



The Chanticleer

JACKSONVILLE STATE UNIVERSITY'S STUDENT-PUBLISHED NEWSPAPER SINCE 1934

WEATHER: Partly Cloudy, High 80 Low 60

Thursday, February 22, 2018

inSIDE

How did the Gamecocks fare against Austin Peay?

pages 7 and 8



inTHE NEWS

Job Candidate Presentation

A presentation will be by an applicant for the Diversity and Inclusion Coordinator position will be Monday, February 26 at 10 a.m. on the 11th floor of the library. All are invited to attend.

JSU Drama: "Guys and Dolls"

JSU Drama will present "Guys and Dolls" February 23-24 and March 3-4 at 7:30 p.m. and February 25 and March 4 at 2:30 p.m. in Stone Center. Tickets are \$12 and can be purchased online or at the door.

Values in Action

The Canterbury Club Episcopal Campus Ministry will present a video lecture by Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist and filmmaker Jose Antonio Vargas on February 25 from 3-5 p.m. at St. Luke's Parish Hall on the corner of Church and Drayton Streets. Admission is free to all.

NPHC Expo

Students wishing to join an NPHC organization at JSU should attend the Expo on February 25 from 6-9 p.m. on the 11th floor of the Houston Cole Library. Admission is \$5. Students will have the opportunity to meet and learn about NPHC.



Katie Cline/The Chanticleer

Student moderators Adrienne Swindle and Alexis Paige ask questions to the #HereToo panel: Trace Fleming-Trice of Second Chance, Inc., Veronica Kennedy and Eddie Burkhalter, formally of the Anniston Star.

Unity Meeting hosts #HereToo sexual harassment panel

Baylee Morris
Special to the Chanticleer

Claims of sexual harassment appearing in the media is nothing new. It seems to be an issue that is seen in almost every news headline in recent months. On Wednesday, February 21, the students

of JSU set out to make this issue a little more prevalent and to see what individuals and organizations can do to make a difference in the world. To raise this awareness about sexual assault and biases in the media, a panel was formed.

Organizations sponsoring this year's Uni-

ty Meeting and the #HereToo panel were the JSU Sociology Club, W.I.S.E., Students for Equality, the NAACP, JSU College Democrats, the Secular Student Alliance, Zeta Phi Eta, Earth Club, Active Minds, Peer Educators and Lambda Alpha Epsilon.

The panel featured

Trace Fleming-Trice, Eddie Burkhalter and special guest Victoria Kennedy. All three panel members are respected JSU alumni. Fleming-Trice is an advocate with Second Chance, Inc., and Burkhalter is a former reporter for the Anniston Star. Kennedy worked for the Annis-

ton Star in the 70s and was sexually harassed by then-publisher H. Brandt Ayers.

"He came into the office one Saturday morning and told me I was a bad girl, and he bent me over the desk and spanked me with a metal ruler," Kennedy

See PANEL, page 2

Arbor Day celebration is "tree-mendous"

Katie Cline
Editor-in-Chief

"Look around this campus. Can you imagine what this campus would look like without trees?" Jacksonville mayor Johnny Smith asked the crowd that gathered by Bennett Field.

On Thursday, Jacksonville State University celebrated Arbor Day with the planting of an Overcup Oak tree near the newly christened Marching Southerners practice field.

"Oak trees are a universal symbol for strength and en-

durance," biology professor and keynote speaker Dr. Jimmy Triplett said, "and it is my hope that as we move into the future, our commitment to care for our environment and our trees will endure and we will continue to find the strength to play a positive role in the well-being of our planet."

JSU was named a Tree City USA Tree Campus in 2012, and the university has held an annual event each

See ARBOR DAY, page 2



Hollie Ivey/The Chanticleer

The winning design for this year's Arbor Day contest was created by JSU student John Wippler.

JSU marks 25 years of student research

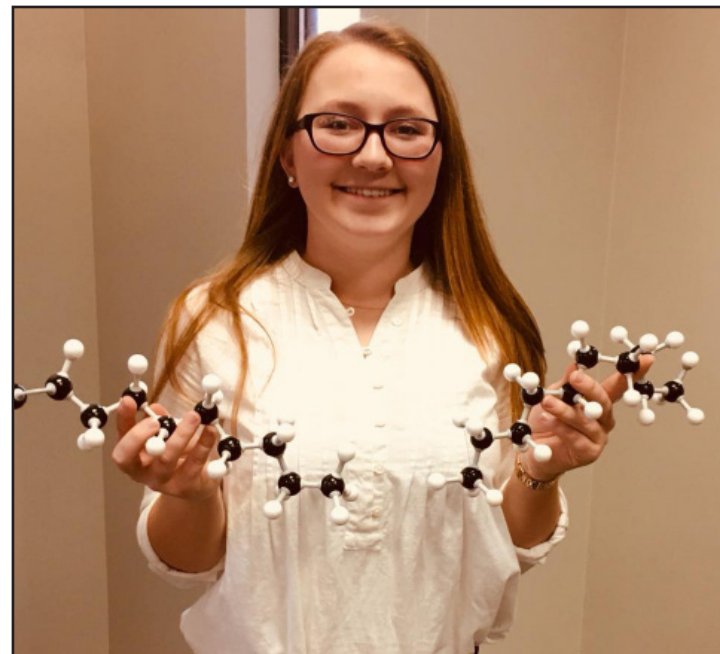
Katie Cline
Editor-in-Chief

Jacksonville State University proudly celebrated the 25th year of its Student Research Symposium from February 14-16, 2018. Students from every school participated at both the undergraduate and graduate level, competing for the ultimate prize of Best in Showcase.

This year was the first year for the Best in Showcase award, and the grand prize went to Joy Pinckard for her creation of

the app "Feathered Friends" under the mentorship of Dr. David Thornton, an associate professor of computer science. "Feathered Friends" is a game where users can breed, raise and bond with a pet bird. Players can also dress their birds in clothing they purchase using in-game coins and race their birds in a "Flappy Bird" style mini game. Pinckard, who hopes to go into video game development, designed the app

See RESEARCH, page 2



The JSU Student Symposium/Facebook

Sophomore Amber Smith shows off hydrocarbon models as part of her presentation for the 2018 Student Research Symposium.

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ARBOR DAY from page 1

year to reaffirm its commitment to a beautiful campus and a healthy environment.

Arbor Day began in Nebraska in 1872 as the result of the efforts of the journalist Sterling Morton. Morton was the editor of the “Nebraska City News” and advocated for the planting of trees through his articles and editorials. He was later named the Secretary of Agriculture by President Grover Cleveland.

“At Jacksonville State, we’re actually very fortunate to have a vast diversity of tree species,” Triplett said. “On a short walk, I can show students upwards of 100 different species of trees, including native oaks, maples, pines, magnolias, as well as really unusual things from all over the country and all over the world, and this is a testament to the vision of our university’s administration and the awesome grounds crew who have truly made this campus a beautiful place to be.”

The first Arbor Day was held on April 10, 1872, and the Arbor Day Foundation states that over a million trees were planted that day. The event became a legal holiday in Nebraska in 1875, and April 22—Morton’s birthday—was the chosen date of observance.

Today, Arbor Day events occur February through April in an effort to raise awareness about trees and the benefits of living in a tree friendly campus, community, city, state, nation and world.

“We’re here today to celebrate trees and to show our appreciation for everything they do for us, and we’re also here to fulfill our commitment to be stewards for the environment,” Triplett said. “I think all of us are actually environmentalists at heart, even though we might not say as much with our words or our actions but just we would all wish to be in the best possible physical shape, I think we also want our environment to be in the best possible shape.”

According to Triplett, who specializes in botany, 69 per cent of Alabama is forested, a fact that helps contribute to the state’s impressive biodiversity. In fact, in a 2015 biodiversity study produced maps that showed Alabama ranking among the top states in the country for its diverse populations of amphibians, reptiles, fish and trees.

Triplett also said that the timber industry employees around 170,000 Alabamians and produces \$100 billion in product each year.

To conclude his portion of the program,



Hollie Ivey/The Chanticleer

SGA President Ranger Rumrill, Jacksonville mayor Johnny Smith and Dr. Jimmy Triplett of the JSU Department of Biology shovel the final ceremonial scoop of dirt onto the Overcup Oak tree planted by Bennett Field in celebration of Arbor Day 2018 on February 15.

Triplett, who is also an award-winning Appalachian fiddler, performed an original song.

Following tradition, the Johnny Appleseed Award was presented to one person for his or her efforts in supporting the JSU and Jacksonville’s commitment to being a Tree City USA. The 2018 recipient was Scott Exum of the Alabama Power Company. Each year, Alabama Power donates up to 5000 trees each year for the Jacksonville City Tree Commission’s tree giveaway.

Finally, assistant professor of graphic design Christian Dunn presented this year’s winner of the event poster contest: John Wippler.

“My concept for the poster started with a style that represented a finger drawing in the dirt, or like a stick drawing in the mud like you would do as kids,” Wippler said. “And the idea behind this was kind of show things that you don’t usually think about when you’re planting a tree—

to draw attention to secondary effects that trees have on the environment and kind of zoom in and see what kind of environments are helped by the planting of trees. They’re not only used for preventing harmful gases and producing oxygen. They serve a larger purpose to a lot of other species, and within each tree an ecosystem is made: they have homes and shelter for bugs and different animals as well as house food to help sustain other animals, kind of in a perpetual cycle.”

Tyler Law, the athletic and grounds superintendent at JSU, and his team are responsible for organizing the Arbor Day event each year with the help of the Jacksonville Tree Commission and the JSU Tree Committee. JSU is one of only 13 colleges in Alabama that is a designated Tree Campus USA school, according to the Arbor Day Foundation.

RESEARCH from page 1

from scratch, including 3D modeling, programming and animation.

“Joy is one of the most productive students I’ve ever worked with,” Thornton said during Pinckard’s presentation. “Almost nobody has the skills to do all that.”

“I took Game Design I and II with Dr. Thornton, and that inspired me to continue my studies and work in game design,” Pinckard said. “It’s something that I’m very passionate about because it combines my love of 3D modeling, programming and human interface.”

Pinckard plans to continue to update the app, eventually adding additional mini games like a beauty pageant.

A second top award went to Griffin McDaniels for Best Graduate Paper. McDaniels is a biology graduate student who is currently working on his master’s thesis with Dr. George Cline. McDaniels’ paper, which covered his thesis work thus

far, was entitled “A broader approach to ecology and timing of symbiosis between the Spotted Salamander (*Ambystoma maculatum*) and a unicellular green alga.”

“Craig Guyer [of Auburn University] was kind enough to recommend that these guys come to JSU so we could work together, and I have been absolutely thrilled,” Cline said. “Griffin has an absolutely cool project that consumes my thinking and his thinking on almost night and day.”

McDaniels is studying the symbiotic relationship between spotted salamander larvae and a green alga that appears inside the salamander’s eggs. The alga produces oxygen for the larvae, and the larvae, in turn, produce carbon dioxide for the alga. McDaniels’ goal is to determine whether the alga enters the eggs via the female salamander or through the environment and when in the salamander’s developmental cycle the alga appears.

“Unfortunately, the verdict is still out,” McDaniels said. “Weather has been a problem, and, due to the drought last year, the salamanders didn’t breed, and, this year, they decided to wait and not breed until last week, so I haven’t had time to gear up that data yet. So, if you want to hear the end of the story, show up to my thesis defense.”

The full list of winners from the 2018 Student Research Symposium are:

Best of Showcase: Joy Pinckard mentor, David Thornton

Best Cover Design: Kelsey Blangin mentor, Chad Anderson

Best Graduate Paper: Griffin McDaniel mentor, George Cline

Best Undergraduate Paper: Marelly Balentina mentor, Joy Maloney

Best Graduate Poster/Demo: Daniel Wicker mentor, Lori Tolley-Jordan

Best Undergraduate Poster/Demo: Dianna Thompson, Shelby Harris and Samia Meera

mentor, Roger Sauterer

Best of the School of Arts and Humanities: Connor Holcome, Gen Ulanday and Alex Worsham mentor, Allison McElroy

Best of the School of Health Professions and Wellness : Kyndal Sanford, Carl Hood, and Alexis Johnson mentor, Allison Pearce

Best of the School of Hand Social Sciences: Hannah Galloway and Brittany Cangialosi mentor, Heidi Dempsey

Best of the School of Education: Becky Peters mentor, Teresa Gardner

Best Undergraduate Presentation for the School of Science: Taylor Pack mentor, Jim Rayburn

Best Undergraduate Presentation for the School of Science Graduate (tie): K a t e l y n Henderson mentor, George Cline and Kristin Carlisle mentor, Jim Rayburn

All the presentations from the 2018 symposium can be found online on the JSU Student Symposium YouTube channel.

PANEL from page 1

said.

One thing that the panel wanted attendees to take away was that people’s values uphold the inexcusability of sexual harassment in and out of the workplace. The panel also addressed the need for sexual harassment allegations to be taken more seriously.

Kennedy opened up recently to Burkhalter about the alleged sexual harassment. She did not come forward at the time because she was embarrassed and afraid of what might happen. She said that what helped her to come forward was the need to move on with her life.

When Burkhalter confronted his editors about the story, they told him not to pursue it. Realizing the importance of this story, Burkhalter left his job at the Star and continued to talk to victims, including Kennedy.

At some media organizations, sexual harassment is stopped in its tracks, while some still allow it to continue, the panelists said. They advised everyone to take responsibility to help their fellow human, whether that be by speaking up if they witness harassment or knowing the rules of their workplace.

“We need to confront rape, sexual assault and sexual harassment, and we not only need to confront it from the women’s standpoint but also in the cases dealing with men. The first case Second Chance ever dealt with was a man seeking help,” Fleming-Trice said. “Rape culture stems from power and control, and we have to recognize and challenge that culture.”

While alleged assailants should be innocent until proven guilty, Fleming-Trice stressed that victims should also be believed, particularly women of already marginalized groups, like women of color and LGBTQ women.

“It’s not fair that we as individuals have to be willing to lose if we go forward,” said Burkhalter, pointing out that it can be scary to come forward and risk of losing a job or having the whole organization finding out. Continuing, Burkhalter said that people should go forward and be brave, because without the brave ones nothing will ever be said or changed.

The biggest advice the panel offered was to not be scared. Sexual assault or harassment should never happen. Going forward and being brave and talking about it will make a difference. To witnesses: if you see something, say something, because silence hurts everyone.

Baylee Morris is a member of the Beta Lambda chapter of Zeta Phi Eta at JSU. Zeta Phi Eta is the national Communication Arts and Sciences professional fraternity.



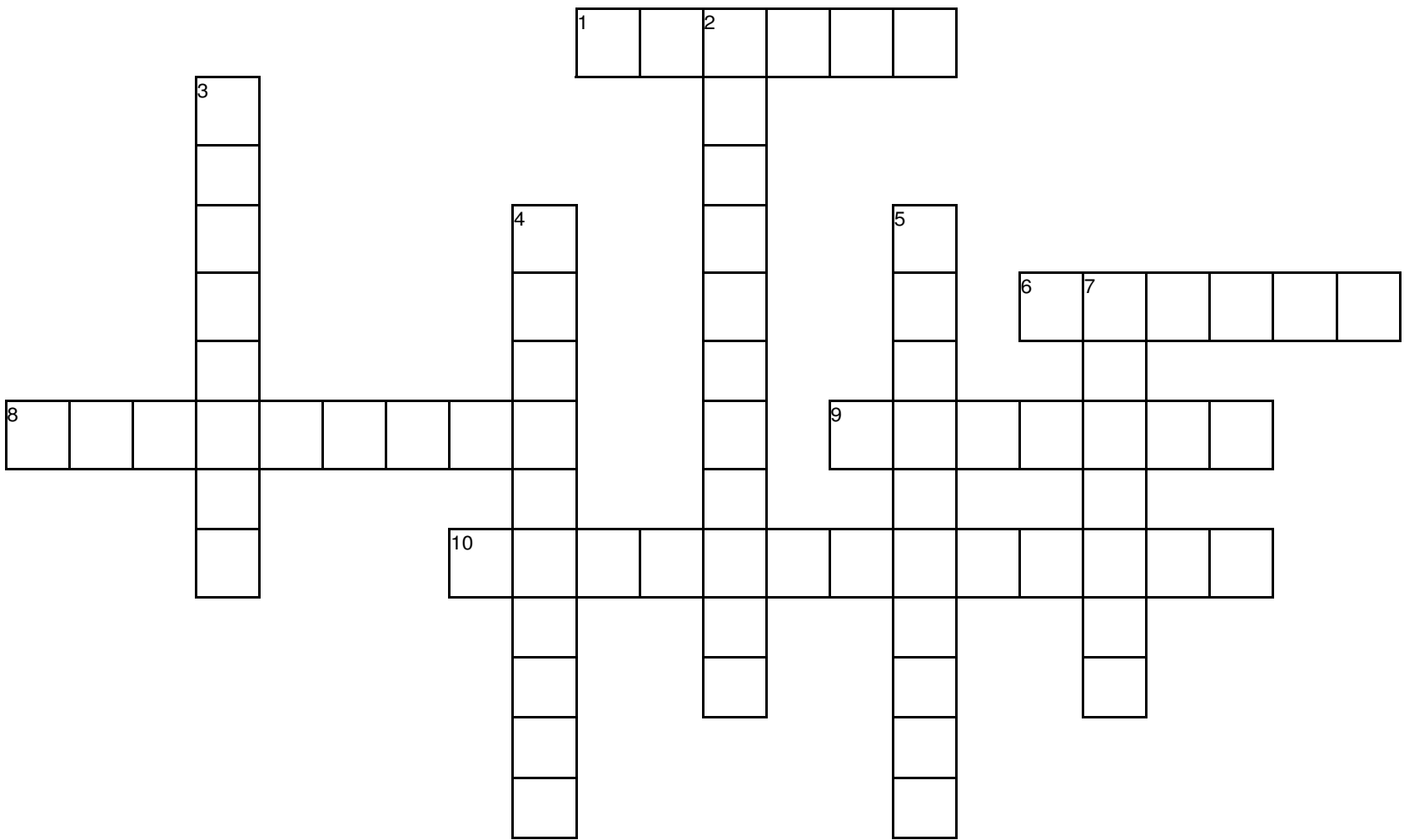
The JSU Student Symposium/Facebook

Winner of Best in Showcase, Joy Pinckard, is pictured center with her mentor Dr. David Thornton and some of her classmates following her presentation of her app “Feathered Friends.”

Study Break

Campus Crossword! U.S. State Capital Edition

U.S. State Capital

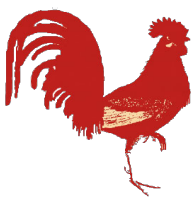


Across

- 1. Texas
- 6. New York
- 8. Kentucky
- 9. Georgia
- 10. Missouri

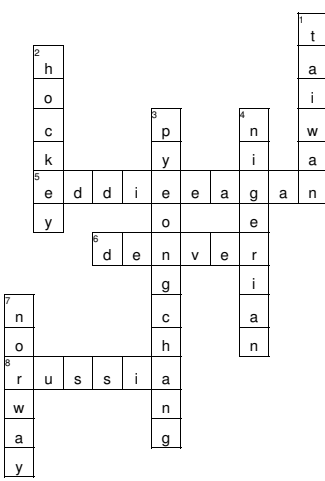
Down

- 2. Illinois
- 3. Wyoming
- 4. Arkansas
- 5. Alabama
- 7. Michigan



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

Winter Olympics 2018



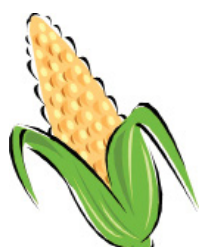
- Across**
- 5. This American is the only person to ever win gold medals at both the Winter and Summer Olympics
 - 6. This U.S. city was awarded then rejected the 1976 Winter Olympics
 - 8. This country was banned from participating due to a lengthy doping investigation

- Down**
- 1. This country is the only one to ever boycott a Winter Olympics
 - 2. This sport did not break from its regular season to allow athletes to participate in the Games
 - 3. This South Korea city plays host
 - 4. This country is represented for the first time at the Winter Olympics
 - 7. This country has captured more gold medals than any other country

Last Week's Solution!

Chris' Random Fact:
The capital of Switerzland is Bern and the official language of the city is German.

THIS MAYES IS CORNY!



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

IF YOU TAKE A SURVEY OF ONLY WOMEN IT'S CALLED A MA'AM-VEY

IF SOMETHING IS BAD BECAUSE IT RIPS IT IS TERRIBLE AND TEARABLE

JSU BASKETBALL ISN'T DOING SO GREAT RIGHT NOW, BUT HOPEFULLY THEY CAN TOURN IT ON IN THE TOURNAMENT

IF YOU WANT TO HALFHEARTEDLY EXCUSE SOMEONE WHEN THEY SNEEZE, SAY GESUND-LOOSE

IF YOU HEAD BAD BREATH IN ALABAMA'S CAPITAL, YOU WOULD CHEW SOME MINTGUMMERY

OPINION & EDITORIAL



Katy Nowak/JSU

ABOVE: Malcolm Drumwright (21) pulls up for a field goal attempt over a UT Martin defender during the Gamecocks' game against the Skyhawks. **BELOW:** Leah Strain (2) looks for a passing lane in a game against Tennessee Tech.



Gamecocks went on same drum as Malcolm

Chris Allen Brown
Associate Editor

Malcolm Drumwright has been through it all during the last four years.

At a school, not only 2,000 miles away from his home in Rancho Cucamonga, Calif., but also a football powerhouse trying to establish itself inside a basketball conference, Drumwright has helped do what many believe would be impossible — bring relevance to the Gamecock men's basketball program.

The seed for success was planted years ago, though.

During the 2014-15 season, Drumwright, then a true freshman appeared in 30 of 31 games. He averaged 21.8 minutes in those 30 games. But the biggest indicator came when he started six of the final seven games. Drumwright played 34 of 40 minutes and had eight points, seven assists and four steals in a 72-70 win over conference powerhouse Belmont.

That performance carried over to the 2015-16 season, where Drumwright started 24 games before an injury halted his season. However, he scored in double figures in 18 games during the season, including a career-high 30-point game against Jacksonville University.

His teammates Erik Durham and Greg Tucker reached the same scoring mark later in the season.

Then his junior season came. That's when Drumwright took his play for another level.

In 34 games, Drumwright averaged 12.5 points, 3.9 assists, 2.4 rebounds. He was one of three JSU players to average 30-or-more minutes a game and dished out a team-high 129 assists. He became the first Gamecock to dish out 10-or-more assists in a game when he had a 14-point, 12-assist double-double against Mississippi Valley State. He became the first Gamecock to win when Ohio Valley Conference Tournament Most Valuable Player award when JSU knocked off UT Martin 66-55 to win its third game in four days to claim the first conference championship in men's basketball.

Against Louisville in the NCAA Division I Tournament, Drumwright scored 12 points, dished out six assists and brought down two rebounds in 36 minutes.

His school was known. His name was known. Basketball was known.

Before the start of the 2017-18 season, Drumwright was one of two Gamecocks

(Norbertas Giga the other) to be named as a preseason All-OVC player. But the accomplishments didn't stop for the senior. He's set the JSU Division I record for career starts and flying up the school's Division I scoring list as quickly as his school turned into a conference title contender under head coach Ray Harper.

Through all the statistics, the scores, games won, and games lost, the thing that separates Drumwright from the rest is simple — how he handles himself.

No matter the end result of games, Drumwright has always been gracious when it comes to media availability. He's always kept his cool and never said anything negative when a call on the court goes against him — he just walks away from the situation without saying a word.

With everything going on in today's world, being able to know when to remain silent and not escalate a situation is key.

With Drumwright's career in a Jacksonville State uniform coming to a close in the coming weeks, one can't help but appreciate how much he's done to help turn around the program and become the face and captain of a resurgence.

Strain deserves credit for basketball expectations

Chris Allen Brown
Associate Editor

Leah Strain didn't have to continue playing basketball following her anterior cruciate ligament (ACL) tear during the summer before the 2015 season.

Strain, one of the most prolific prep basketball players in Alabama history, could've hung up her shoes and ankle braces to focus all of her time on being a nurse or member of the Alpha Omicron Pi sorority.

She could've said that's it, I'm done.

But she didn't. She continued to fight.

Strain fought out of the shadows of her older sister, Courtney, who owns the state mark for career points.

Strain fought the expectations of being an incoming freshman after helping Woodland High to its second consecutive state championship.

Strain fought the lengthy rehab that came with the torn knee ligament.

Strain fought to be seen time of the floor for JSU head coach Rick Pietri.

Strain fought to be Leah Strain. She wasn't going to give up and let people define her legacy. She took it upon herself to do that.

When Strain throws on the red-and-white No. 2 Jacksonville State uniform over her 5-foot-4 frame Wednesday night against Belmont, it'll be the 82nd game of her Gamecock career. It was a colle-

giate career that saw her score her first points during Jacksonville State's upset win against SEC foe Alabama on Nov. 18, 2014.

During the 2014-15 season, Strain set a career high in points with a 14-point outing against Mercer. Against the Bears, she went 5 of 10 from the field, including three 3-point baskets, and dished out six assists. For her performance, Strain was named the Ohio Valley Confer-

ence Freshman of the Week.

Off the court, Strain earned 2014-15 OVC Medal of Honor and OVC Commissioner's Honor Roll status after finishing the academic year with a 4.0 grade point average.

After redshirting during the 2015-16 season to rehab her ACL injury, Strain returned for the 2016-17 year.

She scored 10 points on 4-of-5 shooting against Brewton-Parker, be-

fore turning in a season-high 11 points in 18 minutes against Nicholls State. She also scored nine points in 10 minutes in the final game of the season.

As a redshirt-junior this season, Strain has played 373 minutes and scored at least one point in 22 of 27 games heading into JSU's home finale against the Bruins.

Strain will be remembered more for her resiliency than scoring while at JSU.

SPORTS

JSU Sports Upcoming Events

2/22

Men's Basketball vs. Belmont*
8:00 p.m. ESPNU
Pete Mathews Coliseum

2/23

Baseball vs. Rford
3:00 p.m.
Oxford, AL

Softball at Southern Miss
6:00 p.m.
Hattiesburg, Miss.

Women's Track OVC Indoor Championship*
Charleston, Ill.

2/24

Baseball vs. Rford
1:00 p.m.
Oxford, AL

Softball at Southern Miss
1:00 p.m., 3:00 p.m.
Hattiesburg, Miss.

Women's Basketball at Tennessee Tech*
5:30 p.m.
Cookeville, TN

Men's Basketball at Tennessee Tech*
7:30 p.m.
Cookeville, TN

Bold = Home contest

* = OVC contest

OVC Men's Basketball

| School | OVC | O/R |
|---------------------------|------------|--------------|
| Murray State | 14-2 | 22-5 |
| Belmont | 14-2 | 22-7 |
| Austin Peay | 11-5 | 16-12 |
| Tennessee State | 10-6 | 15-12 |
| Jacksonville State | 9-7 | 18-11 |
| Tennessee Tech | 9-7 | 17-12 |
| Southeast Missouri | 8-8 | 14-15 |
| Eastern Illinois | 6-10 | 10-17 |
| SIUE | 5-11 | 9-18 |
| Eastern Kentucky | 4-12 | 10-19 |
| UT Martin | 4-12 | 9-20 |
| Morehead State | 2-14 | 6-21 |

OVC Women's Basketball

| School | OVC | O/R |
|---------------------------|-------------|--------------|
| Belmont | 17-0 | 27-3 |
| SIUE | 13-4 | 16-12 |
| UT Martin | 12-4 | 16-12 |
| Jacksonville State | 11-6 | 17-11 |
| Morehead State | 10-6 | 19-10 |
| Southeast Missouri | 8-8 | 13-15 |
| Austin Peay | 8-9 | 15-13 |
| Murray State | 6-10 | 10-17 |
| Eastern Kentucky | 5-11 | 8-17 |
| Tennessee State | 4-12 | 6-19 |
| Tennessee Tech | 3-13 | 6-21 |
| Eastern Illinois | 1-15 | 2-25 |

Standings and Polls do not reflect changes made on or after Wednesday

JSU falls to Peay for third straight loss

Logan Arnwine
Staff Sports Reporter

Jacksonville State fell once again to Austin Peay Feb. 17, 57-60 in Clarksville, Tennessee, marking their third straight loss.

Before these three defeats, Jacksonville State (18-11, 9-7 OVC) had not lost back to back games yet this season.

In each loss, the Gamecocks lost both the turnover and three-point shooting battles with their opponents, most notably with 19 turnovers against Tennessee State and shooting 1-11 from three against Murray State.

In the last meeting between Jacksonville State and Austin Peay, the Governors defeated the Gamecocks 87-67, Jan. 13.

JSU struggled to defend against Austin Peay's offense in their first matchup. This time, Jacksonville State held the Governors to 60 points, 27 less than before, but the Gamecock offense couldn't put them over the top.

Austin Peay opened up with a quick lead of 19-4 and continued the



Steve Latham/JSU

Freshman Cam Martin scored a career-high 18 points in the Gamecocks' loss to Austin Peay.

pressure to close out the first half with a ten-point lead, 21-31.

After a missed three by Jamall Gregory, the Governors' Tre Ivory hit a huge three off of the assist from Zach Glotta on the other end to finish the first half and carry momentum into the second.

Austin Peay's defensive prowess forced a devastating seven turnovers for the Gamecocks in the second half, cutting potential game-changing runs short.

Neither side excelled in three-point shooting on Saturday, but what separated the two teams was the free throw shooting in the second half.

The Gamecocks shot

50% from the free throw line while the Governors shot 70%. Jacksonville State left the opening for Austin Peay to pull away with the victory by leaving points on the board.

In the final two minutes, the Gamecocks' Malcolm Drumwright, Christian Cunningham, and Cam Martin all missed a free throw a piece that could have tied the game at 60.

With eight seconds remaining, Austin Peay's Zach Glotta missed one of two free throws to give Jacksonville State one last chance to force overtime with a three-pointer.

With the final shot and three seconds remaining, Junior Forward, Jason Burnell missed the game-

tying three.

Dayton Gumm pulled down the game-sealing defensive rebound to end the Gamecocks comeback hopes and complete Austin Peay's victory, 60-57.

Jacksonville state played well in the paint, scoring 32 points in the post out of their 57 total points, compared to Austin Peay's 20.

Cam Martin scored 18 points, along with 10 rebounds for his first double-double of the season and his collegiate career.

Veteran guard, Malcolm Drumwright played all 40 minutes of the game while putting up 10 points, making this the sixth time of the season that he has played at least 40 minutes in a game.

Jacksonville State will play Belmont on Super Hero night, Feb. 22 at home on ESPNU at 8 p.m.

Belmont is coming off a 108-65 victory over Morehead State. The Bruins have won three straight and 11 out of their last 12 games, putting them at 22-7 overall and 14-2 in the Ohio Valley Conference.

JSU to dedicate Bill Jones Court Thursday

JACKSONVILLE — On Thursday, Feb. 22, Jacksonville State will announce the dedication of the court at Pete Mathews Coliseum as Bill Jones Court. Jones, the legendary Gamecock basketball head coach and student-athlete, will be recognized at half-time of the men's basketball game against Belmont. Thursday's game is set to tip at 8 p.m. on ESPNU.

"I am very honored to have the basketball court named for me," Jones said. "I want it to be a reminder of how many players, managers, assistant coaches, and support personnel gave all they had to make our basketball program a success for many years. When all our loyal JSU fans see my name on the court, I hope they recall all the great times we had in that coliseum."

Born September 5, 1944 in Guntersville, Ala., Jones played collegiately at Snead State Community College before joining Jacksonville State's basketball squad in 1964. At JSU, he led the Gamecocks in scoring in each of his two seasons. His senior year he led in free throw shooting at 84.7 percent and was named to the Alabama College Conference All-Conference Team.

To this day, he is the



JSU Sportswire

only JSU men's basketball player to have his number retired. His No. 12 hangs from the rafters of Pete Mathews Coliseum.

He began his head coaching career at Florence State, now the University of North Alabama, in 1972. After two years, he became the head coach at Jacksonville State and began a string of 11 seasons with at least 20 wins.

During his 24-season tenure, Jones was named as named the 1985 Kodak National Coach of the Year and received Gulf South Conference Coach of the Year honors three times. His highest honor came when his 1985 Gamecocks captured the NCAA Division II National Championship.

Upon retirement following the 1997-1998 seasons, his career record at JSU stood at 449-

196, making him the winningest basketball coach in school history.

"We are so proud to be able to place Coach Jones' name on our court," JSU Athletics Director Greg Seitz said. "Coach was incredibly successful during his tenure here, including winning numerous conference championships and the 1985 NCAA Division II National Championship, while also having a significant positive impact on countless lives at Jacksonville State University. It is only fitting that we honor him in such a special way."

Jones was recently announced as a 2018 inductee into the Alabama Sports Hall of Fame. He is part of an eight-man 2018 class that includes professional golfer Stewart Cink, former Alabama and NFL fullback Johnny Davis, former NCAA and NFL

head coach Chan Gailey, retired MLB pitcher Tim Hudson, NCAA gymnast Kathy McMinn, former All-Pro NFL receiver Terrell Owens and Clemson head coach Dabo Swinney. They will enter the Hall of Fame on Saturday, April 28 2018.

Along with being inducted into the JSU Athletic Hall of Fame, he is also a member of the Amateur Softball Hall of Fame and was a charter member of the Marshall County Sports Hall of Fame.

Jones, who was inducted into JSU's Athletic Hall of Fame in 1991, joins former Gamecocks Dieter Brock ('92), Don Salls ('92), Jodie Connell ('96), Rudy Abbott ('05), Charley Pell ('11), Eric Davis ('13) and Todd Jones ('17) in the ASHOF.

JSU Sportswire

Gamecocks beat Peay, fall to Belmont

Daniel Mayes
Sports Editor

After comeback win over Austin Peay to match the program best OVC win total with 11, the Jacksonville State women's squad fell hard to Belmont in their final home game of the season.

On Saturday, the Gamecocks overcame a fourth quarter deficit of at least seven points for the third consecutive game, taking down Austin Peay 51-50 for their program-best matching win.

After trailing by nine to begin the quarter, Jacksonville State worked its way back into the game, and, trailing by one with just five seconds left, Tasha Magruder was fouled.

Magruder hit on just 14% of her free throws coming into the game, but she calmly drilled both to give the Gamecocks the lead and, eventually, the win.

Tyler "Cocoa" Phelion stuffed the final shot attempt from the Governors to seal the victory.

Phelion scored 10 for the Gamecocks, and Chloe Long put up a double-double with 11 points and 11 rebounds.

On Wednesday night's



Katy Nowak/JSU

Tasha Magruder's clutch free throws lifted JSU over Austin Peay on Saturday.

final game of the season in Pete Mathews, the Gamecocks got off to a promising start for an upset bid against the conference's top seed, No. 23 ranked and OVC unbeaten Belmont.

The first quarter was a defensive slugfest, and a Belmont bucket with just 3 seconds remaining gave the Bruins a 9-8 lead at the end of the first.

The Gamecocks were prepared to continue the defensive battle, but Belmont didn't get the memo.

The Bruins turned on the offensive firepower in the second quarter, leaving the Gamecocks

searching for answers and with a 29-14 deficit.

Belmont scored 20 in both the second and third quarter, while the Gamecocks didn't manage to crack double-digits in a single frame until the fourth thanks to their 19% shooting clip.

Belmont cruised to the 66-35 win.

Magruder was the Gamecocks' leading scorer with just six, and all of those came just after halftime as the Gamecocks briefly cut the Belmont lead.

Despite the loss, the Gamecocks will make an appearance in the OVC Tournament for the first time since the

2014-15 season, as JSU has locked up either the four or five-seed in the tourney.

Jax State will face Morehead State in the first round on Thursday, March 1 in Evansville, Indiana's Ford Center.

Before that, however, Jacksonville State will have one more chance to set a new program-record OVC win total and tune up for tournament play Saturday in Cookeville, Tennessee, as the Gamecocks take on Tennessee Tech.

Tipoff is at 5:30 p.m. for the final regular season game for the Gamecocks.



Katy Nowak/JSU

Taylor Rogers got the only extra base hit in the Gamecocks' loss to Ohio, a double in the third inning.

Jax State Softball falls 3-0 to Ohio

Dominant effort from Bobcat pitcher shuts down JSU offense

MADEIRA BEACH, Fla.

Ohio's Danielle Stein's gem in the circle was too much for the Jacksonville State softball team on Sunday in the final game of the Eastern Michigan Madeira Beach Spring Invitational.

Stein shut out the Gamecocks (5-6) and struck out 14 in her complete-game, 3-0 win for the Bobcats (3-2) to close the weekend. She allowed two hits in the game, a double from Taylor Rogers and a single from Taylor Beshears.

Rogers' double came in the bottom of the third and was the Gamecocks' first hit of the day off of Stein, who improved to 2-0 on the season. She outdueled sophomore Alexis Jimmerson, who limited Ohio to three runs on seven hits but fell to 1-2 on the season in suffering the tough-luck defeat.

Jimmerson, a native of Jackson, Tenn., struck out six Ohio batters and walked four in the loss, while Stein issued just one free pass.

The Bobcats scored in the top of the second on MacKenzie Brunswick's RBI double. It was her first hit in a 2-for-3, two-RBI game for Ohio. Her second RBI came in the sixth on a single to left and put the third run on the board.

JSU will return to action on Friday, when they begin a three-game series at Southern Miss with a 6 p.m. game in Hattiesburg, Miss. The series will wrap up with a Saturday doubleheader that will begin at 1 p.m. CT.

JSU Sportswire



Katy Nowak/JSU

JSU's Trent Simpson was named OVC Co-Player of the Week for his performance in the Gamecock 3-0 sweep of Southern Illinois.

Baseball goes deep for opening series sweep

Grant Benefield
Staff Sports Reporter

Gamecock baseball opened its 2018 campaign in convincing fashion with a three-game sweep over Southern Illinois by scores of 7-4, 10-9, and 6-0, in which the Gamecocks hit seven total home runs.

JSU kicked off its season Friday afternoon in Choccolocco Park in Oxford.

Sophomore first baseman Andrew Naismith delivered the first Gamecock runs of the year with a two-run blast in the second inning to give JSU the 2-0 lead.

Naismith didn't stop there, delivering another home run in his next at-bat, this time a solo-shot that extended the Gamecock lead to 3-1.

Designated hitter Trent Simpson dropped the third bomb of the game for the Gamecocks in the fifth inning to make the score 5-1.

Simpson would be named OVC Co-Player of the Week for his efforts, sharing the honor with Tennessee Tech's John Hamm.

Junior pitcher Garrett Farmer got the start on the mound and was excellent, allowing just one hit and one run along with five

strikeouts and just one walk in his four frames of work. Farmer earned the W, and Simpson closed the game for the save.

In the second game of the series, Southern Illinois threatened to even the series at one a piece, but the Gamecocks would come back from a 7-2 deficit to defeat the Salukis 10-9.

JSU utilized the long ball again in game two, with outfielders Taylor Hawthorne and Matt Hammers each leaving the yard for five of the Gamecocks' 10 runs.

Cody Willingham earned the win in relief for the Gamecocks, and

Tyler Wilburn closed the door to secure the save and the comeback victory.

Game three of the series was a dominant encore for the Gamecocks, handily defeating Southern Illinois 6-0 for the series sweep.

JSU's first two runs of the game came via solo shots from Simpson in the second, and Hawthorne in the fourth.

Aside from a few free passes, Colton Pate was masterful for the Gamecocks in his five innings of work, allowing just one hit and no runs with five strikeouts and four walks on his way to the W and the series sweep.