

Spring Graduation 2018

The Spring 2018 commencement ceremony will take place on Friday, May 4 at 10 a.m. on Burgess-Snow Field. Here are the most important things for graduates and guests to be aware of:

Graduates should report to Stephenson Hall one hour prior to the ceremony (9 a.m.). Here, you will receive Latin honors cords and your name card from your designated checkout person.

No tickets will be required to attend graduation.

The ceremony will broadcast live on WEAC-TV24 (local Cable One Channel 9) or live streamed on JSU's website.

The clear bag policy will be in effect for graduation. This is the same policy that was in effect for football games in the fall of 2017. Accessible parking is available on the east side of Meehan Hall parking lot. Accessible seating is located on the east side of the 5th floor of Meehan Hall.

Shuttle services will be provided to and from the stadium beginning at 8 a.m. Shuttles will run from the Pete Mathews Coliseum, the Houston Cole Library, and University Circle.



From orientation to graduation

Alexander Cooper
Special to the Chanticleer

Austin Lovelace was just one of 1,352 students who received undergraduate degrees from Jacksonville State during the University's 2016-2017 fiscal year. At the spring 2017 graduation ceremony, Lovelace received a degree in geography from the College of Arts and Sciences, successfully closing out his time at Jacksonville State that began in the fall of 2013.

For many generations of Americans,

this four-year journey to a college degree was the expectation. A degree at the end of four years of school fit like a period at the end of a sentence. According to JSU's 2017-2018 fact book, however, Lovelace was a member of an enrollment class made up of around 1,792 students. This puts Jacksonville State's 4-year graduation rate at around 75%, and raises the question of what happened to the other 440 students whose take at JSU wasn't punctuated with a graduation ceremony. "Our graduation rate is not where it

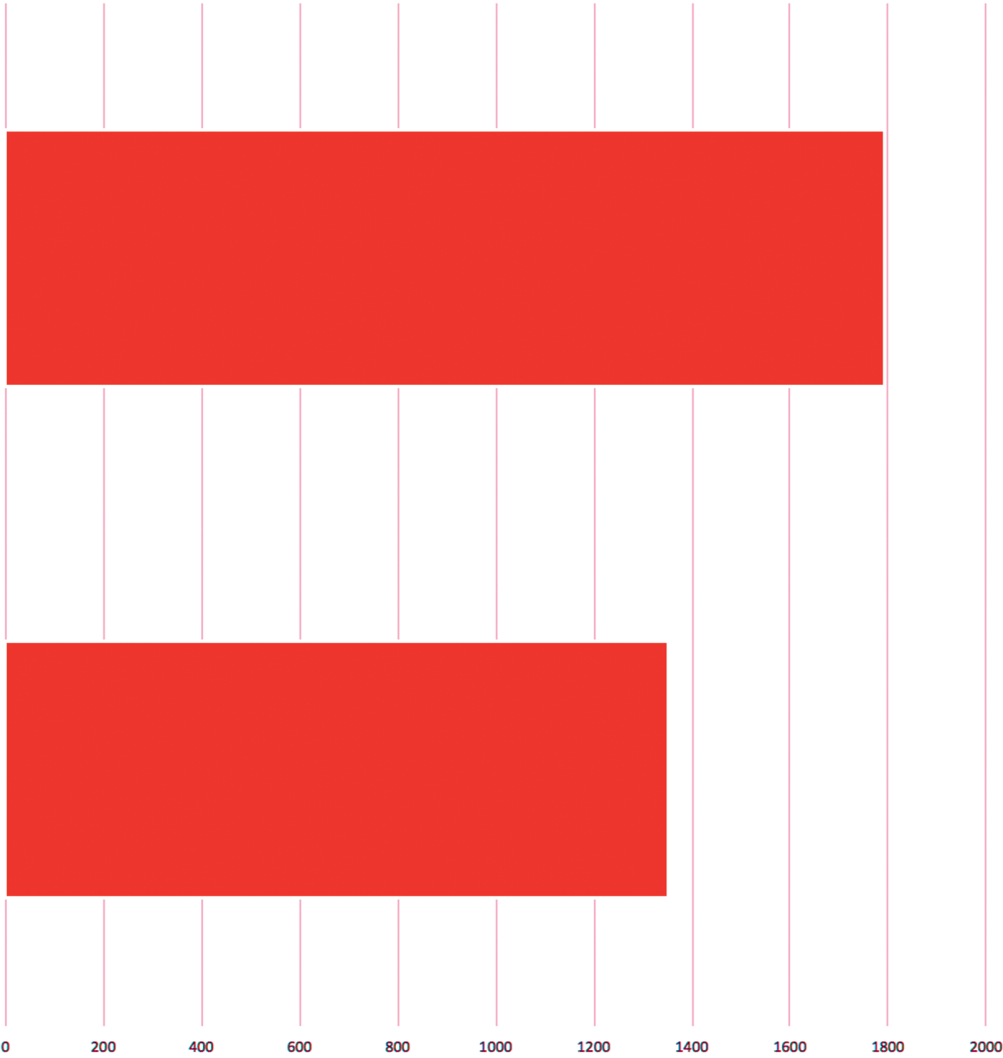
should be," said Dr. Timothy King, the Vice President of Student Affairs at Jacksonville State. According to Dr. King, the most common struggle for students trying to get a degree is financial resources. "[The question] 'How am I going to pay for this semester,' and the stress that causes can interfere with their well-being and their ability to cope well with their classes and anything else they are trying to do," he said, "That, to me, is the

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Graduation Rates for the Freshman Class of 2013 (as of Spring 2017 Ceremony)

Entering freshman class total (1,792)

Graduating class total (1,352)



The design of relief: JSU alumnae designs shirt to help hurting community

Lauren Jackson
Staff Writer

There were warnings all day that severe weather was possible across Alabama on March 19. Schools released students early, and many businesses closed in preparation for the storm to come. The possibility of tornadoes was projected as early as a week in advance, and, throughout the course of the evening, eleven tornadoes broke out across Alabama.

In Jacksonville, at least one tornado was confirmed with winds reaching 140 mph. According to an update provided to the Community Foundation of Northeast Alabama, 559 buildings were damaged. Of those damaged, 42 were destroyed, 146 took major

damage and 371 took minor damage.

On the night of March 19, when the EF-3 tornado ripped through Jacksonville, Hannah Green was in Rome, Georgia visiting family. Green recently graduated from Jacksonville State University with her Bachelor of Fine Arts in Graphic Design and anxiously followed the path of the storm.

"I was panicking. The storm was supposed to come to Rome too, but I was really worried about my friends. I kept messaging them all and trying to make sure they were all okay," said Green.

By the following morning, Green knew that she wanted to do something to help. She knew that she wanted to make

something and to donate but was uncertain of what to make. Green would later design a graphic in support of the community that she would turn into a t-shirt fundraiser. The fundraiser has raised \$6,506.

"The idea started with a graphic. I wanted to make something with art. That is what I majored in, and that is how I express myself," Green said.

Her original goal was to sell 50 shirts, a goal which was met in the first hour of posting them online. The momentum continued to grow as the shirts spread on social media, and Green has sold 651 shirts so far.

"I just wanted to make something that I would want

to wear, and that would support the community. Honestly, it has been just so overwhelming that so many people have chosen to support my shirt. There were so many other shirts they could have chosen. My original goal was to raise \$400 then it got to \$1,000 and then \$2,000 and it just kept growing! I am excited to see what it can do for people," said Green.

Green decided to donate the money to the disaster relief funds at the Community Foundation of Northeast Alabama. All of the money donated to the Community Foundation Disaster Relief funds go directly towards the

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biggest factor that can have an impact on students whether they are incoming freshman or continuing students.”

Not all students leave JSU for financial reasons though. Cindy Chung started at JSU as a freshman in 2013 as well but transferred to Samford to attend pharmacy school. Samford and Auburn make up the only two universities in Alabama that offer pharmacy programs, so for Chung transferring was a requirement for her to pursue the career she wanted.

“My goal is to become a pharmacist,” she said, “so I knew I’d have to go to pharmacy school. There were a lot of classes that I couldn’t have taken at JSU.”

While at JSU, Chung majored in pre-professional biology and took mostly general education courses.

“Jacksonville was close to home,” she said about why she chose to take her basic classes at the University, “and I got a really nice scholarship.”

According to Dr. King, scholarships are vital for students who attend Jacksonville State.

“Without them, I don’t think a lot of students could come to school,” he said, “college is expensive wherever you go, and the population of students that attend school here, for the most part, don’t have tons of money, scholarships are key for us.”

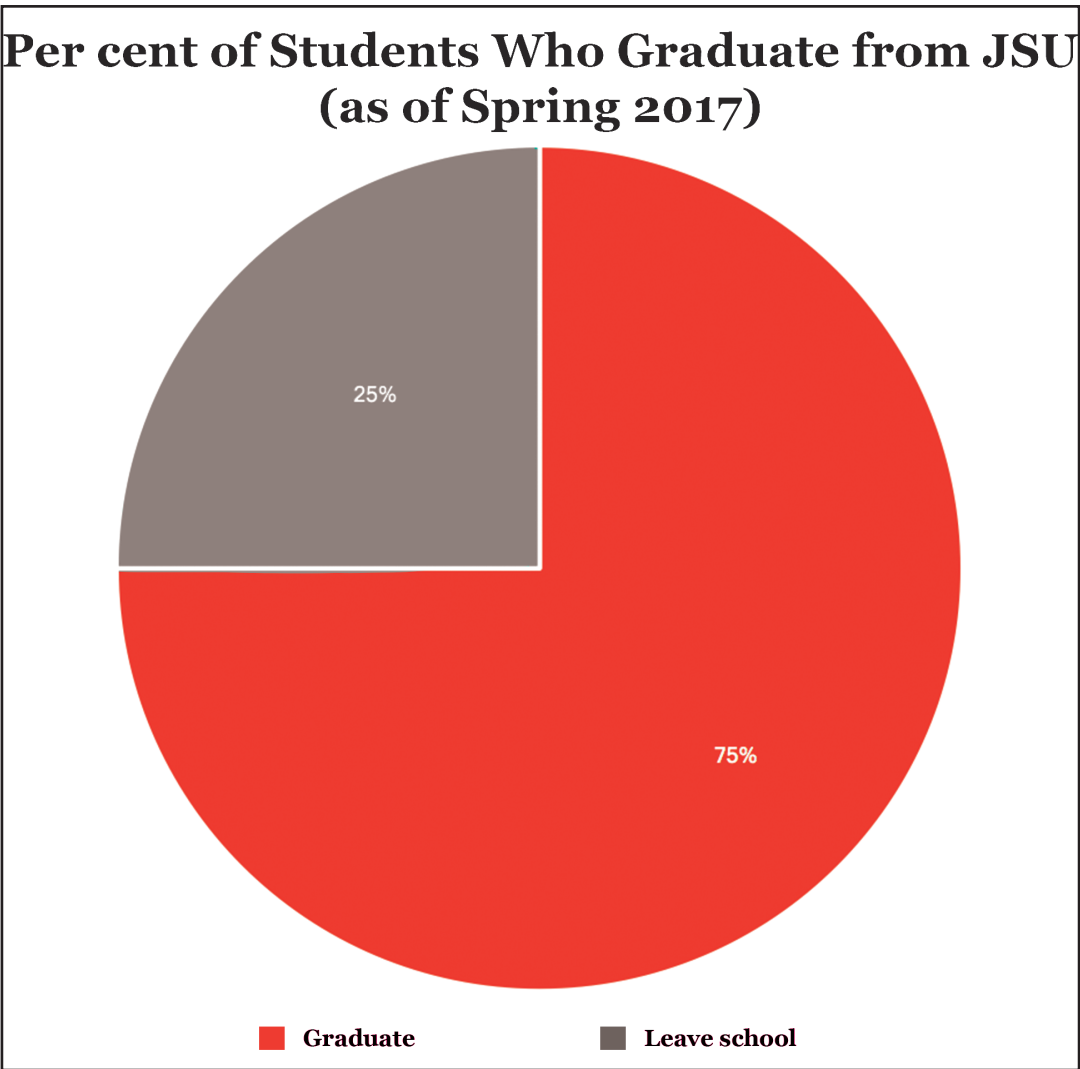
While some students do end up leaving Jacksonville State for financial reasons, there are a few, like Michael Panik, who just decide that a college degree isn’t necessary for the career they want to pursue.

“I think JSU is a really fantastic place,” he said, “but I’m a staunch believer that college isn’t for everybody.”

Panik stopped attending Jacksonville State in the spring of 2016 after spending five years in school but now works as the chief of technology for Plexamedia, a web design company based out of Birmingham.

He says that he left of his own volition to work for his company full-time, and feels that most of the knowledge he relies on in his field didn’t come from Jacksonville State, but the persistence to teach himself.

“I was spending so much money on a degree that I wasn’t going to use,” he said about his time at JSU.



Graph by The Chanticleer

Jacksonville State University’s graduation rate sits at 75 per cent as of Spring 2017.

Panik also argues that with information in our age being more readily available than it ever has been, paths to a career, especially one in technology, that don’t include a college degree are becoming more viable.

“Go teach yourself,” he said. “You’ve got to love what you do nowadays, and if you don’t care enough to educate yourself then you’re in the wrong field.”

Not everyone has the resolve or the resources to jump right into the workplace without spending some time at college. In addition, college classes can help students focus on what they really want to do. Austin Lovelace says his experience at JSU was instrumental in helping him determine which field he wanted to go into.

“As a freshman, I came in not knowing what to study,” he said, “It wasn’t until I got started with my major that I really found out what I wanted to do.”

Lovelace praises JSU’s geography department and its professors for helping him to figure out what he could do with his degree.

Now a graduate student at Clemson University studying city and regional planning, Lovelace mentioned that he finds himself going back to the knowledge he gained at JSU often.

“I think I learned a lot at JSU,” he said. “College is not easy, but in the end, I knew it

would be worth it.”

Dr. King is also still a believer that a degree from JSU is worth it in the end, and he mentioned that the first year is where the university sees most students leave the school.

“If you start your first semester off bad it’s almost impossible to recover,” he said, “people can recover, but it takes a lot of effort.”

He said STU 101, the freshman experience class, developed as a result of the school trying to implement ways to make the transition from high school easier for students, especially those who might not have a lot of resources to fall back on.

“We have a lot of first-generation college students,” King said. “They are coming here without any kind of institutional knowledge. They depend on the university, and if the university can’t connect with that student then they are floundering, and

they may flounder for two or three years until their financial aid runs out, so then they don’t graduate.”

King said that he has made a proposal for JSU to invest in predictive analytics software that would help the administration to meet students needs.

“It’s overwhelming for them; all of these different things they have to do,” he said, “and its overwhelming for us.”

King said that it has only been relatively recently that graduation rate has started to play a part in the amount of funding a school receives as well.

“For years graduation rate didn’t matter,” he said “we were getting the same funding regardless, but now it does matter, and it matters not only because we aren’t getting funding but it matters because it’s what we should be doing. We have to get everybody on the same page of believing that we work for the students.”

Alexander Cooper graduated from JSU in December 2017 with a degree in Digital Journalism. This piece was written as part of his Advanced Reporting course

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recovery process in the affected communities.

Green said, “At first I thought about donating the funds to the university, but after seeing the homes it was those people that I wanted to help.”

There are four county funds set up by the Community Foundation on their website, and one general fund. The funds have been in place since 2011 to ensure quick action after a disaster. After the March 19 tornadoes, the Community Foundation set up sub-funds to go directly to the communities hit by the storm.

Susan Williamson is the Vice President of Advancement and Communications at the Community Foundation. According to Williamson, the disaster funds have been in place since the 2011 tornadoes in preparation for any future disasters. The fund has had numerous donations since the devastation of the storm went viral.

“We have had

donations from coast to coast,” said Williamson, “from Washington State to South Florida to Carolina. I like to call it generosity rising.”

Heather Lamey is the Director of Donor Grants and Standards for Excellence at the Community Foundation. According to Lamey, the Community Foundation helps with the long-term recovery of the communities.

“We step in during the long-term recovery, during the rebuilding process. As the months go by it is not so fresh on their minds and we are able to step in when resources run out,” says Lamey.

In a post on social media, Green shared her experience of donating the funds at the Community Foundation. There she and the ladies at the Community Foundation hugged and shared how the money would help the communities.

“The money we have raised can be used to fix roofs or to buy

people new washer and dryers, and it has just made my day to know how we have helped so many people,” said Green in reference to those that purchased the shirts.

The Community Foundation assists the local area after other assistance has run out, working with contractors where insurance has not paid.

“After the 2011 tornadoes, we helped a lady that needed a ramp built at her home. We also had a school in DeKalb County that had been completely destroyed and we granted money for computers and new signs to the school. We pay contractors after the insurance claims have been exhausted – to meet the unmet needs,” said Lamey.

The long-term recovery efforts from the tornado can continue months after the storm. It can take time to determine all of the needs that insurance does not provide.

“Long-term recovery from 2011 took 18 months. It can be a



Photo from bonfire.com (deisgn by Hannah Green)

The shirt designed by JSU alumnae Hannah Green bears the message #JacksonvilleStrong.

year to a year and a half before we know the needs,” said Williamson.

Green’s donation to the Community Foundation has joined the numerous others that have come from across the nation. What began with an expression of support

to her home of five years turned to a design of relief for her community.

“I have lived here my whole adult life. I always knew that it was home to me – it has a special place in my heart. Now after seeing how supportive everyone is of each

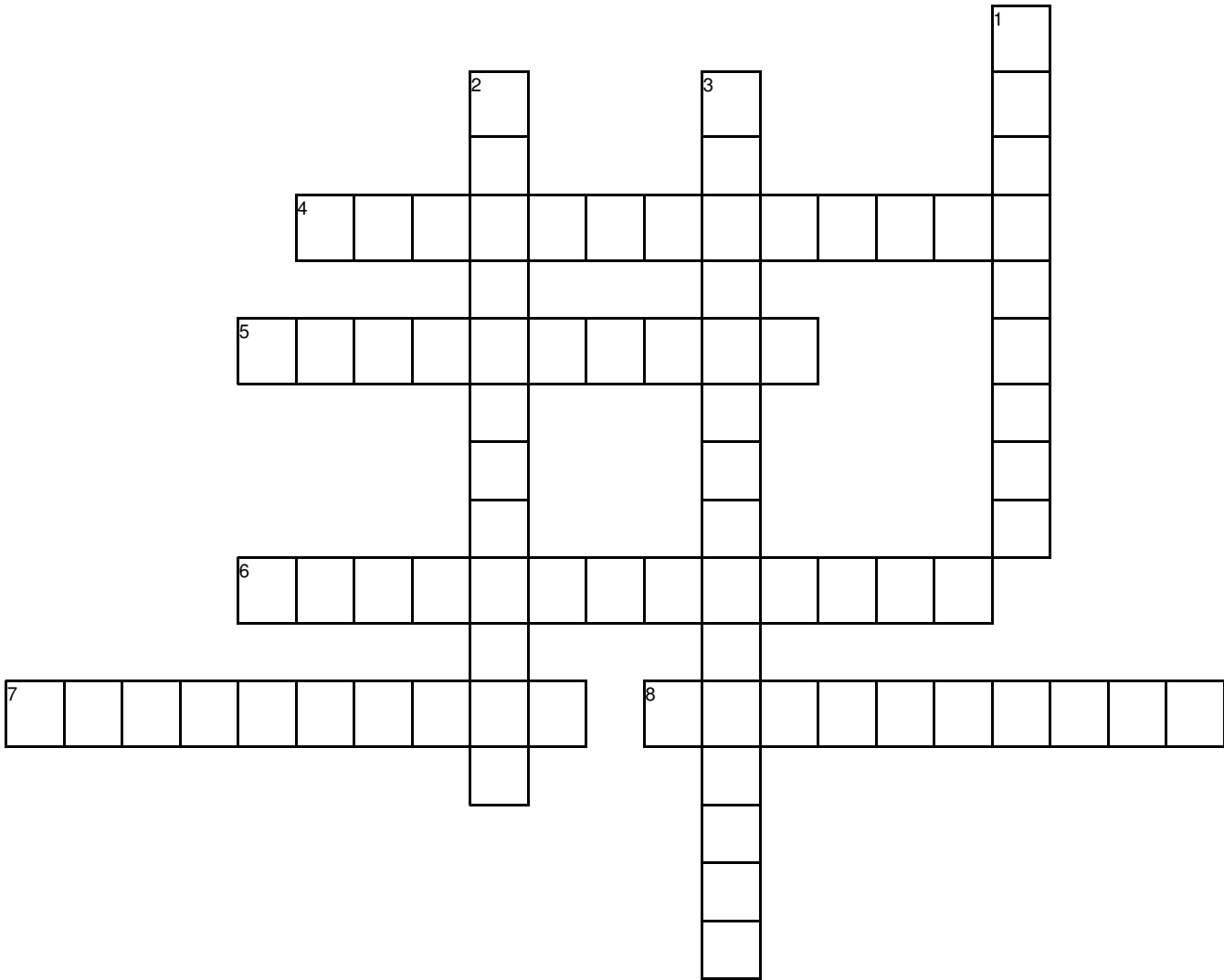
other it has just made it so much more special,” Green said.

Lauren Jackson is graduating in May with her degree in digital journalism. This piece was written as part of the final COM 420 Advanced Reporting course.

Study Break

Campus Crossword! Talladega Superspeedway Edition

Talladega



Across

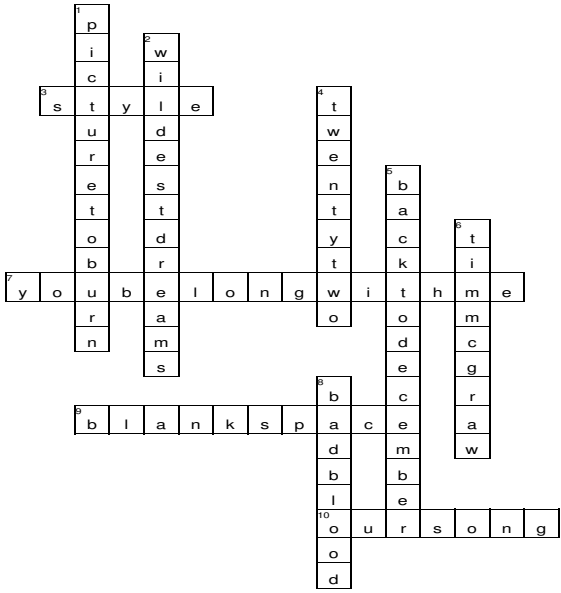
4. Who is the youngest driver to win at Talladega?
5. Who was the first driver to reach speeds of over 200 mph?
6. Who holds the record for smallest margin of victory?
7. Who has the fast lap at Talladega?
8. Who recorded a song about Talladega?

Down

1. Who is the oldest driver to win at Talladega?
2. Who holds the record for largest margin of victory?
3. Who has the most career wins at Talladega?



Editor’s Hint: Google is still your friend, everyone!



- Across**

3. James Dean reference ...

7. Taylor was in the band and a cheerleader ...

9. It's easy to write something when you have a ...

10. Was the sound of slamming doors ...
- Down**

1. First breakup song ...

2. Say you'll remember her ...

4. I don't know about you ...

5. Let's go back to the end of the year ...

6. Her first single ...

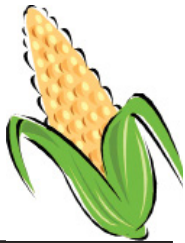
8. Blood everywhere ...

Last Week’s Solution!

Chris’ Random Fact:

When Brad Keselowski, the active leader in career wins at Talladega, won in 2009, he actually drove for James Finch.

THIS MAYES IS CORNY!



... Puns from the collection of:
Sports Editor Daniel Mayes #shootpunsnotguns

THE FIRST TIME I HUNG OUT WITH MY GIRLFRIEND WAS AT A BASKETBALL GAME. THAT WAS WHEN I WAS “COURTING” HER.

IF YOU GET A JAPANESE MADE CAR FOR YOUR BROTHER’S OR SISTER’S SON, IT’S CALLED A NEPHEWSAN.

A LIZARD WHO SELLS BATHROOM FLOORING IS A REPTILE WHO REPS TILE.

A SIGN SAID “AUTHOR-IZED PERSONNEL ONLY” SO I WENT AND LEARNED HOW TO WRITE A BOOK.

IF YOU ALREADY GAVE A PRESENTATION, IT’S CALLED A PASTATION.

TEARS & ENTERTAINMENT

Goodbye to “one of a Cline”

Alissa Camplin
Arts & Entertainment Editor

To the fearless Katie Cline,

You have been the brightest light in the office since the first day I stepped into it. Full of witty humor and kindness, you took a new A&E girl in without a blink and made me feel welcome and, most importantly, home. I will never forget the openness that you ensured I was extended from day one. I remember leaving the first time meeting you thinking about how much I hoped you liked me and how I hoped I made a good impression because I thought so highly of you.

There are so many traits you possess that I aspire to be when I grow up: brave, brilliant and altogether beautiful. Your grace and smarts are unmatched. Thank you for the times you didn’t roll your eyes when I had to ask basic grammar questions or when I told you I would be a feeeeeew minutes past deadline.

Thank you for the times you joined in singing (screaming) Ed Sheeran in the office, and thank you for turning a blind eye to the shenanigans that Tim and I would get ourselves into.

Thank you for an abundance of Taco Tuesdays and tequila. Thank you for the advice I didn’t want to hear and the guidance when I needed it more than anything else in the world. Thank you for the effort you put into making this newspaper a force to be reckoned with the university. I will always be honored to have worked under such an all-around amazing editor-in-chief.

I’m crying as I type this because I am so not ready to let you move on, but I am so excited for your future. Kansas doesn’t know how lucky it is to be earning such a gem of the hills. This office will miss your laugh and I will always wince at the thought of walking in and not seeing you cuddled up in your blanket behind your computer.

Katherine, I love you endlessly.
Because you were here, the Chanticleer is a better place.
Thank you for being “one of a Cline.”
Thank you for being my friend.



Alissa Camplin / The Chanticleer
Katie and Alissa posing for a photo in between handing out Game-cock Guides at the 2017 GO! Orientations.

Court rules against Madonna, allowing auction house to sell Tupac breakup letter

Kalhan Rosenblatt
NBC News

Several of Madonna’s personal items, including the letter that ended the pop icon’s relationship with rap legend Tupac Shakur, belong to an auction house and can be sold, a Manhattan judge ruled on Monday.

The items were originally up for bid last year, but the singer filed a temporary restraining order against New York auction house Gotta Have Rock and Roll to halt the sale, according to Reuters.

Madonna said in court documents that she was not aware until reading press reports that many of the items listed for auction, including the letter from her former boyfriend Shakur, were no longer in her possession, Reuters reported.

On Monday, Manhattan Supreme Court Judge Gerald Lebovits ruled that Gotta Have Rock had the right to sell the items, including the letter which went for a starting bid of \$100,000 in 2017.

“We did substantial due diligence when we took all the Madonna items for auction. We were confident that Madonna had no claim whatsoever, and the judge clearly agreed with us,” said the co-owners of “Gotta Have Rock and Roll,” Ed Kosinski & Pete Siegel.

Other items that can now be auctioned include a pair of Madonna’s panties, an old checkbook, a hairbrush, personal photos and another letter, in which she talked about singer Whitney Houston and actress Sharron Stone.

The items will go back up for sale in July. NBC News was not immediately able to reach representatives for Madonna



NBC News
(Right) Madonna attends the Billboard Women in Music 2016 event in New York City. (Left) This is a 1993 file photo of Tupac Shakur.

COAST-TO-COAST

Former Chanticleer editor selected as State Superintendent

Katie Cline
Editor-in-Chief

Dr. Eric Mackey graduated from JSU in 1992 with a Bachelor’s in general science education, and, on April 20, the Alabama State Board of Education selected him as the State Superintendent. Mackey beat out Jefferson County superintendent, Dr. Craig Pouncey, by one vote. The third finalist, Dr. Kathy Murphy, the superintendent of Hoover City Schools, did not receive any votes.

Mackey began his career in education as a physics teacher at Saks High School in Anniston, Alabama in 1993. He later served as the principal of Kitty Stone Elementary School and the superintendent of Jacksonville City Schools. Prior to being appointed to the State Superintendent job, Mackey served as the Executive Director of School Superintendents of Alabama, a position he has held since 2011.

“After working in the Calhoun County and Jacksonville City school systems, I saw the impact that state policy has on local schools and became more involved in policy issues,” Mackey told The Chanticleer. “Most educators don’t really like the policy end because it often leads to political complications, but I enjoy policy.”

Now, Mackey has a hand in making those policies, and he wants the education system to focus on supporting teachers.

“We are going to support and embrace the work of classroom teachers, who make the difference for students every day,” Mackey told the Chanticleer of his plans. “Only by supporting our educators and providing them with clear goals, direction and resources, do we move educational attainment forward in our

state.”

Even though he will not officially start until May 14, Mackey identified his first course of action to media following his selection.

“The top priority will be assessment, getting the assessment system right,” Mackey told WSFA 12 News in Montgomery. “The reason it has to be top priority is because in order for us to have a new assessment in place in two years, which we’ve promised our locals we’ll have something ready to go by spring 2020, that RFP has to be released by early summer.”

Mackey was confirmed by the State Board of Education in an 8-1 vote, with only Ella Bell opposing. Bell voted for Pouncey and claims that a legal issue between Pouncey and board member Mary Scott Hunter swayed the original vote.

Gov. Kay Ivey, president of the Board, released a statement congratulating Mackey.

“During the interview, I was impressed by Dr. Mackey’s embrace of my vision to ensure that our children have a strong start to their educational journey so that they have a strong finish when they enter the workforce,” Ivey wrote. “That is the kind of forward thinking we need at the helm of the State Board of Education. I look forward to working with Dr. Mackey in the days ahead as we put the focus where it should be – on effectively educating every child in Alabama.”

Mackey and his wife, Robin, met at JSU, where Mackey was editor-in-chief of the Chanticleer from January 1991-April 1992. The couple has three sons: John, who is graduating from JSU in May with a degree in integrated studies; Brandon, a freshman at UAB majoring in physics; and Christopher, an eighth grader Pike Road Middle School in Montgomery.



Photo via School Superintendents of Alabama

JSU and Chanticleer alumnus, Dr. Eric Mackey, was selected as the Alabama State Superintendent on April 20. Mackey has worked in the Alabama education system since 1993 as both a teacher and an administrator. Mackey and his family currently reside in Montgomery. He will begin work as State Superintendent on May 14.

Barbara and George Bush’s love story remembered at her funeral

Rachel Siegel
The Washington Post

Some 1,500 guests filled the pews of St. Martin’s Episcopal Church in Houston on Saturday, including former presidents and first ladies, and family and friends who gathered to celebrate Barbara Bush’s 92 extraordinary years of life.

Seated front and center, confined to a wheelchair but sporting socks embroidered with books to celebrate his wife’s dedication to literacy, was Barbara’s husband of 73 years: former president George H.W. Bush.

Between eulogies delivered by their son, Jeb, and presidential historian Jon Meacham, the funeral was as much a celebration of the Bush’s marriage as it was of the family’s matriarch.

Barbara’s death marked the end of the longest presidential marriage in American history, followed only by Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter, who have been married for 71 years. John and Abigail Adams — married for 54 years — held the record for much of American history. (Like Barbara Bush, Abigail was wife to one president and mother to another.)

Barbara’s widower, whose own health has been in decline, remains America’s longest-living president, having surpassed Gerald Ford, who died at 93 years and 165 days, last November. George will celebrate his 94th birthday in June.

Barbara Pierce first met George H.W. Bush at a Christmas dance in Greenwich, Conn., in 1941. Barbara, then only 16, attended boarding school in South Carolina, and George, all of 17, went to school in Massachusetts, so the two began a long-distance courtship. At age 19, Barbara left the elite Smith College to be with him.

Not yet married, Barbara and George were soon separated by World War II, relying on handwritten letters as the only bridge between them. In a 2011 interview for the Today Show with granddaughter Jenna Bush Hager, George Bush said those missives “were everything” to them. Stationed aboard a ship in the Pacific as a young Navy pilot, he said he would eagerly wait for mail call and to hear someone yell “Bush!”, signaling another one of Barbara’s cherished letters had arrived.

In one reply to his “Darling Bar,” dated Dec. 12, 1943, the future president wrote, “I love you precious with all my heart, and to know that you love me, means my life.”

On Sept. 2, 1944, Bush was shot down over Chichi Jima in the Pacific Ocean. Not long after, Barbara received a letter from George assuring her that “all was well.” But, Barbara told Hager, the letter was dated before George’s plane had been hit.

George survived the plane crash, but the letters

from Barbara he carried with him did not. George soon came home, and the two were married on Jan. 6, 1945, while George was home on leave. They had six children together and endured the heartbreaking death of one of them: daughter Robin, who died of leukemia at the age of 3.

[‘One last time’: Barbara Bush had already faced a death more painful than her own]

While eulogizing his mother on Saturday, Jeb Bush listed the many moves Barbara and George made during their marriage, through George’s endeavors in the oil business to his decades-long political career. From New Haven to Beijing to the White House, their addresses changed, but Jeb assured “their love was a constant in our lives.”

“Our family has had a front-row seat for the most amazing love story,” Jeb said.

From the podium, Jeb recalled another letter George wrote Barbara on their anniversary in 1994.

“Will you marry me?” George wrote. “Oops, I forgot, we did that 49 years ago. I was very happy on that day in 1945, but I’m even happier today. You have given me joy that few men know ... I have climbed perhaps the highest mountain in the world, but even that cannot hold a candle to being Barbara’s husband.”

He continued: “Mom used to tell me, ‘Now George, don’t walk ahead.’ Little did she know I was only trying to keep up, keep up with Barbara Pierce, from Rye, New York. I love you.”

eb said that the last time Barbara went into the hospital, he thinks George got sick on purpose so he could be in the hospital alongside her. Jeb described his father looking “like hell,” dependent on a breathing mask, his hair disheveled, but steadfastly holding Barbara’s hand.

Jeb said that when Barbara finally opened her eyes, she looked at George and said, “My god George, you are devastatingly handsome!” The doctors and nurses had to leave the room to keep from crying.

In his last conversation with his mother, Jeb said he asked her how she felt about dying.

“I don’t want to leave your dad,” Barbara said. “But I know I will be in a beautiful place.”

Looking out onto the pews during the funeral, Meacham recalled sitting with George and Barbara at their family home in Maine in July 2017. That sunny day, talk turned to World War II, Meacham said, and to the day when George was shot down over the Pacific and two of his crew mates became casualties of war.

“You must have been saved for a reason. I know there had to be a reason,” Meacham recalled Barbara saying.

For a brief moment, George sat silent, Meacham said, before raising his left hand and pointing his finger across the table at Barbara.

“You,” George said hoarsely. “You were the reason.”



AP Photo

President George H.W. Bush and Barbara dance at the inaugural ball on Jan. 20, 1989.

OPINIONS & EDITORIALS

One last time

Editor-in-Chief Katie Cline says goodbye

Katie Cline
Editor-in-Chief

I used to sit in my dad’s office and correct the Chanticleer with a red pen. In one issue, there was a jump line that said, “continued on page 2,” but the story wasn’t there. It just cut off in the middle of a sentence. I was appalled.

That was in high school. I don’t know who the Chanty editor was then, and I haven’t bothered to figure it out. But I do know that I relate to him or her now.

I never planned on becoming the editor of the Chanticleer. I didn’t grow up wanting to be a journalist. I just wanted to write. Because, words, well they’re our most inexhaustible source of magic, aren’t they? Writing has always come naturally for me. I used to turn my spelling word sentences into stories. I have journals upon journals and files upon files of poems and stories and character sketches that have never gone anywhere. I write letters to my best friends to celebrate graduations, anniversaries or just the beginning/end of another year. I have a lot of feelings, and words have always been my outlet when talking is maybe too hard. And, because I wanted to share all those feelings with everyone, I thought journalism was a career for me.

I was a little wrong. Journalism isn’t a place for feelings—except that is. Journalism is short, hard, no-nonsense, “just the facts, ma’am” writing. But that has never meant that I shy away from issues I care about. In fact, I think you’ll find that journalists care more than your average person, because they’re willing to put aside their biases and their feelings to get the real story to the people. And, honestly, it’s one of the hardest things for a person to do.

In the two (amazing, eye-opening, inspiring difficult, long, draining, frustrating, exhilarating, ridiculous, invaluable) years that I’ve been editor, I’ve tried to show readers the human side of journalism. I’ve tried to make our articles about the people. I’ve tried to show ingenuity and originality and creativity. I’ve tried to lead with confidence when I’m terrified, wisdom when I’m unsure, kindness when I’m angry and persistence when I’d rather give up.

And I’m sure that—to an extent—I’ve failed. No one can do this job perfectly, or even as well as they want to. And whatever success I have had wouldn’t have been possible without the scores of people who have believed in me along the way:

My parents, George and Brenda Cline, who have never once told me that my dreams were too big, who run 7 a.m.

paper routes and who know far more than they’d care to about the newspaper industry.

Marie McBurnett and Alex McFry, who let me write for the paper when I didn’t know what I was doing and encouraged me to keep pursuing this crazy thing called journalism.

Drs. Kingsley Harbor, Augustine Ihator, Patrick McGrail, Mr. Mike Stedham and Mr. Jerry Chandler, who saw something in me that made them think I’d be a good editor and gave me this job in the beginning—and who I hope don’t regret that decision two years later—and have given me so much genuine support and help as I adjusted into this role and then as I (attempted to) push boundaries and continue growing in my field.

Dr. Jason Peterson and Mr. Fawad Shah, who showed up this year and offered up just as much support and guidance as if they had had a say in hiring me in the first place.

ALL of my fantastic co-editors over the years—Katelyn “Bug” Schneider, Timothy Cash, Alissa Camplin, Rebekah Hawkins, Daniel Mayes and Chris Brown—who have grown with me, worked with me, laughed and cried and complained with me and made a stressful job a little more fun. Some have graduated; the others will, and I am honestly so proud that I got to work with

each of you, and I know that you will be massive successes. Please give me a shout out in your Pulitzer speeches, and thank you for never telling me no, even when you definitely should have.

My best friend, Meg, who has sacrificed time with me because I needed to work, brought me food in the office when I was too busy to leave, spent hours listening to me complain and heard way more “confidential secrets” than she probably should have and never breathed a word of them. Thank you for your advice and patience and unfailing friendship even when I was way too much.

To the next editor, I hope you have as much support as I’ve had. I hope you’re braver than me. I hope you’re less afraid of confrontation. I hope you’re better at graphic design. I hope you love this job and everything it’s about more than I did, because, if you do, I know the paper will be in good hands. This small, weekly periodical is my baby in so many ways. I’ve watched it grow for two years, and I feel like a mother sending her child off to preschool for the first time.

And, like any good parent, I have some unsolicited advice as they drop you, scrambling and excited and nervous and reeling, into your editorship:

Treat every issue like it’s your last. Because you never know when a tornado is going to sweep through and throw you

off. Don’t put off stories longer than you have to. Keep pushing. Pack every paper with the hardest hitting, most interesting news you can find. Ask more questions. Ask harder ones. Go into this job like it’s the spring semester of your senior year and no one can touch you.

Don’t be afraid. I promise, the worst thing they’ll say is “no.” (And if you’re lucky, they’ll say “no comment.”) If you feel like you’re onto something, pursue it. Make them know your name.

If it’s accurate, they won’t say anything to you. For me, the most rewarding part of being editor was when someone said they didn’t like what we ran. Not because I want to upset people, but because that means we said something that someone didn’t want to get out. Like housing. Like the rec center. Like financial aid. And if they read it and didn’t like it, it still means they read it. And that’s what you want. But no matter how nerve-racking it is, go for it. Check it. Double check it. Then run it. Make sure it’s right, and you’re safe.

Make your own mark but know that you’ll never do enough. Don’t follow in my footsteps. Make your own mistakes. Do your own thing. Boost the areas I’m lacking in. Throw out that layout you hate. I won’t be offended. I had my time. This is yours. But, please remember that no matter what you do, you’ll never feel like you’ve done everything you’ve set out to accomplish. One year—or even two—isn’t enough time if you’re doing your job right.

My world is already spiraling into my next adventure: graduate school. This summer I’ll be moving to Manhattan… Kansas. I’ve been accepted at Kansas State University where I’ll be getting my Master’s degree in English with a concentration in Children’s Literature. I’ve been offered a graduate teaching assistantship and two scholarships. I’m going to (hopefully) study Harry Potter. I don’t know a lot of what’s going to happen, but I’m never going to stop writing, that much I know for sure.

I’ve been counting down to this, my last paper, for months, trying to decide what to say and how to say it. I’ve looked for song lyrics, Harry Potter quotes, old Chinese proverbs—anything that might describe how it feels to be coming to this moment. And nothing fits. For once, my words are failing me.

All I can say is “thank you.” Thank you for reading and liking and sharing and making an overly optimistic twenty-something feel like she’s made a little bit of a difference doing something that she’s come to love so, so much.

This may be the last thing I write as editor, but it will not be the last thing I write.



Photo via Katie Cline

Editor-in-Chief Katie Cline holds up her Kansas State University acceptance letter. Cline will be pursuing her Master’s degree in English at the university beginning this fall.

Well, since you asked...

Katie Cline
Editor-in-Chief

As part of a graduating senior exit survey, I was asked if JSU was the Friendliest Campus in the South. I chose the “disagree” option and was then given the opportunity to explain why. This is what I said:

“I believe that (most of) the faculty and staff truly are the friendliest, most caring, intelligent, and involved of anyone at any university in the country, but the administration, particularly the president, his Cabinet, and the Board of Trustees have shown time and time again that the views expressed by students--and even faculty--do not matter.

The president is not interested in his students’ well-being, and is only interested in their success for the money he thinks it will bring to the university as alumni. He consistently presents a “me first” attitude when interacting with students and does not seem to do so of his own free will. (His interactions are almost always limited to large group settings like Preview Days and Orientation. He does not stop and talk with students around campus or show any vested interest in them as people.)

The president’s attitude trickles down to the other members of the administration, including at least two of the deans (from my personal experience). The administration is almost always condescending toward students, as if them coming into an administrative office to ask a question about financial aid/transcripts/housing/scholarships/etc. is a burden on the staff, and, as a student, I get the impression that they would rather me “figure it out myself” than ask them to do their jobs. Many of the administrative workers and faculty do not have what I would call a servant’s heart and do not seem to want to help the students they are here to assist.

During Orientation, incoming students are made to feel like JSU is really about YOU, but once they get assigned an ID number, everything changes, and they are subjected to the same red tape, runaround, hoops to jump through, and general disrespect that the upperclassmen face every semester.

Part of this, I believe, is due to the university’s dearth of communication skills. Regarding the aftermath of the tornado, I have several questions: Why was the primary form of communication Dr. King’s personal Facebook page and not from the university’s official channels?

Why did Dr. Beehler not make any announcements? And why were there so many confusing changes and rescissions to statements? If these changes were, in fact, because of the policy of an outside agency, why were these agencies not named (all we ever heard was the ominous “they”)—or, more effectively, why were these agencies not consulted BEFORE a mass decision was announced?

Overall, it seems like very little protocol was followed during this crisis (if such a protocol even exists--which, at this point, is questionable). As a student who lost her entire childhood home in the disaster, it added so much more unnecessary stress on me and my family than if the university had waited to make one announcement about the plans for the semester after everything had been clarified and secured.”

Will I miss JSU? Oh, yes. I have made so many memories, accomplished so much and grown exponentially as a person in my four years here. (For example, four years ago, I never would have published these comments.) But will I miss feeling like I am less than a person just because I’m a student or that the only thing my university values about me is my money?

No.

SPORTS

JSU Sports Upcoming Events

Friday, April 27

Baseball
Game 1 vs. EKU*
6:00 p.m.
Choccolocco Park

Women's Track
ETSU Invite
Johnson City, TN

Saturday, April 28

Baseball
Game 2 vs. EKU*
1:00 p.m.
Choccolocco Park

Softball
vs. Morehead State*
1:00 p.m., 3:00 p.m.
Choccolocco Park

Sunday, April 29

Baseball
Game 3 vs. EKU*
1:00 p.m.
Choccolocco Park

Softball
vs. EKU*
1:00 p.m., 3:00 p.m.
Choccolocco Park

Tuesday, May 1

Baseball
vs. Troy
6:00 p.m.
Troy, AL

Wednesday, May 2

Softball
vs. UAB
5:00 p.m.
Choccolocco Park

Friday, May 4

Baseball
Game 1 vs. Morehead St.*
4:00 p.m.
Morehead, KY

Softball
vs. Tennessee Tech*
1:00 p.m., 3:00 p.m.
Choccolocco Park

Women's Track
Tennessee Challenge
Knoxville, TN

Bold = Home contest

* = OVC contest

Visit
JSUGamecocksports.com
for complete coverage of
JSU Athletics.



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JSU Golf freshmen Jesus Dario Montenegro and Quim Vidal Mora were honored at the OVC Golf Awards Banquet.

Freshman duo earns OVC honors

MUSCLE SHOALS – A pair of Jacksonville State freshmen were honored on Monday night at the Ohio Valley Conference’s Men’s Golf Awards Banquet. Jesus Dario Montenegro was named the OVC Freshman of the Year and to the All-OVC Team, while he and Quim Vidal Mora were each named to the All-OVC Newcomer Team. The Gamecocks were the only team with multiple players on the five-person All-Newcomer squad.

Montenegro becomes the fifth Gamecock to win the OVC Freshman of the Year award but the first since Tomasz Anderson in 2012. The five Gamecock winners are two more than any other school in the 14-year history of the honor. He led the Gamecocks with a 73.8 stroke average in the regular season and carried that play over into his first OVC Championship on Monday. He is second on the individual leaderboard after a 2-under 70 in Mondays first round of the event.

Montenegro shot the fifth-lowest round in the OVC this season with a 66 in the second round of the FAU Spring Championship. He had two third-place finishes in the spring, the FAU Spring Championship and the Atchafalaya Intercollegiate, sandwiched around a 10th-place at the Cape Fear National Intercollegiate. Vidal Mora joined Montenegro on the All-OVC Newcomer Team after finishing second on the team with a 74.1 stroke average in his freshman season. The Barcelona, Spain, native had the second-best round by a Gamecock this season with a 67 in the final round of the East Bay Deli Classic on Oct. 31. He also had two other rounds in the 60s this season, a 68 at the Gary Koch Invitational and a 69 at the Mobile Sports Authority Intercollegiate, giving him three of the seven sub-70 rounds by JSU players this season. Vidal Mora carded a 1-under 71 in Monday’s opening round of the OVC Championship and is tied for fifth.

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JSU Golf is competing in the OVC Championships!

Check jsugamecocksports.com for the latest

Jax State Beach Volleyball sweeps Carson Newman in season finale

CLARKSVILLE, Tenn. – The Jacksonville State beach volleyball team closed its 2018 campaign with a dominating sweep of Carson Newman University to wrap up the Ohio Valley Challenge. As the opening wave of flights took place, sophomore Maddie Cloutier and junior Ashley Clinagan playing at the No. 5 court made quick work of the Eagles with a 2-0 win to give JSU’s its first point in the dual. Soon after the fourth pair with sophomore Kaylee Frear and freshman Grace Jar-nagin also completed a 2-0 sweep with set scores of 21-11 and 21-10. On the third court, the junior duo of Shay-la Schmidt and Hailey Hughes ran away with 21-10, 21-5 decisions, while at the same time the senior tandem of Hannah



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Kirk and Ludtke sealed the dual with 21-14 and 21-10 wins on court No. 2. The Gamecocks were able to complete their third dual sweep of the season when sophomore Sadie Anderson and Junior Katie Will defeated CNU, 21-17 and 21-13. Anderson and Will were the lone Gamecock duo to earn a point in the morning match against

Spring Hill, when they shut down the Badgers 22-20 and 21-15. JSU’s top flight pair won three of its four weekend matches, and Will joined Schmidt and Hughes tied for a team-high six wins this season. After cruising to victory on the second court against CNU, seniors Kirk and Ludtke leave the program as the all-time

winningest individuals. Ludtke amassed 15 wins in the three short seasons since the beach team was established, while Kirk was one behind with 14. Together, the dup won 13 matches as partners. Kirk also leads in career matches played, having never missed a beach dual since the inaugural 2016 season.

JSU Sportswire

Season ends for Gamecock Tennis

Daniel Mayes
Sports Editor

The season for the JSU Men’s and Women’s Tennis teams came to a close over the weekend as the two groups bowed out of the OVC Tournament. The Men’s squad made it to the second round, where they fell to Tennessee Tech 4-3, while the Women were defeated by Eastern Illinois 4-2 on Friday in the first round. The Gamecock Men, who shut out EIU in the first round Friday, found themselves knotted up with the Golden Eagles 3-3 heading into a deciding singles match between Pablo Caffarena and TTU’s Wenceslao Albin in the second round on Saturday. Albin lead TTU past Caffarena and the Gamecocks, ending JSU’s season. The Gamecocks finish the year at 15-5. The Gamecock Women also finished their season in heartbreak, falling to EIU by losing four of the five singles matches.

2018 was a successful campaign on the tennis court for the Gamecocks however, as they turned around a 4-17 record last season, including an 0-9 OVC mark, to finish the year 13-5, winning six of their nine conference contests.



Alexis Jimmerson (22) talks to Ryann Luna (26) after an at bat Tuesday against Georgia Tech. Luna hit the game-winning single in the ninth inning against the Yellow Jackets.

Gamecocks defeat Georgia Tech with 9th-inning walk-off winner

Daniel Mayes
Sports Editor

The Jacksonville State Softball squad took a break from their OVC schedule to take on the Yellow Jackets of Georgia Tech Tuesday night at Choccolocco Park, and the result was a thriller of a 2-1 walk-off nine-inning win for the Gamecocks.

With two outs in the bottom of the ninth, JSU sophomore Ryann Luna got an infield single that would score Anna Chisolm and claim the game 2-1 for the Gamecocks. Luna went 2-3 at the plate on the evening and tallied one RBI—the game winner.

Luna finished the deal for JSU, but the contest was a pitcher’s

duel, with the two teams allowing just two total hits until the fifth inning.

JSU’s Faith Sims would outduel Tech’s Emily Anderson for the win.

Sims, who gave up just one run to a team that came in to the contest with 46 home runs on the season, pitched a complete nine innings, allowing just five hits while striking out nine, earning the win, her sixteenth on the year.

Anderson held her own for Tech, allowing just seven hits in 8 and 2/3 innings.

JSU finally broke through with their first run, a Hayley Sims RBI double, in the bottom of the fifth, to make the score 1-0.

The Yellow Jackets answered

right back in the sixth, as a single with the bases loaded scored one to knot the game back up.

The contest stayed deadlocked until Luna’s game-clincher.

The win marks the second straight for the Gamecocks over Georgia Tech and their third in the last five matchups.

JSU will resume their conference schedule at their home away from home this weekend, as the Gamecocks host a pair of doubleheaders at Choccolocco Park in Oxford.

Morehead State will face the Gamecocks first for a pair of games beginning at 1:00 p.m. Saturday, April 28.

Eastern Kentucky comes in for a two-game set on Sunday, also commencing at 1:00 p.m.

Alabama contest moved to Tuscaloosa

JACKSONVILLE – Jacksonville State’s scheduled May 8 baseball contest with Alabama has been moved to Sewell-Thomas Stadium in Tuscaloosa, both programs announced on Sunday. The contest is set for 6 p.m. on the UA campus.

The game will wrap up the two-game set between the Gamecocks and Crimson Tide. JSU will be looking for its second consecutive series sweep and the fourth consecutive win over UA after shutting out the Southeastern Conference foe, 4-0, in Tuscaloosa on April 3. Last season, Jax State claimed both games between the two in-state clubs, 2-1 (10) and 11-8.

For fans who have bought tickets for the contest through the JSU Ticket Office and online at JSUGamecockSports.com, a refund will be credited back to the credit card that was used to purchase the game tickets.

After completing a weekend sweep of Belmont in Ohio Valley Conference play, Jax State will travel to Montgomery, Alabama on Tuesday to face Alabama State. First Pitch is set for 6 p.m. The Gamecocks return to Choccolocco Park this weekend against OVC foe Eastern Kentucky.

JSU Sportswire

JSU splits season set with Hornets

Gamecocks fall 6-2 to even series

MONTGOMERY – Jacksonville State split its two-game season series with Alabama State with a 6-2 setback on Tuesday night at the Wheeler-Watkins Baseball Complex.

The Gamecocks (22-15) were looking to sweep the in-state Hornets after taking the first meeting of the season last Tuesday, 10-5, at Choccolocco Park. The Hornets improved to 22-19 overall.

JSU, riding a four-game winning streak after the midweek win over ASU last Tuesday and a weekend sweep of Belmont in Ohio Valley Conference play, finished with 10 hits with five of them coming in the first three innings, but could not get a key hit to cash in the runs early off of the first two Hornet pitchers.

ASU’s third of four pitchers, Chase Laney

quieted the JSU bats over three of his four innings of work. Laney (5-) pitched four innings out of the bullpen and scattered five hits and allowed the two runs the Gamecocks scored. Laney retired the first six batters he faced and from the third inning until Trent Simpson led off the seventh with a single, ASU pitchers retired 10 in a row.

While the ASU pitchers were keeping JSU off the board, the Hornets were taking advantage of four walks by JSU’s five pitchers and a pair of hit batsmen, coupled with four Gamecock fielding miscues. ASU touched JSU starter Andrew Naismith, who was making his second start of the season against ASU, with single runs in the third and fourth. The Hornets expanded the lead with a pair of runs off one hit



in the fifth after a trio of walks opened the door for a big inning.

ASU pushed the lead to 6-0 with a solo home run and an RBI single in the sixth.

Freshman Alex Strachan broke up the shut-out with his third home run of the season and second against ASU. Strachan, who had a home run in the contest at Choccolocco Park last Tuesday, went opposite field for a two-run home run in the seventh.

Seniors Clayton Dan-

iel and Taylor Hawthorne had two hits each in the loss, while freshman Isaac Alexander added two more hits. With Daniel’s two hits at ASU, he inches closer to the 300 career hits mark. He is four hits shy of becoming just the fourth OVC player all time to have 300 or more hits in a career. JSU’s all-time career hit leader and OVC career leader, Bert Smith has 323 career hits.

The Gamecocks return to action this weekend at

Choccolocco Park, hosting Eastern Kentucky in a pivotal OVC weekend series. The series will get underway on Friday at 6 p.m. The series will continue through the weekend with 1 p.m. start times on Saturday and Sunday. Admission is free to all JSU students and all fans 18 years old and younger. All three games will be available on the OVC Digital Network and the Gamecock Sports Network.

JSU Sportswire