honest love story through a deeper meaning. It focuses on how their choices guide them in their relation-

ship rather than just being in love.

The movie has received a mix set of reviews. Accord-

ing to fandango.com, the critics’ ratings slightly differ from the fans’ reviews.

Most critics such as the Boston Globe and the New York Post gave the movie a rating of 50 out of 100. The biggest downfall of the movie seemed to be the similari-

ties of this movie with every other movie based on a Nicholas Spark book.

However, most male and fe-

male fans gave the movie 5 out of 5 stars. Fans enjoyed the story despite its similarities, and they seemed to be pleased with how well the book stuck to the movie.

This movie came out in time for Valentine’s Day weekend. The romantic story produced by The Saf-

ran Company and Nicholas Sparks Production is inter-

twined with drama and com-

edy. It fits in with the mood of the weekend.

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Spotify vs Apple Music: Which is Better?  
Kevin Spavin  
Political Columnist

This past week, the American Conservative Union (ACU) released a 2015 study that revealed a shocking degree of similarity between Alabama’s Republican and Democratic Party. In the study, the organization took a number of bills, which in a view presented by the Ronald Reagan version of Republicanism, and assigned each state legislature or senate a score depending on how they voted. The scores ranged from 0 to 100. A score of 100 indicated fully conservative, and 0 indicated fully liberal. It is worth noting that the ACU do not take into consideration political ideology, only economic or political factors. For both Alabama’s parties, the ACU is actually worth the money. If an avid music listener wants to listen to their favorite art in its entirety, Spotify offers a large music selection, and view exclusive content that isn’t available anywhere else, such as albums that Apple Music does not have.

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Gamecocks Side Bar

JSU Upcoming Action

2/12 - Softball
vs. Western Carolina 9 a.m.
vs. Savannah State 12 p.m.
- Women's tennis vs. Kennesaw State 11 a.m.
- Men's Tennis at Alabama State Invitational 11 a.m.
- Track and Field at Samford Invitational

2/13 - Women's tennis vs. Kentucky 1 p.m.
- Softball vs. College of Charleston 5 p.m.
- Women's Basketball at Tennessee Tech 5:30 p.m.
- Men's Basketball at Tennessee Tech 7:30 p.m.

2/14 - Softball vs. Drexel 12 p.m.
- Women's tennis at Alabama State 1 p.m.
- Men's tennis at Alabama State 1 p.m.

2/17 - Women's Basketball vs. Eastern Kentucky 6:30 p.m.
- Women's basketball vs. Eastern Kentucky at 6:30 p.m.

2/18 - Men's tennis at Mercer 12:30 p.m.
- Women's tennis at Mercer 12:30 p.m.

OVC Basketball Standing
- Men's Standings
- Women's Standings

OVC Overall
- East
- Tennessee Tech 9-2 17-7
- Belmont 9-2 17-8
- Tennessee State 7-3 16-7
- Morehead State 6-5 12-11
- Eastern Kent 5-6 14-14
- Jackson State 4-7 8-18

- West
- Eastern Illinois 7-4 11-13
- Murray State 6-5 12-12
- UT Martin 5-5 13-12
- Austin Peay 4-7 11-15
- SEMO 2-9 5-19
- SIUE 1-10 4-19

OVC Rifle places second in OVC Smallbore Championship

Brandon Muske (far left), Santha Bullard (left) and Trace Haynes (right) all finished in the top-10 of the air rifle competition.

Rifle places second in OVC Smallbore Championship

MURRAY, Ky., — Jackson State had to win a fifth consecutive Ohio Valley Conference Rifle Championship to cap up short on Sunday as the Gamecocks finished second behind host-Murray State.

JSU Sportswire

Brandon Muske was named to the OVC All-Newcomer Team.

Jacksonville State (8-18, 4-7 OVC) lost their third straight game on Saturday against the Tennessee Tech Golden Eagles (17-7, 9-2 OVC) 68-58.

Jacksonville State finished second behind host-Murray State.

They were once again able to fight back against the Golden Eagles, and a jumper by Hamilton with no time left tied the game at 32.

Jacksonville State were slow to start the second half.

The Gamecocks loss.

The Brenham, Texas native earned All-OVC Second Team honors.

The Gamecocks finished second in OVC Smallbore Championship.
The Chanticleer
February 11, 2016

The Gamecocks pulled off their third win in a row with the defeat of Tennessee Tech 55-46 Saturday night at Pete Mathews Coliseum. TTU kept scoring close for most of the game until the final quarter where they managed to score 16 points to TTU’s nine. Destiny James was in true form with her game-high 21 points scored, while Briana Benson had 14 points in the second half alone.

The Gamecocks moved to 10-13 on the season giving them their third straight 10-win season.

Rebekah Hawkins
Staff Reporter

Football releases schedule

The upcoming 2016-football schedule was released by the Jacksonville State Athletic Department on Friday. The schedule includes six home games, respectable out-of-conference games and a night game for the season opener.

The season starts on Thursday, September 1 against the in-state University of Tennessee-Martin. The Lions were 9-3 in 2015, and were 3-3 in the OVC. They lost 48-14 to the Jaguars, and 6-6, and 5-3 in the second set.

On September 17 Jacksonville State returns home to face Coastal Carolina for Band Day at 1 p.m. The Chanticleers were also 9-3 in 2015, and were 2-1 in the Big South Conference. The Chanticleers knocked them out of the first round of the OVC playoffs where they were eliminated by Towson.

 JSU will then travel to the Southeastern Conference’s Louisiana State University on September 10 in Baton Rouge. The game has yet to be determined. Although LSU had a down year in 2015, they were 9-3 and in contention for a SEC Championship until they fell short to Arkansas and Ole Miss late in the season. They won their bowl game against Texas Tech, 56-27.

The first quarter was the only quarter that the Gamecocks scored fewer points than the Golden Eagles. It certainly seemed like it was TTU’s game as they opened fast and were quickly up by four before the Gamecocks were able to score their first two off of a jumper by Courtney Strain.

A quick tie at four came and went as the Golden Eagles scored another two but were quickly cut down by TTU who finished their scoring by one on their own three point shot. TTU took off on a quick scoring run being up by three twice before a layup by Rayven Pearson cut the lead to just one. The first quarter closed with the Gamecocks leading in the lead 12-11. The second quarter was dead for nearly two minutes before a jumper from TTU's Asia Harper took them back up by three.

The Gamecocks grabbed five points but TTU kept the lead only by one at 16-15 as the first half dwindled down to six minutes. JSU continued to keep the score close and with 1:02 left in the half took the lead by one point over the Golden Eagles 19-18. They would go into half-time with the lead. TTU opened the second half up with a 3-pointer from Samaria Howard to put them up by two. TTU would followed by four twice before the 7:37 mark when a 3-pointer from JSU’s Strain took the lead back down to two at 25-24 still with the Golden Eagles leading. A few minutes later the score was tied at 29 at a layup by Briana Benson put JSU back in the lead. TTU back the after two free-throws from TTU the score was again tied, this time at 31. The Gamecocks went up by six before the Golden Eagles scored again. They managed to cut the score down back to four but JSU quickly went up by again after six another Pearson layup.

TTU rallied and managed to cut JSU’s lead down to two as the quarter closed with the score still JSU’s 39-37. The Gamecocks took off to seal the final quarter for their victory. They took off on a scoring streak and managed to stay well ahead of the Golden Eagles.

The first quarter mark came within two of their closest, the quarter that before the Gamecocks continued their scoring run. TTU managed three more, but JSU sealed the deal with five final points off free throws to win 55-46.

On September 17 Jacksonville State returns home to face Coastal Carolina for Band Day at 1 p.m. The Chanticleers were also 9-3 in 2015, and were 4-2 in the Big South Conference. The Chanticleers knocked them out of the first round of the playoff in 2015.

The Gamecocks start off out of game road trip on Nov. 5.

They travel to Cape Girardeau, Mo. to face the Redhawks of Southeast Missouri. The Redhawks took the 4-7 season they had in 2015. They were also 3-4 in the OVC, South Missouri fell to the Gamecocks 28-5 last season.

Jacksonville State will stay on the road and travel to Murray, Ky. where they will face the Murray State Racers.

Last season the racers were 3-8, and 2-6 in OVC play. JSU topped Murray State in 2015, winning 42-20.

JSU closes out the regular season with a trip to Marching Southern Reunion, and a home game against the University of Tennessee-Martin at 1 p.m. The Skyhawks finished 6-6, and 5-3 in the OVC. They lost 48-41 to JSU.

The Panthers lost to JSU 24-3 in 2015, and were 0-6 to finish the season 7-5, and 7-1 in the OVC, second in the conference. Northern Iowa knocked them out of the first round of the playoff in 2015.

The Gamecocks start out of the conference road trip on Nov. 5.

They travel to Cape Girardeau, Mo. to face the Redhawks of Southeast Missouri. The Redhawks took the 4-7 season they had in 2015. They were also 3-4 in the OVC, South Missouri fell to the Gamecocks 28-5 last season.

Jacksonville State will stay on the road and travel to Murray, Ky. where they will face the Murray State Racers.

Last season the racers were 3-8, and 2-6 in OVC play. JSU topped Murray State in 2015, winning 42-20.

JSU closes out the regular season with a trip to Marching Southern Reunion, and a home game against the University of Tennessee-Martin at 1 p.m. The Skyhawks finished 6-6, and 5-3 in the OVC. They lost 48-41 to JSU.

The Panthers lost to JSU 24-3 in 2015, and were 0-6 to finish the season 7-5, and 7-1 in the OVC, second in the conference. Northern Iowa knocked them out of the first round of the playoff in 2015.

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