



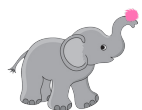
JACKSONVILLE STATE UNIVERSITY'S STUDENT-PUBLISHED NEWSPAPER SINCE 1934

WEATHER: Sunny, High 56, Low 33



Thursday, March 1, 2018

inSIDE



Interview with basketball standout Malcolm Drumwright, page 8



inTHE NEWS

Black History Month celebrated with banquet

Career Fair

Career Services is hosting an all-majors career fair from 1-5 p.m. in the Coliseum. Students should bring their ID and résumé. Students can enter the fair through the court-side door on the soccer field side. Professional headshots will be taken.

International House

Celebrate the Holi festival of colors on Friday, MArch 2 from 1-4 p.m. at the International House, and co-me back Saturday, March 3 for an open house from 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Chamber Winds Concert

The JSU Chamber Winds will be performing on Tuesday, March 6 at 7 p.m. in the Mason Hall Performance Center. The concert will consist of the music the group will be taking on tour to Florida and will feature faculty member, Mr. Mark Brandon, as clarinet soloist. Admission is free.

Antigone Lecture

Dr. John Mueller, the Lehrman Institute Fellow of Economics at the Ethics and Public Policy Center, will be speaking on his book, "Redeeming Economics" at 5:30 p.m. in Merrill Hall Room 101.

Brannon Cahela
Staff Writer

JSU concluded its celebration of Black History Month with a banquet in Leon Cole Auditorium on Tuesday, February 27. The banquet was well attended by a diverse group of students, faculty, community members and special guests. The event was planned and organized by JSU Diversity and Inclusion Committee and the SGA.

The evening began with a moving performance by the JSU Gospel Choir. Afterwards, Breon Moore, Vice President of Student Government Association and Master of Ceremonies set the tone for the evening by saying, "This evening



Brannon Cahela/The Chanticleer

The 2018 Hidden Figures awardees (from left) Vinson Houston, Earl Warren, Cleo Lemon, Sandra Sudduth and Tracy Broom stand with JSU President Dr. John M. Beehler.

we will appreciate the past, celebrate the present and embrace the future."

After Moore's opening remarks President John M. Beehler gave a short speech on the im-

portance of diversity.

"At JSU we strive for excellence in all that we do, including diversity and inclusion. Every organization at JSU is better and makes better decisions if it in-

cludes all people from all races, colors, creeds and nations," said Beehler.

After Beehler's short speech, President of Alpha Phi Alpha, Xi Xi Chapter, Khiry Smith

presented Black History through the spoken word. The performance included a few quotes from Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

See BANQUET, page 2

JSU presents the Vagina Monologues

Lauren Jackson
Staff Writer

On March 8, the JSU Sociology Club and Women's Issues Support and Empowerment (WISE) will host the tenth annual performance of "The Vagina Monologues" in the Leon Cole Auditorium. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. and the performance begins at 7 p.m.

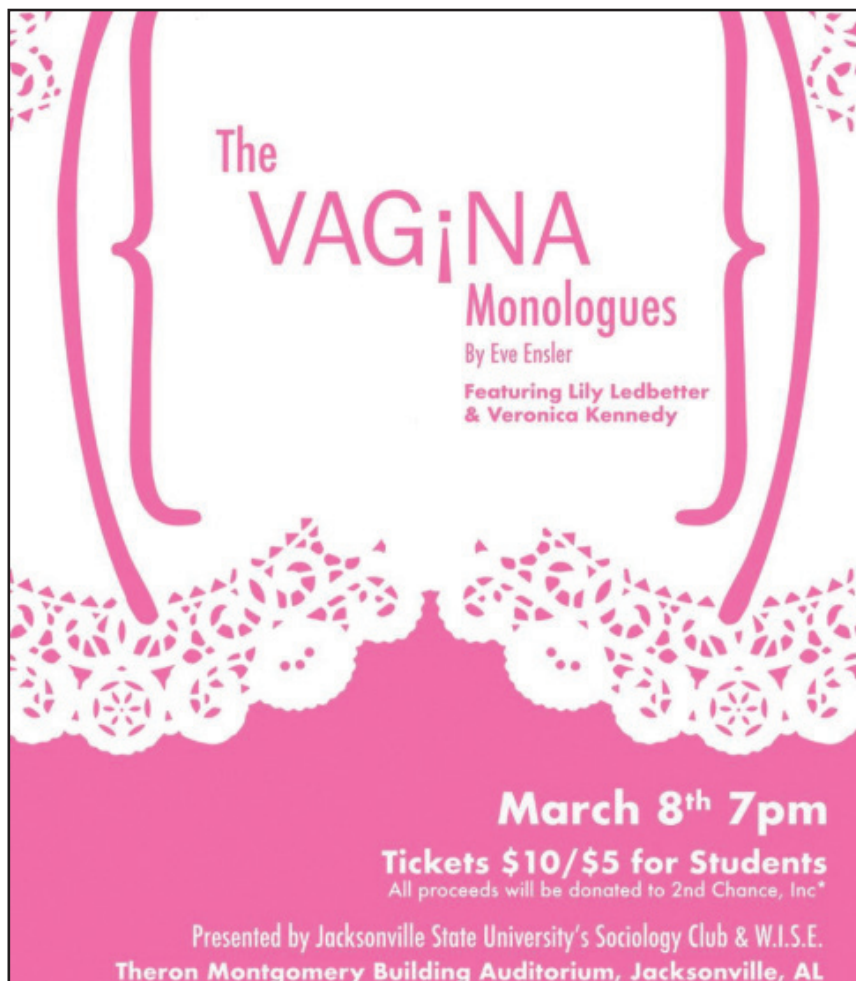
Eve Ensler wrote the play twenty years ago, and the JSU performance will be directed by student Chibuzo Harbor. The play spotlights violence against women globally and raises

funds to benefit local organizations. Student admission is \$5, and public admission is \$10. The production will be performed by local women and girls that are generally not trained as actresses so the emotionality of their experiences can be captured.

Tyler Gay is the student organizer of the event and became involved after attending last year's performance.

"This is an issue that is important to me. I saw how impactful it was and knew I needed to get in-

See MONOLOGUES, page 2



jsu_sga/Instagram

This year's poster for "The Vagina Monologues" by Brandon Vernon.

Campus ministry shows lecture series

Nick Adrian
Staff Writer

The Canterbury Club Episcopal campus ministry at JSU is taking part in Values in Action, a partner site for the Trinity Institute's 47th National Theological Conference. Using on-demand videos, the ministry will offer four segments of the conference on Sundays – February 25, March 4, 11 and 18 from 3-5 p.m. at St. Luke's Episcopal Church parish hall, on the corner of Church Avenue and Drayton Street in Jacksonville.

The Values in Action conference was originally held at Trinity Church Wall Street in New York City from February 2-3. The conference was streamed around the world to partner sites at churches, cathedrals, seminaries and advocacy organizations. Local participants of the conference will learn how the impact of individual and organizational actions can be expanded through values-based partnerships. Onsite reflection groups will be facilitated using materials prepared and provided by Trinity Institute.

The conference includes speakers whose lives as activists, theologians and authors show the power of values in action, such as Pulitzer-Prize winning journalist Jose Antonio Vargas, founder and CEO of Define American, who delivers a keynote address chronicling his life in this country as an undocumented immigrant. Other speakers include Michelle Alexander, civil rights lawyer, legal scholar, and author of "The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness"; Pádraig Ó Tuama, poet, theologian and mediator; and the Rev. Elizabeth M. Edman, Episcopal priest, political strategist and author.

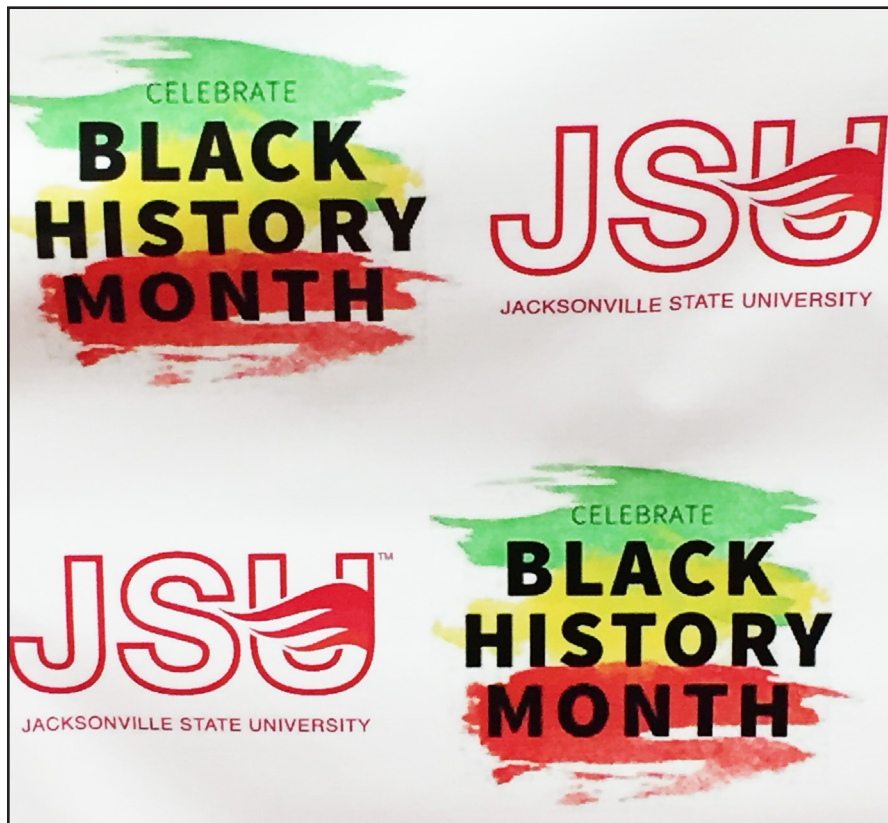
"These presenters applied their cherished values to societal issues such as immigration, mass incarceration, racial equality, public discourse, LGBTQ rights and refugees," said deacon Stanley Easton, chaplain of the Canterbury Club and coordinator of the on-demand conference. "Not all of us choose to be active in the same causes. The question to participants is, 'How do you think the status quo needs to be changed and how

See CANTERBURY, page 2



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

BANQUET from page 1



ABOVE: The Black History Month banquet was the finale of JSU's Black History Month programs that have included a special story time at the library and a trivia competition.

BELOW: The JSU Gospel Choir performs at the Black History Month Banquet. The choir is directed by Dr. Myrtice Collins of the David L. Walters Department of Music.

Photos by Brannon Cahela/The Chanticleer



Dinner and entertainment for the evening included a buffet style meal featuring soul food classics like fried chicken, ribs, macaroni and cheese and collard greens. Accompanying dinner was a fashion show by Forever Young Modeling Troupe.

After dinner the highlight of the evening began as Dr. Heidi Louisy presented the 2018 Celebration of Hidden Figures. The Hidden Figure awards are a celebration of individuals currently working at JSU who contribute to the university's growth in diversity.

Among those awarded this year included: Tracy Broom, Assistant Athletic Director and Senior Woman Administrator; Vinson Houston, Chief Information Officer; Cleo Lemon, Gamecocks Wide Receivers Coach; Sandra Sudduth, former instructor at JSU and current member of the Regional Medical Center Board of Directors and councilwoman for the City of Jacksonville; and

Earl Warren, director of institutional development.

Following the presentation of awards, WBRC Fox 6 News Reporter and JSU alumni Jeh Jeh Pruitt gave an inspiring presentation as the event's official keynote speaker. During Pruitt's presentation, he spoke of the African concept "Ubuntu" meaning, "I am who I am because of who we all are."

"We have to help each other to succeed in order for this life to be what it is," said Pruitt. "Remember the word 'Ubuntu' and what it means and how you can help someone. And how it takes a village for someone to be successful. I don't know about you, but I think Jacksonville State University is that village. I think that JSU knows the concept of Ubuntu."

The evening concluded with closing remarks by Dr. Louisy who, along with JSU Diversity and Inclusion Committee, helped plan and organize the event.

MONOLOGUES from page 1

-volved," said Gay.

The play features the stories of women and girls around the globe and is performed by local student and alumni at JSU. Dr. Tina Deshotels is the faculty member over the production.

Deshotels said, "The event is raising awareness that there is a problem with violence against women. It gives women the chance to share their experience through other women's experiences and voices. It is often easier to share when the story is not your own. It also gives the audience the chance to experience it."

This year's performance will also feature special guests.

Lilly Ledbetter, a fair pay activist will be in attendance to the event. Ledbetter spoke out about unequal pay at Goodyear in Gadsden and became a national advocate for fair pay.

Veronica Kennedy will also be in attendance. Kennedy broke the story of her sexual assault by former Anniston Star publisher, H. Brandt Ayers earlier this year. In having local advocates, the event connects the global and local issues women face.

"We are very fortunate to have local advocates that are also national advocates. We are proud of our local activists," Deshotels

said.

"The Vagina Monologues" is part of the V-Day movement which is an international movement to end violence against women. The proceeds from JSU's event will be benefitting local and international charities. Second Chance, Inc. will be receiving 90% of the profit and the other 10% will be directed towards the V-Day campaign to continue hosting events like "The Vagina Monologues."

Second Chance is based in Anniston and is a local domestic violence and sexual assault prevention center. According to their website, their programs include 24-hour crisis hotlines, emergency shelter, support groups and counseling services among other things. All services are free to domestic abuse and sexual assault survivors.

For students that have not attended the event before, Gay says, "expect the unexpected. It is so powerful, it is hard to put into words. It's emotional. It's shocking. It's a must see and must experience."

Dr. Deshotels said, "It is art-it crosses the boundary between humor and tragedy. You laugh and you cry."

More information about the V-Day movement can be found at www.vday.org.

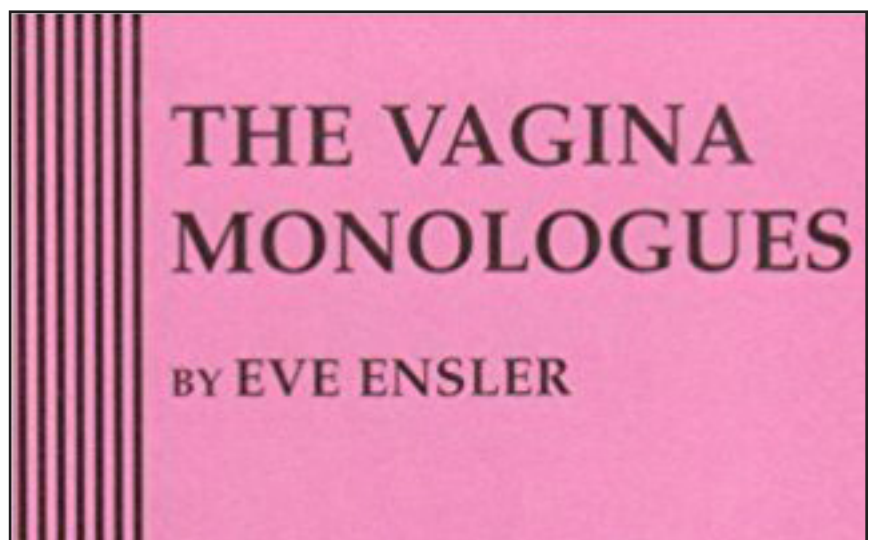


photo via Amazon.com



Photo via project-safe.org

TOP: "The Vagina Monologues" playbook from Dramatists Play Services, Inc. 2018 marks the 20th year of the V-Day campaign.

ABOVE: Every February, "The Vagina Monologues" is performed royalty-free across the world with 100% of proceeds benefitting anti-violence groups. The theme for the 20th anniversary is "Rise, Resist, Unite." "The Vagina Monologues" has been performed in over 140 countries and raised over \$100 million.

REMINDER: PREVIEW DAY IS SATURDAY, MARCH 3 FROM 9 A.M. TO 12 P.M. IN THE PETE MATHEWS COLISEUM. REPRESENTATIVES SHOULD ARRIVE BY 8:45 A.M.

CANTERBURY from page 1

do you bring your values to bear on making that changed?"

The Canterbury Club at JSU's purpose is to foster spiritual development among college students, other young adults, faculty, and staff.

The Trinity Institute is an annual conference in its 47th year that equips clergy and laypersons for imaginative and catalytic leadership. Their conferences pres-

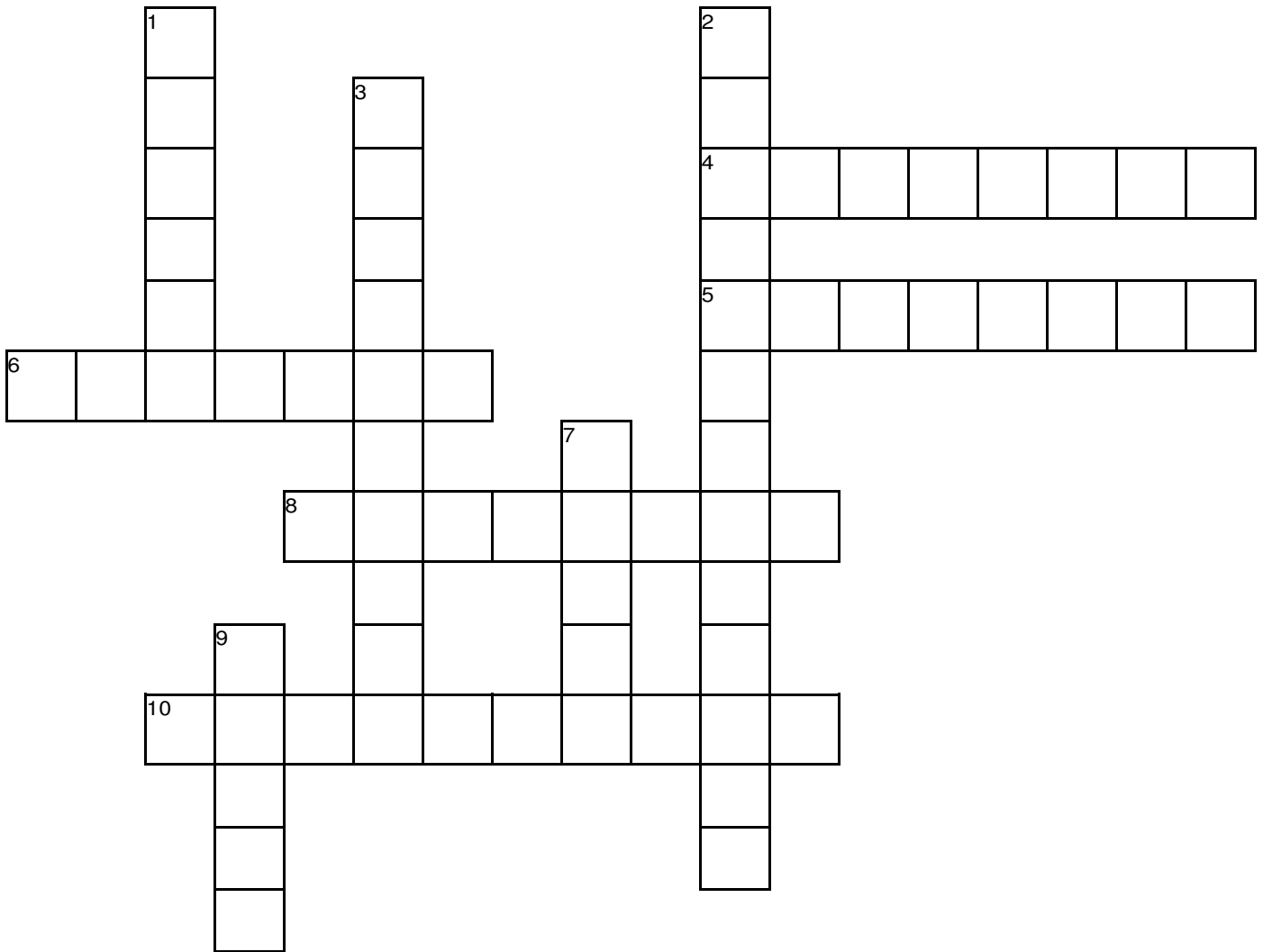
ent emerging and inclusive theological and social perspectives and engage participants in inquiry, dialogue and reflection. The conference is sponsored by Trinity Church Wall Street, an Episcopal parish in New York City. Recent conferences include "Creating Common Good: A Practical Conference on Economic Equality," "Listen for a Change: Sacred Conversations for Racial Justice" and "Water Justice."

The Trinity Church Wall Street is a growing and inclusive Episcopal parish that seeks to serve and heal the world by building neighborhoods that live Gospel truths, generations of faithful leaders and sustainable communities. More than twenty worship services are offered every week at its historic sanctuaries, Trinity Church and St. Paul's Chapel. The parish welcomes approximately three million visitors per year.

Study Break

Campus Crossword! Disney Movie Edition

Disney Movies

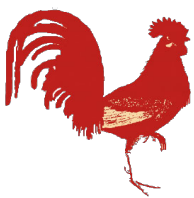


Across

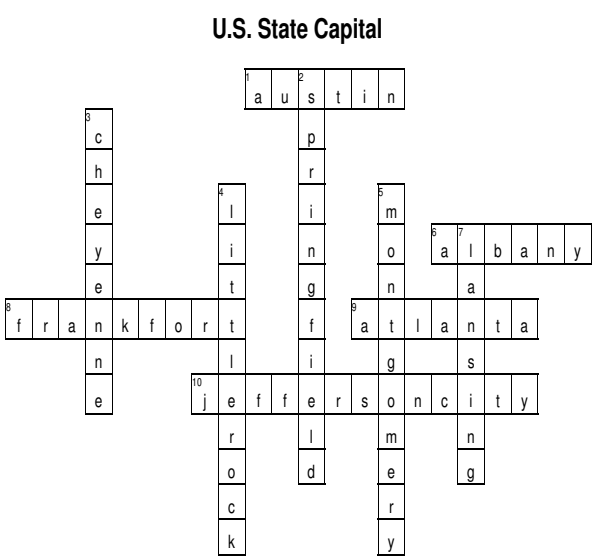
- 4. You Got a Friend in Me
- 5. Can't Wait to be King
- 6. When Will My Life Begin
- 8. I Can Go the Distance
- 10. Just Around the River Bend

Down

- 1. Love is an Open Door
- 2. Under the Sea
- 3. A Dream is a Wish
- 7. I'll Make a Man Out of You
- 9. You're Welcome



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



Across

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

Down

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

Last Week's Solution!

Chris' Random Fact:

There's a hidden Mickey Mouse head in every Disney movie, per Corey McAllister.

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

IN MEMORIAM

Alyssa Alhadeff



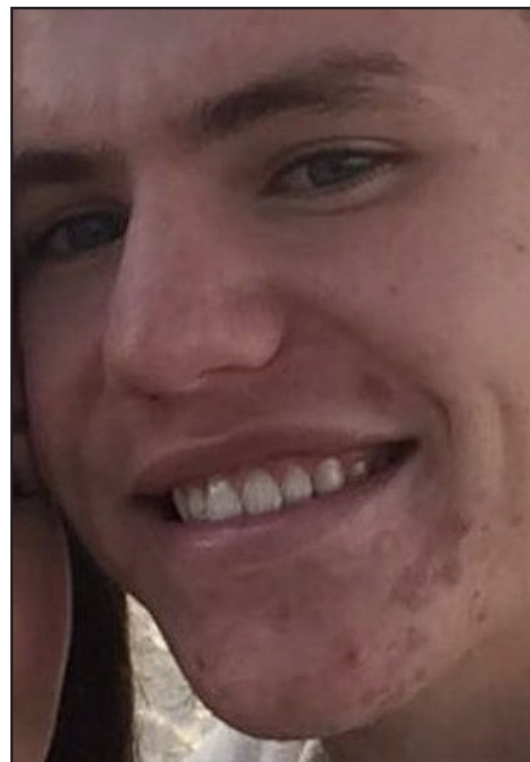
**Martin Duque
Anguiano**



Scott Biegel



Nicholas Dworet



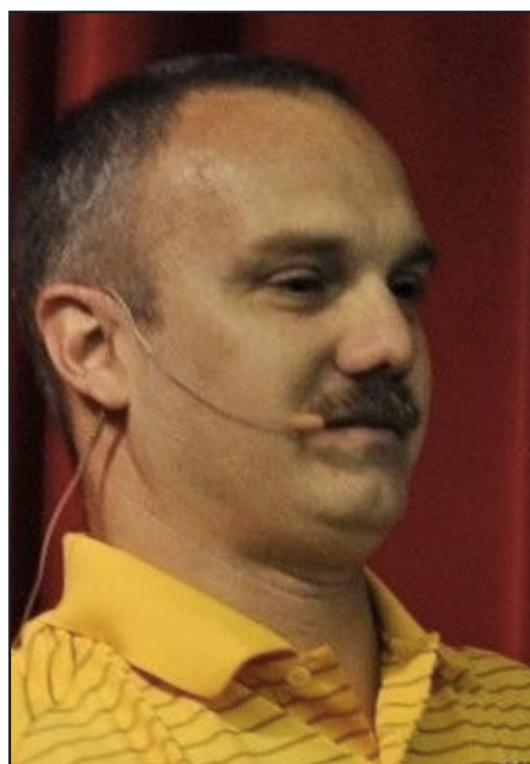
Aaron Feis



Jaime Guttenberg



Christopher Hixon



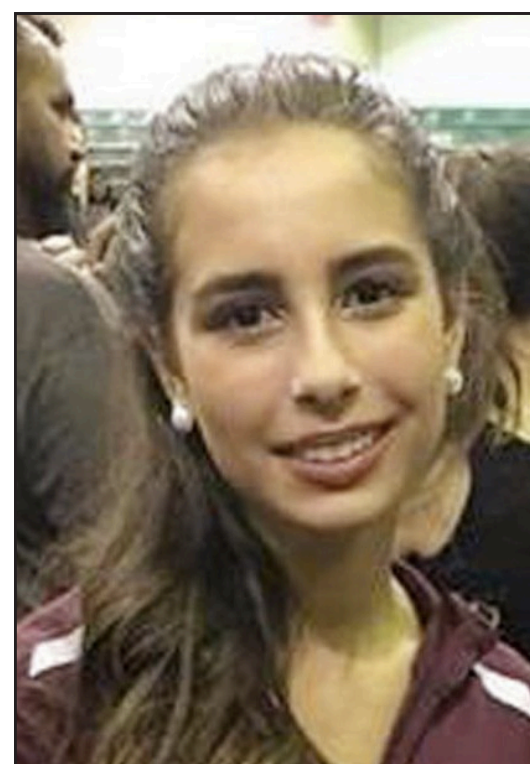
Luke Hoyer



Cara Loughran



Gina Montalto



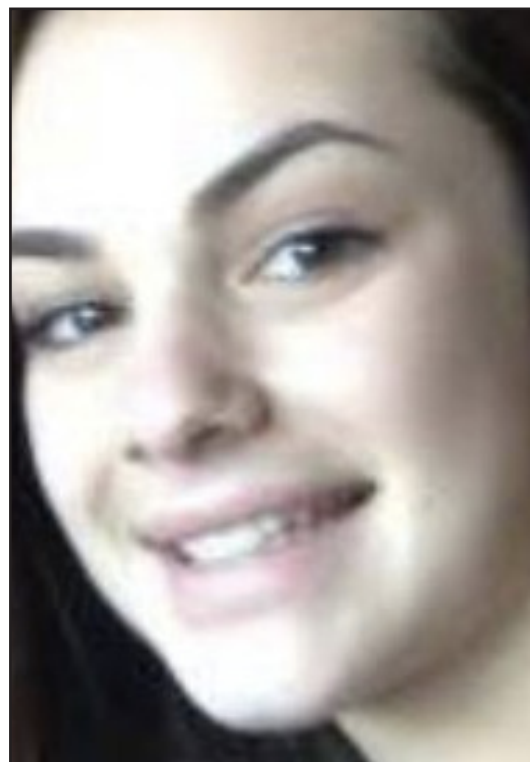
Joaquin Oliver



Alaina Petty



Meadow Pollack



Helena Ramsay



Alex Schachter



Carmen Schentrup



Peter Wang



Editor's note:

The Chanticleer staff extends our hearts and condolences to those are mourning the loss of the 17 incredible students and teachers due to the horrible act of violence in Parkland, Fla. at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School on Feb. 14, 2018. We vow to always remember and honor the legacy they leave in their absence.

All information and photographs taken from the New York Times article "The Names and Faces of the Florida School Shooting Victims" written by Amy Harmon, Jess Bidgood and Mitch Smith.

OPINION & EDITORIAL



Matt Reynolds/JSU

Head coach Ray Harper looks on at the action during a Jacksonville State men's basketball game during the 2017-18 season.

INTERNATIONAL
HOUSE

INVITES YOU TO:

OPEN HOUSE

MARCH 3RD

9:30 AM - 12:30 PM



Gamecocks' win over Bruins biggest of Harper's tenure

Chris Allen Brown
Associate Editor

In two quick years, Ray Harper has helped take the Jacksonville State men's basketball program to heights unseen in over 20 years. So, it's not crazy to say last Thursday's 78-67 win over Belmont was the biggest of his short tenure, right?

Yes, the trio of wins against Southeast Missouri, Belmont and UT Martin in the 2017 Ohio Valley Conference tournament were remarkable, especially beating the Bruins and Skyhawks — the tournament's top two seeds — on back-to-back nights, but people didn't really expect the Gamecocks to win those games.

But back to last week's victory. Think about all the extra storylines surrounding the game: dedicating the court to Bill Jones (who won the school's only basketball national championship in 1985), celebrating a trio of seniors (Des Curry, Norbertas Giga and all-time great Malcolm Drumwright), staying in contention for a first-round bye in this week's conference tournament and the pressure of playing conference powerhouse Belmont on national television.

With the celebra-

tion of Jones' ac-

complishments came the attendance of former players under the three-time Gulf South Conference Coach of the Year. Those players may have been entertaining the idea of returning to Pete Mathews Coliseum for some time now but needed something to get them over the hump.

They needed an entertaining and signature win to feel the program was in good hands and trending upward.

They needed to see Giga hyping up the crowd during the second half.

They needed to see Drumwright sinking the dagger 3-point basket late in the game.

They needed to see this game. Speaking of things people needed, who better to need the win than the players.

It had been 14 days since JSU beat Tennessee Tech 82-65 in Jacksonville. Within the two weeks, the Gamecocks dropped a home game against Tennessee State (47-65), at Murray State (60-68) and at Austin Peay (57-60). The players needed confidence heading into this past weekend's regular-season finale in Cookeville, Tenn.

Boy, did they get that against the Bruins. Just look at the statistics.

Marlon Hunter, who played under

Harper at Western Kentucky, followed his 21-point performance against Belmont with 14 against the Golden Eagles. Christian Cunningham finished with 10 points and 13 rebounds Saturday after having eight and seven Thursday night. Jason Burnell, after having 10 points and 10 rebounds against the Bruins, had 12 and four over the weekend. Oh, and that Drumwright kid, had eight points and four assists against TTU, which came after posting 11 and nine in the final home game of his JSU career.

Combining everyone's performances resulted in JSU earning the No. 4 seed in the 2018 OVC Tournament with a 66-57 win at Tennessee Tech.

All far as having everyone's attention, the Gamecocks are 5-4 in games played on ESPN3, ESPNU, SEC Network+, Fox Sports Midwest, CBS Sports Network, Pac-12 Network and NBC Sports Washington.

Only time will tell how much impact the Belmont and Tennessee Tech wins will factor into JSU's postseason run this year, but if there are any clues, if the Gamecocks win the conference tournament, again, no one will be surprised.



Photos by Matt Reynolds/JSU

ABOVE: Head coach Ray Harper claps his hands in approval as he onlooks his Gamecock team. **BELOW:** Head coach Ray Harper puts the finishing touches on cutting down the net as JSU claimed the 2017 OVC Tournament championship.



SPORTS

JSU takes down Tech, clinches four-seed

Hollie Ivey
Sports Reporter

The Jacksonville State men's basketball team (20-11, 11-7 OVC) took home a 66-57 win over Tennessee Tech in their final regular season game on Saturday, clinching the No. 4 seed in the upcoming Ohio Valley Conference Championship and earning its second consecutive 20-win season.

Former Head Coach Bill Jones was the last coach to lead the Gamecocks to back-to-back 20-win seasons in 1990-91 and 1991-92.

Senior Norbertas Giga added the first points to the board Saturday after a foul by TTU's Mason Ramsey. After a 2 from junior Marlon Hunter, Tennessee Tech's Shaq Calhoun tied the game 3-3 at the 16:25 mark.

A short range shot from Cunningham at 15:28 gave the Gamecocks back a lead that they would not relinquish for the remainder of the contest.

Maurice Dunlap earned the first 3-pointer for JSU with 4:21 remaining, and JSU led 26-19 at the half thanks to a 35.71% shooting average over TTU's 24.14%.



Matt Reynolds/JSU

Marlon Hunter earned OVC Newcomer of the Week for his performances against Belmont and TTU.

Following a foul from Burnell, the Golden Eagles' Courtney Alexander earned the first two points of the second half, but a layup by JSU's Norbertas Giga would extend the Gamecock lead back to seven points.

TTU managed to pull within three points of Jacksonville's lead at the 7:56 mark of the second half. The Gamecock's defense reacted by preventing TTU from making any field goals for the next five minutes of play, but the Golden Eagles kept the deficit slim by converting on six free throws.

The Gamecock lead stayed under 10 for the remainder of the game, but

an 8-2 Gamecock run after the 4:34 mark solidified their lead and pushed the team to their 66-57 victory.

Hunter was a strong presence in the game, bucketing 14 points as the night's top scorer for JSU, followed by 12 from Jason Burnell and 11 from Giga. Junior Christian Cunningham, earning a double-double, registered 10 points and 13 rebounds.

For his performance in the game against TTU and his 21 points against Belmont on February 22, Hunter was named OVC Newcomer of the Week.

Jacksonville's 20-7 bench points and 34-24 points-in-paint edge over Tennessee Tech helped

boost the Gamecocks to the win, and JSU held a 38.3% shooting percentage over TTU's 31.1% for the game.

The Gamecocks will face off against the winner of the first-round game between Tennessee Tech and SIUE on Thursday, March 1 at 6:30 p.m. in Evansville, Indiana.

JSU swept their two matchups against the Golden Eagles this season, but fell to SIUE 75-67 in their only contest.

A Gamecock victory in the quarterfinals would mean JSU would move on to face Murray State, the No. 1 overall seed, on Friday night in the semifinals.

Gamecocks win to finish regular season

Logan Arnwine
Sports Reporter

The chase for the NCAA Tournament has officially begun for the Jacksonville State Gamecocks.

Jacksonville State University (18-11, 12-6 OVC) defeated Tennessee Tech 73-59 Saturday, Feb. 24 in their last game of the regular season, earning the fourth seed in the OVC tournament.

The Gamecocks got out to a good start and built a double-digit lead just prior to half.

JSU finished the first half off a three by the freshman guard, Taylor Hawks to seal a 14-point lead, 39-25 going into the third quarter.

This would be Taylor Hawks' thirteenth point in the first half alone when on average she scores 8.6 points throughout an entire game.

Tennessee Tech struggled to keep the ball in their own hands, allowing themselves to turn the ball over 11 times in the first half, compared to Jacksonville State's five.

With 6:18 left in the final quarter, the Golden Eagles cut the lead to seven from a layup by Kentoria Alexander.

As soon as Tennes-



Matt Reynolds/JSU

Tyler 'Cocoa' Phelion tallied 20 points and eight rebounds in the Gamecock win over TTU.

see Tech seemed to get into a rhythm and ride momentum for a comeback, the Gamecock defense stepped up. For the next 3:15 the Golden Eagles did not score another point thanks to the swarming Gamecock defense protecting the paint and forcing two turnovers.

In that time frame, the Gamecocks built back up a 13-point lead and did not slow down from there. In the final three minutes of their final game of the regular season, Jacksonville State scored on 10 out of 12 free throws to solidify a victory in the opponent's arena.

The Gamecocks won

with balanced scoring by having seven players with at least five points.

Tyler Phelion finished as the team's leading scorer with a season-high 20 points while also putting up eight boards and two blocks.

Taylor Hawks scored 15 points along with an impactful three steals in 30 minutes of playing time.

The greatest difference between the two teams came in the form of points off turnovers, where the Gamecocks scored 28 points off 21 turnovers, while Tennessee Tech scored just nine points off only 11 turnovers.

The Jacksonville State bench also outscored the Golden Eagles by a total of 14 points, 25-11.

Jacksonville State finishes the season as the fourth-ranked team in the Ohio Valley Conference with a conference record of 12-6, a school record for conference victories since moving to Division I.

In the upcoming OVC tournament, Jacksonville State will play fifth-seeded Morehead State (21-10, 12-6 OVC).

JSU defeated Morehead State in each of their matchups in the season, 70-64 and 65-67, respectively. In both competitions, JSU's bench outscored Morehead State's bench by a large margin.

Morehead State is coming off a victory against Eastern Kentucky 62-51.

This matchup in the OVC championship tournament will be played Thursday, March 1 at 1:00 p.m. in Evansville, Indiana.

It can be watched on ESPN3 or the OVC Digital Network. The winner will move on to face go the winner of the game between first-seeded Belmont (18-0 OVC) and eighth-ranked Murray State (7-11 OVC).

JSU Sports Upcoming Events

3/1

Men's Basketball
OVC Tournament Quarterfinals*
6:30 p.m.
Evansville, Indiana

Women's Basketball
OVC Tournament Quarterfinals*
1:00 p.m.
Evansville, Indiana

3/2

Softball
UNC Greensboro, Georgia
9:00 a.m., 5:00 p.m.
Athens, Ga.

Beach Volleyball
Spring Hill, Houston Baptist
11 a.m., 1 p.m.
New Orleans, La.

Baseball
Florida International
3:00 p.m.
Miami, Fla.

3/3

Beach Volleyball
Austin Peay*, New Orleans
11 a.m., 2 p.m.
New Orleans, La.

Softball
Georgia, Radford
2:30 p.m., 5:00 p.m.
Athens, Ga.

Men's Tennis
Nicholls State
3:00 p.m.
Troy, Ala.

Bold = Home contest

* = OVC contest

Men's OVC Tournament Seeding		
School	OVC	O/R
1. Murray State	16-2	24-5
2. Belmont	15-3	23-8
3. Austin Peay	12-6	17-13
4. Jacksonville State	11-7	20-11
5. Tennessee Tech	10-8	18-13
6. Tennessee State	10-8	15-14
7. Eastern Illinois	7-11	11-18
8. SIUE	5-13	9-20
SEMO*	8-10	14-17
Eastern Kentucky	5-13	11-20
UT Martin	5-13	10-21
Morehead State	4-14	8-21

*SEMO is ineligible for APR violation

Women's OVC Tournament Seeding		
School	OVC	O/R
1. Belmont	18-0	28-3
2. UT Martin	13-5	17-13
3. SIUE	13-5	16-13
4. Jacksonville State	12-6	18-11
5. Morehead State	12-6	21-10
6. Austin Peay	9-9	16-13
7. SEMO	9-9	14-16
8. Murray State	7-11	11-18
Eastern Kentucky	5-13	8-19
Tennessee Tech	4-14	7-22
Tennessee State	4-14	6-21
Eastern Illinois	2-16	3-26

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



Matt Reynolds/JSU

Finding the Wright fit

Malcolm Drumwright creates legacy at JSU

Daniel Mayes
Sports Editor

Forty-nine seconds left. Gamecocks clinging to a five-point lead over OVC juggernaut Belmont. Malcolm Drumwright, as he has so many times in a Gamecock uniform, rose up and released a huge shot. As has happened so many times in Drumwright's career, swish. JSU 75, Belmont 67. Bruins cannot recover. Jacksonville State wins.

That shot was Malcolm Drumwright's last in Pete Mathews Coliseum. The senior, who has been through so much team turmoil and spectacular success in his four-year career in Jacksonville, knew his team needed him to make a play in his last home game, on senior night, with tournament seeding on the line, and he delivered.

"I just try to stay confident. I just shoot the shots I normally shoot." That's what Malcolm told me just hours before that shot when I asked him about his mindset in game-ending situations. Drumwright is such a calm, quiet, confident guy in general, it is easy to see why shots like this don't faze him.

Malcolm Drumwright grew up the youngest of four brothers in Rancho Cucamonga, California, a suburban city some thirty miles from downtown Los Angeles.

In his youth, Malcolm says his basketball career didn't exactly start off on the right foot.

"I wasn't that good as a kid I don't think, but I kept working. If you put in work, good stuff happens."

Drumwright's hard work paid off, and, in his last year at Rancho Cucamonga High School, he averaged 20.5 points, 6.5 rebounds and 3.5 steals. However, Drumwright didn't yet have any schol-

arship offers to play basketball, and he attended LA College Prep.

That's when he got a phone call from former Jacksonville State assistant coach Eugene Harris.

"That's when I first really heard of JSU," Drumwright said. "I thought I was in Florida at first, I had to look it up."

Jacksonville State eventually offered Drumwright a scholarship, and he decided to take it.

"It was my only offer, so I'm going to take it. I've got to make the most of every opportunity."

Drumwright arrived on campus for the 2014-15 season ready to reward Jacksonville State for giving him that opportunity.

Drumwright saw his role slowly grow as he proved himself as a freshman. He came on strong as the season rolled along toward conference play, finally earning a starting job for six of the final seven games of the season.

The Gamecocks, however, didn't enjoy much team success. Jacksonville State finished just 12-19, including a 5-11 mark in the OVC. Malcolm, however, headed into his sophomore season ready to prove himself, and, on an individual level, he did.

Drumwright upped his

scoring from six points per game to 14, but the Gamecocks' record nose-dived even further, plunging to 8-23. Malcolm injured his shoulder against Belmont late in the season and missed the final seven games, all of which Jacksonville State lost.

Malcolm says it was tough playing through those first two seasons with such a poor team performance, but he never thought of leaving.

"It was rough, but we stayed the course, and I knew that anything could happen. I was going to stay regardless."

Enter Ray Harper.

Jacksonville State let Coach James Green go after 2015-16, and in came the coach that had national championships, albeit on the Division II level, on his resumé. Harper helped instill a winning culture at Jacksonville State, and Malcolm Drumwright spearheaded the revolution for the Gamecocks on the court.

Drumwright's scoring took a slight dip to 12.5 points per game, but he became a steady, consistent force for the Gamecocks, leading them in scoring, but also setting the table for his teammates as a point guard, and team leader should.

Under Harper and Drumwright, Jacksonville State led a program turnaround and a regular season finish of 17-14.

Drumwright says that the rough beginning to his career in a JSU uniform made the success of the 2016-17 season even sweeter. "We weren't so good to begin with, and then we just kept building and kept growing. It felt good. It felt really good."

The story, if had ended there, would have been nice. A team that had been toiling in the doldrums of mediocrity for years has a good, winning season.

However, as JSU fans well know, Drumwright and the Gamecocks weren't done yet.

Jacksonville State was picked to finish 12th out of 12 teams at OVC Media Day prior to the 2016-17 season, but, when the Gamecocks rolled into Nashville for the OVC tournament last March, they were on a mission to prove that claim ridiculous. An opening win over Southeast Missouri, a shocking upset over Belmont in the Semis and a takedown of UT Martin in the Finals later, and the Gamecocks stood as OVC Champions. Drumwright was named Tournament MVP, and the University

was set to make its first appearance in "The Big Dance" itself, the NCAA Tournament.

The Gamecocks fell to Louisville in their opening game, but they acquitted themselves well.

Drumwright, as calmly and stoically as he always does, put up 12 points and six assists as the Gamecocks' spectacular season ended.

"It was crazy. I never thought it would happen, but it was fun," Drumwright said of the tournament run.

I'm sure that statement would describe the feelings of all JSU fans about the 2016-17 basketball season.

Fast forward to the present. Through another steady season as a Senior, Malcolm has lead a more inexperienced, yet deeper squad back to the OVC tournament. It's been a season of ups and downs in Jacksonville, but Drumwright thinks the Gamecocks are capable of returning to the heights of last season.

"I feel confident. If we play the best we can and as hard as we can, we can beat anybody."

Meanwhile, Drumwright has etched himself in the record books of Jacksonville State and cemented his legacy as one of the greatest Gamecocks to ever take the court in Pete Mathews.

Earlier this season, he broke the 1000 points scored barrier, and he'll finish first in Gamecock Division I history in games played and started and second in career scoring.

He'll be remembered as the player that led Jacksonville State to their first NCAA Tournament, and, if Malcolm has anything to say about it in the tournament this weekend, maybe their second.

Pretty good for a kid with only one scholarship offer.



Matt Reynolds/JSU

Malcolm Drumwright was instrumental in the Gamecocks' OVC Tournament run last March, winning tournament MVP.