



The Chanticleer

JACKSONVILLE STATE UNIVERSITY'S STUDENT-PUBLISHED NEWSPAPER SINCE 1934

WEATHER: Showers, High 57, Low 41

Thursday, February 2, 2017

inSIDE

Buchanan's buzzer-beater leads JSU women to narrow victory over Morehead State



page 8

inTHE NEWS

Scholarships office speaks out

Katie Cline
Editor-in-Chief

Thousands of JSU students were affected by incorrect balances on their accounts prior to the Spring 2017 semester.

Harley Croft, a senior nursing major, had her textbook purchase charged to her account on January 11, the add-drop deadline, after she used her book scholar-

ship to buy the textbooks earlier.

Croft was in Birmingham discussing her internship when she was notified about the charge and that she had until 4:00 p.m. that day to pay the difference or be dropped from her classes.

"I drove back to Jacksonville and waited an hour and a half to meet with someone in financial aid,"

Croft said. "The person that I talked to was very professional and fixed my account while I was standing there. It was just so frustrating to drive from Birmingham [and] wait in line, then to drive all the way back."

Dr. Cherise Y. Peters, the Vice President for Enrollment Management, said that she had never seen this magnitude of problem in her 39 years of experience.

"What bothers me the most is when students have a bad experience," Peters said. "When a student has to come back to an office four and five times to ask the same question, there's a problem. The reality is that we need to improve the services, and the truth is that we are."

Peters said the problems arose from "a perfect storm"

See SCHOLARSHIPS page 2

Antigone Lecture Series

Dr. Kevin Schmiesing of the Acton Institute will lecture on "Equally the gift of Nature: The Link between Religious and Economic Liberties" on Feb. 2 at 5:30 p.m. in Merrill Hall Room 259. Admission is free. The Antigone Lecture Series is sponsored by the JSU Department of History.

Softball Fan Day

Meet the eight-time OVC Champions on Feb. 5 from 2-4 p.m. on University Field. Admission is free to all. There will also be free soda and popcorn and prize giveaways.

Privilege Walk

Come out to the TMB Auditorium on Feb 8 at 5 p.m. to participate in Active Minds' Privilege and learn how privilege affects your everyday life.

Spring 2017 ECE Registration

Registration for the Spring 2017 ECE is open now through Feb. 8 at 4:30 p.m. through students' MyJSU accounts. The ECE is a graduation requirement.



Jacksonville State University Nursing/Facebook

Students accepted into the nursing program for Spring 2017 were honored in the Department of Nursing's white coat ceremony on Thursday, January 26.

Nurturing minds and bodies

White coat ceremony honors 67 new nursing students

Rachel Read
Staff Writer

On Thursday, January 26, JSU's nursing program's prestigious white coat ceremony took place for the second time in school history.

"We received a grant in Fall 2015 to fund our first white coat ceremony as a pilot program funded by the Arnold P. Gold Foundation

and the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN)," said Dr. Elizabeth Gullledge, head of the nursing program. "It was so well-received by students, faculty and family members that we decided to make it a permanent fixture of our program and fund the ceremony ourselves."

There were over 500 guests in attendance at this

year's white coat ceremony.

"You can see how it has grown and what a special moment it is for our students," Gullledge said.

Lacee Anderson West was one of this year's 67 newly accepted nursing students that attended the white coat ceremony.

"Nursing school has been a whirlwind so far," West said. "We have already

learned so much, and I am amazed with the teaching staff and our cohorts."

Lacee's husband, Alex, is also a new nursing student.

"Being able to do this with my husband makes it even more enjoyable," West said. "I am so excited to see where this takes us!"

See NURSING page 2

Type Fight 'draws' on artists' talent

Patrick Yim
Staff Writer

If you haven't heard of a type fight, don't worry. Not many people have. Type Fight is a new event hosted by AIGA at Jacksonville State University.

AIGA stands for American Institute of Graphic Arts. AIGA JSU is a part of the Birmingham chapter of AIGA. AIGA is the oldest and largest professional membership organization for design. They have members both

student and non-student who have a joy for designers, photographers, illustrators, and other art forms.

Starting in Oct. 17, 2016, AIGA members gathered at Java Jolt in Jacksonville, Alabama for their first competition. Fellow designers test their creativity by taking a random letter in the alphabet, and using their skills to redesign the letter using graphics, paint, pencil or any other medium of their choosing. Each contestant has one hour to complete their rendering of



Abigail Read/JSU Student Photography Corps

Joanna Thompson poses with her winning typography T at AIGA's Type Fight. Joanna was the first non-art major to compete in Type Fight. As the winner, she will defend her title next month at the next Type Fight competition.

See TYPE FIGHT page 2



VISIT WWW.jsu.edu/chanticleer for the latest in JSU NEWS

SCHOLARSHIPS from page 1

of lost staff and the complications from raising tuition and fees halfway through the year. Nine out of 11 staff in the Office of Student Financial Services retired or resigned at the end of the fall semester

“The way the office was structured was that just one or two people knew how to do everything, and those one or two people left,” Peters said. “We went from nine to two staff. We’re back up to five. A director’s been hired; an assistant director’s been hired, and these are all people with title four experience—Banner experience. If we hadn’t have hired the people that we did, people who know how to do Banner and title four,

it would have been worse.”

Peters expects the offices to be fully staffed again by late February, and she foresees the department expanding in the future to accommodate JSU’s anticipated growth.

The increase in tuition and fees for spring required over 4000 students’ individual accounts to be manually updated over Christmas break, and thousands more required updating once the term began. The staff was faced with hundreds of scholarship appeals, 452 satisfactory academic progress petitions and lines of students when they returned on January 3.

“My problem is

that I simply haven’t gotten a refund check yet,” said Christian Tenorio, a senior music education major. “My problem hasn’t been resolved, and, honestly, it’s not looking like it’s going to be. I keep getting the runaround when I confront them, and I’m there almost every day that I can be. The new personnel I can tell are trying really hard, but they can only do so much.”

“There’s no confidence in what’s being told,” Peters said. “We’ve got to be better at giving real expectations so our customers know what to expect, and we need to do a better job at meeting those expectations.”

Peters plans to

cross-train staff to create a “one-stop shop,” where students could talk to one staff member at the front desk who could answer questions about admissions, scholarships, refunds and even print transcripts.

Despite the unprecedented backlog of problems, Peters said the numbers, to an extent, say otherwise. The university voided 118 students for Spring 2017 compared to almost 400 students in Spring 2016.

“We’re ahead of dispersements from where we were last year, in terms of number of dispersements, in terms of the amount of dispersements, [and] in terms

of the amount of re-funds,” said Peters. “So when you look at real impact, we’re better than we were last year. When you look at how our customers felt, it was worse than last year.”

Peters said the office is striving to improve how it explains its process to students in order to set more realistic expectations about when paperwork can be processed, and there is the potential of updating the system so that certain tasks can be automatically run overnight and save staff time during the day.

“It’s our desire that this will never, ever, ever happen again,” Peters said. “I and the administration acknowledge

that this was a painful semester for the students, and that was not the university’s intention, and we appreciate the students’ patience as we work through it.”

Peters said the office intends to be caught up on all backlogged verifications, scholarship appeals and satisfactory academic progress petitions by February 1.

“Students should be here to learn and engage in student life, not to be bogged down by financial aid or registration,” Peters said. “The enrollment experience should not get in the way of the reaching and learning aspect of the campus. And this spring, it did.”

NURSING from page 1

Nursing continues to be one of the most popular majors on JSU’s campus. “We consistently have one of the highest numbers of potential students at Preview Days and Accepted Students Day,” Dr. Gulledege said.

There has also been a significant 57% increase from last year in the number of recently admitted cohorts to the upper division nursing for Spring 2017. For Fall of 2016 the increase was nearly 17% in qualified applicants for the undergraduate Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) program com-

pared to the Fall of 2015. Fall typically has a higher applicant pool than the Spring semester.

The Jacksonville State University nursing program was founded in 1967 and is celebrating 50 years of operation this year. The program strives to adhere to its precept, “empowering exemplary nurses to care for anyone, anytime, anywhere,” and the white coat ceremony is the first step students take toward achieving that goal. JSU welcomes new students into the medical profession by instilling a reverence and desire for excellence in them from the very beginning.



Miiranda Perrigin/Facebook

Nursing students (from L to R) Max Erb, Jade Sexton, Miranda Perrigin and Morgan Smith celebrate earning their white coats and being accepted into JSU’s nursing program.



Hannah Nelson/Facebook

LEFT: Hannah Nelson receives her white coat from the Dean of Nursing, Dr. Christie Shelton. MIDDLE: Alex and Lacey West pose after the white coat ceremony. The married couple was accepted into the nursing program the same semester. RIGHT: A group of nursing students pose in front of the Lurleen B. Wallace nursing building on January 24.



Lacey Anderson West



Sarah Marie Keener/Facebook

TYPE FIGHT from page 1

the letter. Upon completion of the the hour, the patrons of Java Jolt judge the final products to find the champion designer.

The first Type Fight was held between three JSU graphic design professors: Christian Dunn, Jamie Runnells and Chad Anderson. The winner of the first competition was Christian Dunn, using the letter M; the second winner was Tanner Dixon with the letter C, and last month’s

winner was Trevor Grimes with the letter P. Each month the winner of the previous month competes against two newcomers to defend their title. This month the three competitors were Meghan Lee, Trevor Grimes and Joanna Thompson.

Out of the three, Joanna Thompson won it all. It was a first for AIGA JSU, seeing as Joanna was the first non-art major to compete, and the first non-art major to win the competition. While there

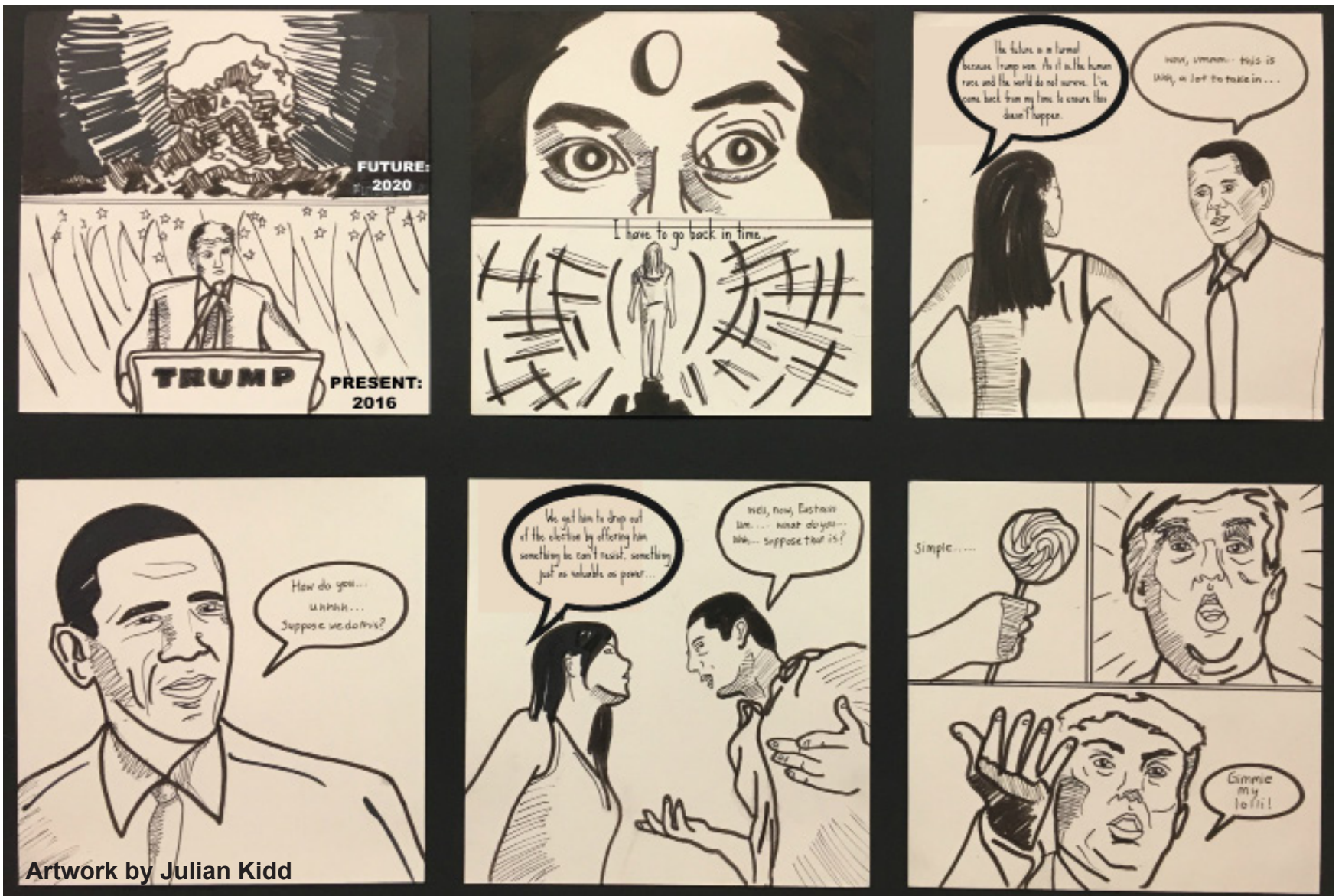
is currently no physical prize for the winner, the winner receives the fame and recognition of being the top typographer for the next month. The next Type Fight will be held on Feb. 13, 2017 at Java Jolt at 6:30 p.m. For more information about AIGA JSU or Type Fight, contact them at aigajsu@gmail.com.

This story was first published on Zeta Phi Eta’s Facebook page on Jan. 31, 2017.

Got something you want us to see?

Use #JSUChanticleer, #YearoftheChanticleer, #ChickenItChantyStyle or send it to chantynewstips@gmail.com

STUDY BREAK



Artwork by Julian Kidd

About the Artist: Julian is a junior art major with a concentration in painting. After graduation, he hopes to open a studio where others can rent space to create their art. Follow him on Instagram at [julian.isaiah.kidd](https://www.instagram.com/julian.isaiah.kidd) or Facebook at [Julian Kidd](https://www.facebook.com/JulianKidd), or visit his website kiddvisuals.com

Campus crime report: 1/26 to 2/1

01/26/2017
Information report-property damage
Curtiss Hall parking lot

01/27/2017
Possession of marijuana
Colonial Arms apartment

Threat assessment
Salls Hall

Unlawful breaking & entering of a vehicle
Curtiss Hall parking lot

Harassing communications
Paul Carpenter Village

01/28/2017
Burglary
Penn House Apartments

01/29/2017
Assist other law enforcement agency
Dixon Hall

01/30/2017
Unlawful breaking & entering of a vehicle
Meehan Hall parking lot

Theft of lost property
Ayers Hall

Unlawful breaking & entering of a vehicle
Meehan Hall parking lot

Duty upon striking an unattended vehicle
Meehan Hall parking lot

Theft of property
Mason Hall

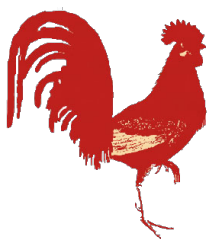
01/31/2017
Information report-possible fraud
JSU

Information report-property damage
University Circle

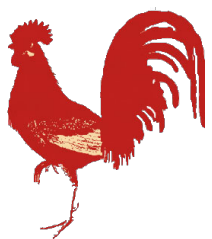


Witness a crime?

For emergencies, dial 6000 from any campus phone.



CHICKEN SCRATCH



The funniest, realest, deepest, truest, best things you've said online this week!

I would totally go to a cat wedding.

People marching for women's rights, people marching for pro-life. Isn't democracy awesome? Having the ability to freely support a cause you believe in. That's the beauty of living in a free country.

The awesome thing about cosplay is it can make you feel 10x cooler than you actually are.

When January technically isn't even over yet and you're already ready for Spring Break.

One of the reasons I don't enjoy sports is that you can never be sure when a game is going to end. I need to know how much of my life I'm going to be investing in something ahead of time.

Mean people are usually pretty dumb.

We have to be really thankful for people who work at the internet because they have to get up really early to start the internet.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



Andrea Porter

Infamous “Baja Kitty” finds a purrfect and furrever home with JSU professor

Alissa Camplin

Arts & Entertainment Editor

Baja California Grill in Jacksonville is not only famous for their delicious steak fajitas and incredible margaritas, but also for the little and gray female cat that would wander around the front door as soon as night fell.

To know her was to love her as many stopped to feed her their leftovers or pet her silky coat.

To some, that was enough.

For one, it was not.

Dr. Andrea Porter, an English professor at Jacksonville State University says she first noticed the beloved “Baja Kitty” last November, and has kept an eye on her since.

Cat carrier in hand, Porter searched for the perfect moment to snatch Baja Kitty. Last week, she began the process of adopting Baja Kitty by feeding her, grabbing her scruff, and lowering her into the car carrier.

Baja Kitty stayed that night in Porter’s garage before making a visit to the vet the next morning.

This is not Porter’s first time adopting a cat. While attending grad school at the University of Alabama, Porter would volunteer in the adoption rooms at the local animal shelter.

There, she found a full-grown “plain, brown tabby” cat that had never been asked to be taken out of the cage. After spending time with her, Porter adopted her and named her Roxy after Roxie Heart, a character from the Broadway play “Chicago.” Roxy is now sixteen years old.

Around a year after adopting Roxy, Porter watched a cat dodge through the McDonald’s drive-thru in Tuscaloosa. After seeing this

cat scavenge for food children had dropped on the playground, Porter said, “... Well, she’s probably wild. She probably won’t let me get her. So, I got out of the car and—of course—she came to me.” She named this cat Lucy and is now fifteen years old.

“So...now they have a younger sister who has no name yet,” Porter laughed.

Porter says that she is waiting for the perfect name to be shown through the cat’s character. She likes to give her cats “people” names, and expects to keep the trend for her newest addition.

“I’m slowly seeing parts of her personality,” said Porter, who told the tale about the time Baja Kitty jumped into a chair in Porter’s home office.

“She usually would only stay on the ground... but I turned around from working at my computer the other day and she had jumped from the floor and into a chair! That’s a big step. That was new,” Porter explained.

Lots of things are new for Baja Kitty. Porter says that the cat has recently learned how to play with toys and is starting to ditch the “stray cat mentality,” says Porter, “of ‘I must eat all the food in the bowl at once.’”

It was not all laugh and play, though, as Porter says that she believes that Baja Kitty was probably someone’s housecat before because she is litter-box trained and is very tame.

Cats and other animals have been known to be “kicked out” of their homes as the owner becomes less and less able to take care of them. This can happen because the student cannot legally or safely have a animal where they live, the student cannot pay to keep the animal anymore, or because the animal has

just become more than what the student bargained for.

Porter, a lover of animals, says that students should think long and hard before adopting an animal while in college.

“Of course, who wouldn’t want a kitten? Who wouldn’t want a puppy?” asked Porter.

Students, however, often neglect to think about the funds that animals require.

According to Porter and her experience with working alongside the humane society, she says the statistics are scary in college towns.

Students often think, “I’ve moved out of my parents’ house. I’ll get a puppy or I’ll get a kitten,” and not realize that they just made a very expensive decision.

Porter has already paid hundreds of dollars to have Baja Kitty tested for diseases, given her required shots, and to be spayed. These are initial costs, but others like food and kitty litter are continuous costs that never go away.

Another commitment that students fail to realize is the time it takes to have an animal. Beyond the day-to-day requirements, dogs and cats can live up to seventeen years.

Few students have the stability to know what they will be doing or where they will be seventeen years into the future. Students are worried about graduating and getting jobs, not taking care of another life for close to twenty years.

If anyone has kitten or puppy fever, there are two shelters in Anniston that are always looking for volunteers.

The League for Animal Welfare can be reached at (256) 238-0380, and Cheaha Regional Humane Society can be reached at (256) 241-3647.

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Final Fantasy XV:

A Final Fantasy for fans and first timers

Taylor Mitchell
Staff Writer

The story begins with Prince Noctis Lucis Caelum of the nation of Lucis leaving his country with a royal retinue of three friends: his sworn shield, Gladiolus Amicitia; his aide de camp, Ignis Scientia; and childhood friend, Prompto Argentum. They are on their way to meet Noctis' bride-to-be, the Oracle Lunafreya Nox Fleuret, in order for them to be married.

This was meant to be one final road trip between friends before Noctis must accept the burden of the throne. Not long into their journey, disaster strikes and they learn the Capital of Lucis has fallen, King Regis killed, and the Crystal that powered their country's prosperity stolen all at the hands of the Empire of Niflheim. The friends then instead set their sights on restoring Noctis to his throne and defeating the Empire.

Along the way, they discover a plot that could threaten the whole world that Noctis is destined to stop.



wikipedia.com

The story is a general and fairly standard Final Fantasy, and is a bit weak because of that. It brings Final Fantasy I to mind a bit too much in many respects and that leaves long-time fans with a preconceived idea of how it will turn out.

The thing the story does incredibly well, however, is show the relationship between its main characters.

Noctis and his friends give the vibe of actual friends that

are on a road trip together. They draw from one another and rely on one another, and the story is very good promising that friendship. If they start to doubt themselves, they pick each other up. If it's time to goof off, the player feels like they are actually having fun.

This is probably the greatest departure from normal Final Fantasy. In most past games, the main characters were

strangers brought together by fate or chance. These characters have known each other for years and it shows through in their relationship and anyone with friends like these can identify with it.

This close reliance on one another can even flow over into gameplay.

The series age old Active Time Battle (ATB) system is gone and in its place is an action-oriented system that has no

wait time and full movement. The main themes of the combat are fluidity and cooperation with party members.

Noctis can make use of up to four weapons and magic, he can also warp around the map to either attack enemies or use warp-points that allow him to refill MP. The party members act on their own accord, but often aide Noctis in linked attacks. They can also be ordered

to perform certain skills that are unique to each of them.

This game has the kind of combat that is smooth and very believable. All the motion flows together naturally and the player never really stops moving. In fact, if the combat was summed up in one word it would probably be called a dance, it has the fluidity and grace of a waltz with all the power of a samba.

With all this in mind, the game is one that gets an overwhelming recommendation. The story may fall a bit flat at times, but its atmosphere and wonderful combat help the player past the flaws.

To quote Vince Ingenito of IGN, "In the end, its beauty, charm, and commitment to the bond between its four protagonists keep it glued together, even when some of its design and story elements threaten to pull it apart." It really sums it all up quite nicely.

Final Fantasy XV was released on Nov. 29 2016 for the Playstation 4 and Xbox One. It was developed published by Square Enix.

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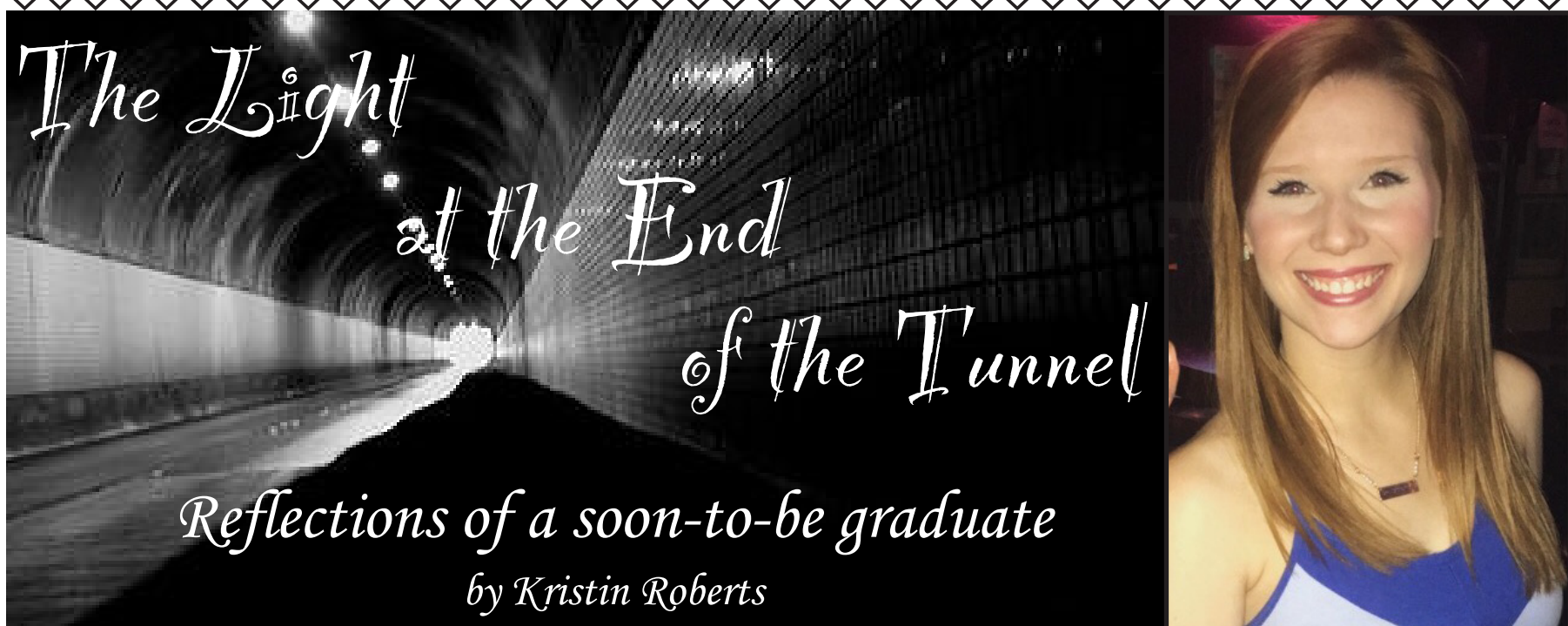
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OPINION & EDITORIAL



Let's go back to high school really quick. Who remembers what their expectations of college were? How you knew exactly what you would and wouldn't be involved in on campus? Well, I was like that, too. I was convinced that a sorority would never be something I would want to do. I had seen all of the movies, and I had read all of the news articles. I mean, I knew exactly what sorority life was like. Right? Wrong.

Fast forward to fall of 2012, and

what do you know, I'm going through recruitment and running out on bid day to my new home in Phi Mu. Little did I know just how much that one decision would influence my life for the next four years as an active in my sorority and even in the rest of my life as an alumnae.

Every year brought new challenges and new experiences to my life, new opportunities for me to grow not only in who I was but as a leader. My freshman year was a

whirlwind of learning how college worked and meeting new people and making new friends. As the spring semester of my freshman year came, I learned about recruitment and honed the skill set of talking, networking and learning about people in a manner that is surprising when thinking of recruitment. Sophomore year began by putting those skills to use and welcoming an entire new batch of Phi's into our sisterhood that we were now role models for.

I could go in depth into every single active year of my time in Phi Mu and tell of the things I learned from my time in a sorority, but that might bore all of you and then you'd miss the point I'm trying to make. I understand the stigma that surrounds Greek life on college campuses across the nation. I understand that it sometimes the Greek systems fits that stigma very well, but I also understand and have witnessed first-

hand the oversight that people have when it comes to seeing past that stigma and paying attention to the things the Greek system does that benefits the community or when they do things that are not fitting of the stereotype. It is not a perfect system, but that does not mean that it is a bad system.

I have had some of my best memories from college in the Greek system. My best friends have come from the Greek

system. The Greek system is not simply a social organization, they teach you skill sets early on in ways that you don't realize until you're a fifth year senior and you're looking back on the memories. It teaches you leadership, it teaches you responsibility, it teaches you the value of good grades and of balancing schoolwork and organizations, and most importantly, it gives you a place away from home to call home.

This is the second article in Kristin's "Reflections" series.

Break a leg at KCACTF, thespians!

Katie Cline
Editor-in-Chief

The actors and designers of JSU's drama department are one step closer to the Tony Awards. Three actors and three designers were nominated for a Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival (KCACTF) award for region four.

In October, JSU Drama performed Melanie Marnich's "These Shining Lives." The show follows Catherine Donohue and the "Radium Girls" who sued the Radium Dial watch-making company after being diagnosed with severe radium poisoning following years of exposure at the company.

The cast of "These Shining Lives" were all JSU students and starred Savannah Jones and Dakota Yarbrough as Catherine and Tom Donohue, Ebony Antoine as Charlotte Purcell, Alexis Robinson as Pearl Payne, Alli-

son Lawley as Frances O'Connell, Aaron Williams as Mr. Reed/Company Doctor/Dr. Dalitsch and Champ Bryant as Leonard Grossman/Radio Announcer.

Other students acted as designers: Meg McCrina, a junior, designed the costumes; Cody Harrell and Libby Hays, both students, served as the assistant technical director and scenic painter; Cheyenne Oliver served as the stage manager. Countless other students worked in the costume and scene shops, manned the ticket booth and ushered during the show.

Following the Friday and Saturday night performances, the actors and designers met with a KCACTF critic who gave feedback and, ultimately, nominated students for awards.

Jones, Antoine and Williams were nominated for the KCACTF Irene Ryan Acting Award and will compete for the Irene Ryan

Acting Scholarship at the regional competition next week. McCrina received three nominations for her costume designs. Harrell and Hays received nominations in the area of Allied Design and Technologies, Harrell for technical direction and Hays for scenic art.

All nominees are given the opportunity to attend the regional competition February 8-11 at Georgia Southern University. Acting and technical winners will be determined after three rounds of bracket-based competition. Actors will be passed on to subsequent rounds two and three based on their performance in round one. Acting nominees should prepare two contrasting two-person scenes and one monologue or solo musical number to cover all three rounds of competition. Technical award nominees will submit their work to be judged by a panel and winners will be passed on to rounds two and three.

The "best of the best" in the Irene Ryan competition will be awarded a \$500 scholarship and will attend the KCACTF National Festival in Washington, D.C. The runner-up will also receive a \$500 scholarship but will not attend the national festival. The recipients of the National Awards for Design Excellence (Scenic, Costume, Lighting, Sound) at each regional festival will move on to the KCACTF National Festival. Recipients of the National Allied Design and Technology Award at each Regional Festival will receive full conference registration and participation at United States Institute for Theatre Technology (USITT) National Conference in St. Louis.

So, as a long-time theatre lover (and a good friend to more than one of these nominees), I want to say "break a leg!" and "congratulations!" to everyone who was nominated! You are all so talented and deserve this recognition and so much more! The drama department—and all of JSU—is lucky to have you representing them!



Matt Reynolds/JSU

Ebony Antoine (far left), Savannah Jones (second to left) and Aaron Williams (far right) earned nominations for the Irene Ryan Acting Scholarship Competition for their performances as Charlotte Purcell, Catherine Donohue and Mr. Reed/Company Doctor/Dr. Dalitsch.

SPORTS

Softball set for annual fan day on Feb. 5

Daniel Mayes
Staff Reporter

Time to dust off the bats and shine up the cleats, because softball season has almost arrived at Jacksonville State University.

Before the season begins in earnest, the JSU softball team will hold its annual Fan Day at 2 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 5 at University Field.

At the event, fans will be able to meet the 2017 Gamecock softball squad and coaching staff, and free snacks and prize giveaways will be available for attendees.

The Gamecock softball program is coming off of one of its most successful seasons in its history.

In 2016, the Gamecocks blasted through their conference competition to finish 26-0 in OVC contests, becoming the first team to finish OVC play with an unblemished record since Tennessee Tech's mark of 17-0 in 1994.

JSU reeled off a school-record 20 consecutive victories on their way to advancing to the regional final, where they fell to eventual national runner-up Auburn.

The Gamecocks finished the season with an overall record of 43-17, the second most wins in school history behind the 1996 team's 46.

Several Jacksonville State players took home some individual hardware in 2016 as well.

Senior Ella Denes was named OVC Player of the Year and Sophomore Whitney Gillespie took home the OVC Pitcher of the Year award.

Denes led the OVC with 75 hits and 45 runs scored, and tied with UT Martin's Katie Warrick and JSU's own Emily Church for the league lead in runs batted in with 41.

Denes was named to an All-OVC

team for all four of her years at JSU, as she earned First Team honors in 2014 as well and was named to the All-Newcomer Team as a freshman in 2013 and to the Second Team in 2015.

Gillespie's earned run average of 1.13 was the lowest in the OVC, and sixth lowest in NCAA Division I.

Denes, Gillespie and Church were also accompanied as First Team All-OVC selections by Jordan Bullock, Jamie McGuire and Emily Woodruff, while Taylor West was named to the Second Team.

Church also made it on to the OVC All-Newcomer Team where she was joined by Anna Chisolm.

JSU head coach Jana McGinnis was also named the OVC Coach of the Year in 2016 for the fifth time in her career.

McGinnis, who has been at the helm of the Jacksonville State softball program since 1994, previously took home the award in 2005, 2008, 2009 and 2014.

After a historic year like the last, heightened expectations are almost a given, and that is certainly the case for the Gamecocks' 2017 squad.

Jacksonville State was picked by the conference's head coaches and sports information directors to repeat as OVC champions this season, receiving all possible first place votes.

Denes will depart, as will pitcher Casey Akenberger, but the Gamecocks return a lot of talent from last year's team heading into 2017, and looks poised to have a successful season once again.

Jacksonville State will open the season on Feb. 10 in Mobile, playing Alabama State as part of the Sand Dollar Classic.

The Gamecocks will make their home debut on Feb. 25 at 1 p.m., as they begin a three-game series against Southern Miss.

Bennett set new standard in meet at UNCG

WINSTON-SALEM, N.C. - The Jacksonville State track and field team turned in several strong results in the season's second meet at the UNC-Greensboro Meet in Winston-Salem, N.C.

Junior Courtney Bennett broke two school records on her way to one-two finishes in Winston-Salem. Bennett rewrote her own previous marks with a distance of 49 feet, 6 1/2 inches to win the shot put competition by more than a foot. She also placed second overall in the weight throw with a toss of 57' 11" to break her old JSU record of 56' 9.5".

Behind Bennett in the shot put, freshman Sophie Merritt bested her eighth-place season-opening finish at UAB with a third-place finish behind a personal best distance of 46' 3.5". Fellow freshman Mary Cagle also put in a top 20 throw out of 31 shot put contenders. Meanwhile, freshman Noelia Caceres placed seventh in the weight throw with a career best 49 ' 2 1/2" toss.

The junior duo of Laura Sewell and Samantha Patterson also placed JSU a the top as they tied Davidson's Stephanie Hautamaa clearing 10-feet-10-inches on the pole vault for a first-place split. The two recorded back-to-back spots two weeks earlier in Birmingham.

Another improvement from the season's first meet was sophomore Brittany Cook's second-place finish in the triple jump. Cook's distance of 37 feet, 2 1/2 inches came just eight inches shy of Campbell's Jada Johnson for the top spot.

Erica Edwards came second in the high jump competition, while freshman Madison Rollins tied for fifth.

On the track, junior Kayla Thompson finished third in the 200 meter run crossing the line in 25.34. In the 800 meter, Emily Sorrell placed fourth (2:16.8) overall while teammates Gina Carnovale and Dayja Simon claimed top 20 times. Sorrell also recorded a top 10 spot in the mile run with a time of 5:26.

Ju-ells McLeod placed seventh in 3000 meter following a trio of Eagles from Georgia Southern. Blake Perry had a top 10 showing in the 60 meter hurdles finishing ninth with a sub-10 second run. As a team in the 4x400 relay, JSU came home seventh topping host UNC Greensboro. Campbell University won the relay.

-JSU Sportswire

Men's Tennis shines, Women's fall on Saturday

JACKSONVILLE - The Jacksonville State men's tennis team earned back-to-back wins over Gadsden State and West Alabama on Saturday at the JSU Tennis Courts to begin its spring campaign 2-0.

The Gamecocks defeated Gadsden State 7-0 in a 9 a.m. matchup, then topped West Alabama 6-1 in the 1 p.m. match.

"I was very impressed with our play today," head coach Andres Amores said.

"The guys won both doubles points, and we lost just one individual match all day. Earning a couple of wins is a great way for us to begin our season."

The women's tennis team fell 4-3 to West Alabama in its season opener Saturday.

While the young Gamecocks picked up three individual wins, the Tigers won the double's point to give the visitors the decision.

Senior Claudia Marsala and freshman Malin

Buechner earned a double's victory, while the freshman trio of Diana Monsalve, Alba Conejero and Svea Mai each earned individual wins.

Buechner and junior Genevie Ulanday forced their individual bouts to three sets, but both fell 6-3 in the final stanzas.

The Gamecocks return to action Feb. 3 as they host Jackson State University. The match is set to begin at 2 p.m. at the JSU Tennis Courts.

-JSU Sportswire

Muske, Santrock leads rifle in preparation for OVC Championship

MEMPHIS, Tenn. - The Jacksonville State rifle team prepped for the 2017 Ohio Valley Conference Rifle Championships competing against Nebraska and the University of Memphis over the weekend.

The Gamecocks recorded a 4628 to finish behind the Cornuskers (4656) and the Tigers (4650). JSU turned in a 2296 in smallbore and

2332 in air rifle. For the third consecutive week, it was senior Brandon Muske leading Jax State. Muske second overall with an aggregate mark of 1166. Muske posted a 576 in smallbore and a 590 in air rifle.

Sophomore Brantley Santrock placed seventh with scores of 573 in smallbore and 587 in air rifle.

Sophomore David

Sink collected the second-best smallbore score with a 579. finishing three marks back of Nebraska's Rachel Martin (582).

The Gamecocks will turn their attention to the OVC Rifle Championship as the league will meet in Morehead, Kentucky on February 4-5 on the Morehead State campus.

-JSU Sportswire

Gamecock Side Bar

Upcoming Gamecock Action

2/3
- Men's, Women's Tennis vs. Jackson State Jacksonville 2 p.m.

2/4
- Rifle at OVC Championship Morehead, Ky.

- Women's Basketball at SIU Edwardsville* Edwardsville, Ill. 12 p.m.

- Men's, Women's Tennis vs. UA Huntsville Jacksonville 2 p.m.

- Men's Basketball at SIU Edwardsville* Edwardsville, Ill. 4 p.m.

2/5
- Rifle at OVC Championship Morehead, Ky.

- Softball Fan Day University Field 2 p.m.

2/8
- Women's Basketball at Belmont* Nashville, Tenn. 6 p.m.

2/9
- Men's Basketball at Belmont* Nashville, Tenn. 6 p.m.

BOLD = Home Event * = OVC Event

OVC Men's Basketball		
School	OVC	O/R
EAST		
Belmont	10-0	16-4
Morehead State	6-3	10-12
Jacksonville State	5-4	13-11
Tennessee Tech	5-4	9-15
Tennessee State	4-5	13-9
Eastern Kentucky	3-6	10-14
WEST		
SEMO	6-3	11-13
Murray State	6-3	12-11
UT Martin	5-4	15-9
Austin Peay	3-6	7-16
Eastern Illinois	2-7	10-12
SIUE	0-10	5-19

OVC Women's Basketball		
School	OVC	O/R
Belmont	9-0	17-5
Morehead State	6-3	16-6
Austin Peay	5-4	11-11
SIUE	5-4	9-13
Tennessee Tech	5-4	8-14
Murray State	4-4	12-9
Eastern Kentucky	4-4	7-14
Jacksonville State	3-6	10-11
Tennessee State	3-6	8-11
SEMO	3-6	9-13
Eastern Illinois	3-6	7-14
UT Martin	3-6	6-16

NCAA Rifle Top 15

1. Texas Christian
2. West Virginia
3. Murray State
4. Air Force
5. Kentucky
6. Ohio State
7. Alaska Fairbanks
8. Nebraska
9. North Carolina State
10. Nevada
11. Memphis
12. Army
13. Ole Miss
- 14. Jacksonville State**
15. Navy



JSU Sportswire

Buchanon's buzzer-beater lifts Gamecocks

Grant Benefield
Staff Reporter

In a home matchup against OVC opponent Morehead State on Saturday, the Jacksonville State women's basketball team defeated the Eagles 69-68.

The Gamecocks (10-11, 3-6 OVC) and Eagles (16-6, 6-3 OVC) exchanged blows in the first half of play, with Jacksonville edging out Morehead State for the 32-20 halftime lead.

The Gamecock lead was taken after a foul by Morehead State on Gamecock Guard Briana Benson as she was attempting a 3-point shot with time expiring in the half.

The Morehead bench, arguing that

time had expired before the foul was called, prompted the officials to review the call.

After long deliberation by the officials, the foul call would stand, giving Benson the opportunity for three free throws; she would convert all three, giving the Gamecocks the 32-30 lead at halftime.

Gamecock Forward Tasha Magruder also contributed to Gamecock lead in the first half, scoring 8 points on 3-for-4 shooting, and collecting 4 rebounds and an assist.

Morehead State Forward Shay Steele would have a hot first half for the Eagles, scoring 12 points on 5-for-6 shooting and collecting 4 rebounds.



JSU Sportswire

Lacey Buchanan led the Gamecocks with 20 points in the victory over Morehead State. She was also 6-for-7 in field goals.

Eagle Guard Miranda Crockett scored 6 points on 3-for-6 shooting and collect a rebound and an assist in the first half of play.

In the second half, the Gamecocks would come out and score 4 quick points before a 7 point run by the Eagles

gave the visitors a 37-36 lead. Jacksonville would trail the remainder of the third quarter.

In the fourth quarter JSU would take the lead 52-51, but a quick response by Eagle Forward Brooke Todd gave the Eagles the 53-52 lead once again.

Gamecock Guard Lacey Buchanan would drain a 3-point shot with two minutes remaining to tie the game at 65-65.

With a little more than a minute left to play, the Eagles would have the lead 68-67 and would keep it until the final shot of the game.

In their final possession, the Gamecocks drove down the court with 0:24 on the clock. With time winding

down, Guard Morgan Towells would take a 3-point shot that would clang off the rim into the hands of Benson, who would take the ball outside of the arc and attempt another 3-pointer for the Gamecocks.

The shot would miss and deflect off of an Eagle player out of bounds, giving JSU an inbound opportunity with just 0.9 seconds remaining.

After both teams used their final time-out, the teams would get into position for Benson to inbound the ball.

Benson would find Buchanan near the basket, who turned and immediately took a contested jumper as time expired. Swish.

The final shot would go, giving the Gamecocks the 69-68 victory over their OVC opponent.

Buchanon would finish the game with 11 points on 3-for-8 shooting with one 3-point FG, go 4-for-5 from the free throw line, and collect 9 rebounds and 4 assists.

Rayven Pearson would have a career day for the Gamecocks, scoring a career-high 17 points on 6-for-7 shooting. She would also collect 8 rebounds and go 5-for-7 from the free throw line.

The Gamecocks will travel to SIU Edwardsville to face the cougars on Saturday at 12 p.m.



JSU Sportswire

Gamecocks lose close game to Morehead State

Rebekah Hawkins
Staff Reporter

Morehead State came to Pete Mathews on Saturday and barely held off the Gamecocks 72-69.

The Eagles sit in second place in the OVC Standings just in front of the Gamecocks. They are now 5-4 in conference play.

Despite the loss it was an excellent night for senior Greg Tucker who posted 27 points on the night.

He was also 4-of-5 on free throws and 5-of-9 on three-pointers.

Jacara Cross posted nine points on the night.

Malcolm Drumwright had eight of his own and Derrick Green was 5-of-8 for his free throws.

Christian Cunningham started things off for the Gamecocks.

The score was tied three times fast before the Gamecocks manage to

pull away just a little 13-10.

The Eagles returned by hitting two good jumpers that put them ahead 14-13.

The Gamecocks entered a slump while the Eagles marched ahead by nine before Erik Durham managed a layup to start turning it back in the Gamecocks' direction.

JSU slowly chipped away at the Eagles' lead.

A three-pointer from Tucker followed by a quick dunk from Cross put the Gamecocks back in the lead by one 26-25.

From there it was another back and forth complete with two more ties, before

JSU managed to contain a lead by a few as the first half dwindled down.

The Eagles' Dejuan Marrero hit a jumper with six seconds left in the half to close it with JSU barely lead-

ing 39-36.

Tucker opened the second half fast with a layup that bumped the Gamecocks' lead to five.

MSU's Miguel Dicient got a quick jumper in before the Gamecocks' took off on another scoring run that put them ahead by 11.

At 49-39, the Eagles' tried to get going again with a few good free throws and a jumper that cut the lead to seven.

Tucker answered with two good free throws and three-pointer that pushed the Gamecocks' lead back out to 12.

While MSU hit a few scores every now and then, the Gamecocks seemed to have a handle of the game.

However, the Eagles weren't done. After Green missed a free throw with the Gamecocks ahead 58-50, the Eagles began mounting a comeback.

A couple of fouls from JSU gave the Eagles four free throws.

Then Ronnye Beamon hit a three-pointer that cut the Gamecocks' lead to just three at 60-57.

Two jumpers later and the Eagles and Gamecocks were tied at 61.

Tucker made a free throw to give the Gamecocks 62.

MSU's Dicient helped push the Eagles out ahead by six with his three-pointer, but Tucker answered with one of his own to cut the lead back down to three.

A foul from JSU's Andre Statam gave MSU two good free throws to put them ahead by five 70-65.

Drumwright hit a three-pointer followed by a Green free throw to cut MSU's lead to just one.

Despite the comeback, MSU took the win.

The Gamecocks play SIU Edwardsville on the road at 4 p.m. Saturday.



WHERE YOU'RE GOING.