Once upon a time: stories in Spanish

Holly Ivey
Staff Writer

On Tuesday, the Children’s Corner at the Houston Cole Library offered “Había una vez — Stories in Spanish,” which featured special videos and books read in both Spanish and English.

“This is a place where the kids can celebrate knowing two languages and can read books in Spanish,” said librarian Laurie Heathcock, who organized the event. “This is our first time doing the story time program, but we are going to try and do the bilingual night every month.”

The Children’s Corner, which was established last year, hopes to promote and encourage cultural education and literacy within the youth community of Jacksonville and surrounding areas.

Spanish major and Child Development minor Kristen Gentry read two books to the children in attendance, including “Mis Colores, Mi Mundo” and “¿Qué puedes hacer con una paleta?” (“My Colors, My World” and “And What Can You Do with a Paleta?”). Gentry studied Spanish at the University of Salamanca in Spain and wants to use her proficiency in the Spanish language to help others.

“Parents at home who don’t know English very well can’t help their children like they want to, a handicap that can delayabled kids from starting school and prevent them from learning,” she said. Others.

Kristen Gentry shares Spanish storybooks with children in the Children’s Corner on Tuesday, March 13. Kristen Gentry compartiría libros de cuentos en español en el Children’s Corner el martes 13 de marzo.

Hollie Ivey
ewriter

El martes, el Children’s Corner en la Biblioteca Houston Cole ofreció “Había una vez - Historias en español”, que presentaba videos especializados y libros leídos tanto en español como en inglés.

“Este es un lugar donde los niños pueden celebrar sabiendo dos idiomas y pueden leer libros en español”, dijo la bibliotecaria Laurie Heathcock, que organizó el evento. “Era la primera vez que hacíamos el programa, pero vamos a intentar hacerlo cada noche bilingüe y español.”

El Children’s Corner, que se estableció el año pasado, espera promover y fomentar la educación cultural y la alfabetización dentro de la comunidad de Jacksonville y sus alrededores.

Kristen Gentry, quien se especializa en español y tiene como segunda especialidad el desar-rollo infantil, leyó dos libros a los niños que asistieron, entre ellos “Mis Colores, Mi Mundo” y “¿Qué puedes hacer con una paleta?”.

Gentry estudió el español en la Universidad de Salamanca en España y quiere usar su dominio del español para ayudar a los demás.

“Los padres en casa que no saben bien inglés no pueden ayudar a sus hijos como quieren, y es muy difícil para los trabajadores de guardería, pero tener a alguien que sea bilingüe o tener una guía bilingüe puede ayudar a evitar que los niños comiencen la escuela y estén atrasados en la clase,” dijo.

The Chanticleer survey: balloon releases unpopular at JSU

Katie Clinton
Editor-in-Chief

On February 1, The Chanticleer published an opinion piece entitled “Please stop releasing balloons” and received an impressive response from the JSU community. Following the article’s publication, The Chanticleer published an online survey asking about opinions on balloon releases.

One hundred people filled out the anonymous survey. Of those, 19.2 per cent of respondents indicated that they did not know that the latex balloons released during balloon releases were harmful to the environment, but nearly a third (32.3 per cent) had participated in a balloon release, either at JSU or with an off-campus group.

Students of all classifications, from freshmen to seniors and graduate students, and JSU faculty, staff, alumni, retirees, community members, parents, siblings and friends responded.

Many respondents addressed the environmental impact of balloons.

“Alabama is one of the most biodiverse places in the world, and we’re very high on the species

Do you believe that JSU should continue to allow balloon releases to be done on campus?

VISIT WWW.jsu.edu/chanticleer for the latest in JSU NEWS
extraction rate rankings too. We need to protect our wildlife,” wrote a sophomore double majoring in biology and chemistry. “Please stop hurting our environment. We are supposed to be the friendliest campus in the south, why can’t we be friendly to the environment?” wrote one respondent, a junior majoring in art and communication.

Over three-fourths of respondents (78.1 per cent) indicated that they did not think balloon releases should be allowed on campus and offered numerous alternatives. Blowing bubbles, releasing biodegradable paper lanterns or throwing eco-friendly confetti were popular suggestions. Other alternatives included lighting candles or luminaries, throwing paint powder, making banners, having public recognitions or moments of silence and planting trees. Some more unique ideas were “to shoot guns off in the air like Yosemite Sam,” put “glitter bombs in Breather’s mail box” and “release a rooster into the sky.”

Some were concerned about how practical it would be to eliminate balloon releases. “Balloons are hazardous to the environment, but on the scale that they are released I doubt it is making a significant [sic] impact,” wrote a junior majoring in computer information systems. “However, any impact is more than none. Therefore, I doubt the balloon release will go away any sooner.”

Other respondents hoped that bringing attention to the issue would inspire JSU to make changes. “I watch the balloon releases while behind a camera during the football games, and I don’t appreciate the picture of releasing balloons for a cause like raising money for a charity, then add to the problem of hurting our own environment. I hope this survey makes a huge difference for JSU,” a junior drama major wrote. However, not all respondents believed there was an issue. Over 20 per cent (21.9 per cent) indicated that balloon releases should be allowed to continue.

“Quitting being so sensitive,” wrote a senior psychology major. “Balloon releases are fun. Emissions from the cars you drive do more harm than releasing a balloon. The only people who care about this are the ones eating Tide Pods.”

“Literally no one on campus is upset about this,” wrote one music major. Balloon releases are popular at Gameday football games as a pregame festivity. Large student groups stand on the field and release balloons in celebration of a successful fundraiser or as a tribute to those who are fighting or have died from a disease. Balloon releases have been done to honor Children’s Miracle Network, Autism Speaks and breast cancer survivors.

“JSU should take note that the community is rallying behind this article about the dangers of plastics and participate in more recycling programs and decrease their usage of plastics in general,” one alumni commented on the survey.

California, Connecticut and Florida have an ban on outdoor balloon releases. California also limits the materials with which any balloon can be made. Additionally, Tennessee and Virginia have a state-imposed limit on the number of balloons that can be released. According to ballon86.org, Baltimore and Ocean City, Maryland; Louisville, Kentucky; Huntsville, Alabama; and Nantucket and Provincetown, Massachusetts also have city laws regarding balloon releases.

Kristin Gentry wrote a story in Spanish to children and guests at the Houston Cole Library. Kristin Gentry lea una historia en español para niños y huéspedes de la Biblioteca Houston Cole.

Feliza Camarillo, a Spanish major, also limits into 12 languages, including Spanish. Feliza Camarillo, un estudiante de español, está de acuerdo. “Creo que es muy importante tener una significatividad en la sociedad. La cultura es muy importante para nosotros que crecen bilingües o que están expuestos a un segundo idioma.”

The popular 1947 children’s book “Goodnight Moon,” has been translated into 12 languages, including Spanish.

The Chanticleer
I'm good at the little things—I'm a man of mini talents.

I caught someone trying to steal my posterior. He was Takin' A back.

I had back replacement surgery. That is the back story to the previous pun.

I'm not good at frying things, but I do like to bake dough.

If you freak out because something gross is on your cooking vessel, it's called Pan ick.

Study Break

Campus Crossword!
March Madness Edition

Across
3. This team did not have a senior to honor this season for the first time since 1946
4. Bill Murray's son is an assistant coach for this team
5. This team scored 80 or more points in 24 games, the most in the country
7. This team has only one starter taller than 6-foot-5
9. This team was not represented on the All-SEC first team
10. This team had eight different players score 20 or more points in a game this season

Down
1. This team features the nation's leader in scoring and assist averages
2. This team beat JSU in the semifinals of the conference tournament
6. This team led the nation with 12 different uniform combinations
8. This team was one of only two teams to use the same starting lineup the entire season

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

Chris' Random Fact:

I drank an expired Minute Maid Fruit Punch while designing this page.

This Mayes is Corny!

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

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If you freak out because something gross is on your cooking vessel, it's called Pan ick.
While people all over the world are mourning the death of Stephen Hawking, it’s likely no one is taking it harder than Sheldon Cooper.

No one who’s a fictional character on TV, anyway.

Hawking, who died early Wednesday at 76, was a British theoretical physicist considered by many during his lifetime to be the world’s greatest scientist.

Hawking, who refused to be limited by a 1963 diagnosis of ALS, was also the idol of Cooper, the nerd-meets-annoying-know-it-all character played to Emmy-winning perfection by Jim Parsons.

And so naturally, it was Sheldon whom a lot of people immediately thought of when news of Hawking’s death broke.

Indeed, Twitter is expressing nearly as much sympathy and concern for Sheldon as it is for real life folks who knew and loved Hawking.

Some tweeters were feeling almost as sorry for Sheldon’s fellow scientist, former roommate and best buddy, Leonard:

Not all of the outpouring consisted of sad Tweets, though. Hawking was a fan of the top-rated CBS sitcom and “appeared” on the show at least four times (his voice would be heard on the phone or on a character’s computer). The running joke was that the supremely-confident-in-his-own-brilliance Sheldon could never quite obtain Hawking’s approval.

They finally met in person in the Season Five episode, “The Hawk-ing Excitement,” where Hawking points out a math mistake of Sheldon’s. No word from Sheldon himself yet on the loss of his idol (Parsons isn’t on Twitter), but the cast and creators of “The Big Bang Theory” have made clear their affection for Hawking went far beyond the great plot points he inspired.

“The Big Bang Theory” is preempted this Thursday night as CBS airs the first round of March Madness games. But a lot of the show’s fans are figuring the show -- and Sheldon -- will take note of Hawking’s passing in some way.

And:  

TV star, Jim Parsons, poses above with Stephen Hawking. The pair filmed scenes for “The Big Bang Theory” where Parsons’ character, Sheldon, meets his long-time idol, Hawking.

People Magazine

Jill Vejnoska

AJC
A family that flew on United Airlines Mon-day night is mourning their dog, after the pet died in an overhead bin — an arrangement that a flight attendant had reportedly insisted upon. United says it was “a tragic accident,” and is investigating. The incident prompted shock, outrage and sadness, particularly after it emerged that a flight attendant had required the dog, a 10-month-old French bulldog, to be placed into the overhead bin, despite the family having followed all the rules about flying with a pet as an airline’s cabin — including using a TSA-approved pet carrier.

“Why would the flight attendant force the woman to put her dog there?” wrote passenger Maggie Gremminger, in a tweet. Gremminger, who had been seated near the family, added, “I could have done something. I’m so upset.”

The dog had been traveling with a woman who also had her young baby and her older daughter on the flight with the animal. The animal died during the more than three-hour trip. Since then, the airline has agreed that the situ-ation never should have unfolded the way it did.

In a statement, United said: “This was a tragic accident that should never have occurred, as pets should never be placed in the overhead bin. We assume full responsibility for this tragedy and express our deepest condolences to the family and are committed to supporting them. We are thor-oughly investigating what occurred to pre-vent this from ever happening again.”

United’s policy on animals reads: “The kennel, bag, or crate must be small enough to fit completely under the seat in front of the passenger.”

The family was on United Flight 1284, from Houston to New York’s LaGuardia air-port. Their flight Monday night lasted 3 hours and 25 minutes, according to an online track-ing site. And while passengers said they had heard the dog barking during the trip, the dog’s own ers realized the dog had died after retrieving the travel carrier from the bin.

“I just flew into LGA and witnessed a United flight attendant instruct a passenger to put her dog bag in the overhead bin. It was clearly a dog and while the customer was adamant about leaving it under the seat, the attendant pushed her to do so,” Gremminger wrote on Twitter.

“Myself and a fellow passenger felt like that was NOT a thing. I am not a flight attendant but maybe they have air ventiliation in there that I didn’t know about. I tried googling rules about pets on board but didn’t have ample time before [takeoff].”

“At the end of the flight, the woman found her dog, deceased. She sat in the airplane aisle on the floor, crying, and all of surrounding passengers were utterly stunned.” “I am disgusted and traumatized,” Gremminger said via Twitter. “Pets are family. How could a trained flight attendant insist to a passenger to place her dog in that bin. It was her job to understand the plane and it’s rules/limitations.”

The plane landed a little before 11 p.m. — but Gremminger said the experience left her unable to sleep. She began sharing the story on Twitter, including a photo of the family who lost their dog. From there, both interest and dis-belief snowballed online, along with anger.

Gremminger issued a final tweet on Tues-day, saying “the past 24 hours have been in-credible.” “My hope was to gain some media attention so that we can collectively raise our awareness about pet safety on travel.”

Thanking those who have helped to spread and amplify the story, Gremminger said she hoped that a “day of shouting to media out of rage” will help prevent similar tragedies from happening. “Everyone loves pets,” she wrote. “Every-one wanted to hug that family who lost their dog last night. Everyone cares.”

United domestic flight one year ago — in that case, the large animal had Down in a crate in a plane’s hold, and was under the care of United’s PetSafe program. United says its policies allow for dog carry-on bags, they must pay an extra $125.

“A pet traveling in cabin must be carried in an approved hard-sided or soft-sided kennel,” United’s policy on animals reads. “The kennel must fit completely under the seat in front of the customer and remain there at all times.”

The airline adds that soft-sided kennels, like the type used by the family on Monday night’s flight, can be slightly larger because they’re able to be compressed without be-coming an obstruction.

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Not to be bullied by the YEET YEET trucks

Alissa Camplin
Arts & Entertainment Editor

I have driven in a few major cities in the United States.

Atlanta, Chicago, New Orleans. Heck, I’ve even thrown in Birmingham for funsies. I’ve driven in feet of snow, in the heat of day, in partial Jacksonville monsoon, and even watched a tornado pass in front of my car on April 27, 2011 when I was on my way to Illinois for a family party.

I can successfully say that I NEVER have seen worse drivers than the ones I have seen in Jacksonville. Listen, I understand defensive driving.

I get that you have to get out of the long line that forms in Gamecock Valley’s drive through 5 minutes before class, and sometimes that means cutting people traveling 201 ft. It’s fine. They’ll live…right?

I know your frustration trying to turn onto Trustee Circle by the library and not being able to go on your green arrow due to the car in front of you going straight because they’re going to Dollar General.

I know that there are stop signs ignored all the time (Looking at you, Moutain Street intersection past 10:30 at night) and I totally agree with the rest of the population of Jacksonville that the speed limit on Pelham should be at least 45, not 25.

There are my complaints on an average day.

When there is questionable weather, however, the drivers around town earn a whole new set of complaints that make me wonder how any of them actually earned a license. I agree, harsh weather is scary, especially when the lights on the back half of town are the first to go out and the lights on the other side begin to blink. That’s part I understand. The part I have prob-lems with is how everyone seems to ignore basic driving school 101 when it comes to these situations.

But, reader, you may ask, what’s all the complaining about? What’s the problem?

Because ya’ll little butt-heads need to realize that you SHARE the road and it’s a little sportsy thing with Sunkist. I’m not talkin’ about you and it be-HAVE IT. Not my finest moment, but that’s not the point.

All in all, your favorite musical artists do use social media to engage with their fans, but their artists do use social media to engage with their fans, and there were only a few minutes before class that the song “Lose You to Love Me” by Selena Gomez was played today like a 95-mph fastball to the shoulder. —Taylor Swift

So, you can understand the obvious so-cia media.

No, not the way both artists use Twit ter. —because both use it differently but rather the number of tweets with just song lyrics. Think about it for a second, how many times have you read “She say, ‘Do you love me? No, do you love me? I tell her ‘Only partly,’ I only love my bed and my momma, I’m sorry” or “I got tired of waiting, wonder- ing if you were ever coming around, my faith in you was fading?” For what, it’s worth, though, both artists do use social media to engage with their fans and fans with new music by posting encrypted snippets.

Then there are the singles that BLEW up and are still played today: “Jumpman” and “You Belong With Me.” You guys re-membered when “Jumpman” dropped? Man, that was a wild year.

(Also, that song got old way quick.)

Now, when NWTS dropped in 1989 was initially dropped, both sounded a lot different before they came to these situations.

Listen, I drive a Veloster. For those ultra-militar, it’s a little hatch-back spunky thing with three doors. I will not be the only YEET YEET truck (You know I’m talking about the ones that were in senior pictures and the cover photos of their Facebook accounts. Yeah, those.) I chased that guy into the parking lot before I set off the roof. However, I’m really disappointed that the roof was never finished and I kind of want it to. The new one is through the roof. However, when the new one is released, it doesn’t quite match up and you’re extremely dis-appointed. But, after months and months of forcing yourself to listen to the new stuff, it starts to grow on you and it be-comes a never-end- ing love. For example, Drake’s “Take Care” was, technically, fol-lowed with “Noth-ing Was the Same” and Taylor Swift’s “Red” came before “1989.”

Now, when NWTS dropped in 1989 was initially dropped, both sounded a lot different before they came to these situations.

As you can see, there are so many different genres of music can connect to each other so well.

It isn’t weird how much fun I have from different genres of music can connect to each other so well.
## Weekend Schedule

### Baseball

- **March 16**
  - Game 1 vs. Eastern Illinois at 3:00 p.m. in Charleston, IL
  - Game 2 vs. Eastern Illinois at 1:00 p.m. in Charleston, SC

### Beach Volleyball

- **March 16**
  - Game vs. Georgia St. & S. Carolina at 3:00 p.m. in Sevierville, TN

### Softball

- **March 16**
  - Game vs. Georgia St. & S. Carolina at 2:00 p.m. in Charleston, SC

### Women’s Basketball

- **March 16**
  - Game vs. Georgia St. & S. Carolina at 11:15 a.m. in Charleston, SC

### Women’s Track & Field

- **March 16**
  - Meet vs. Pepperdine & LSU at 11:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. in Charleston, SC

### Weekend Schedule

- **March 18**
  - Game vs. Eastern Illinois at 1:00 p.m. in Charleston, SC
  - Game vs. Texas A&M at 3:00 p.m. in Sevierville, TN

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**Baseball drops OVC opener**

**Grant Benfield**  
**Sports Reporter**

After opening the 2018 season to a hot 9-3 record, Gamecock baseball stumbled in its first OVC series of the year, dropping two of three to Austin Peay by scores of 7-4, 7-6, before winning the final game 15-9.

Game one of the weekend series started well for the Gamecocks (10-5). Willie Wilburn’s hit to left in the bottom of the third, designated hitter Trent Simpson belted a three-run home run to score Taylor Hawthorne and Clayton Daniel. Two teams tallied a run in the fourth, with JSU hitting another home run—this time a solo shot from catcher Nic Gaddis.

The Governors (10-6, 2-1) scored three runs to tie the game in the fifth, and later broke through Gamecock reliever Tyler Wilburn to take the 2-4 lead in the seventh. Wilburn (2-3) would take the loss, his first of the season.

Two more runs in the eighth would be all the insurance the visitors needed to secure game one of the series.

The Governor’s would want no time getting on the board, sitting, scoring runs off of Gamecock starting pitcher Derek Adams in the first and second inning to take the 2-0 lead.

An RBI single from Gaddis and a two run shot from Simpson gave the Gamecocks a short-lived 3-2 lead in the fourth, before Austin Peay tacked on a tying run in the fifth and took the lead in the sixth off of Gamecock reliever Christian Edwards (0-1).

The Gvos added two more runs in the eighth for some needed insurance, as the Gamecocks would load the bases in bottom of the inning. Austin Peay found a way out of the jam, surrendering just one run in the eighth off of a fielder’s choice ground ball from Isaac Alexander that brought the score to 6-4 final, securing the series for the Governors.

But while Austin Peay took the series, the Gamecocks would make sure to leave the visitors with something to remember them by—a 13-0 walking in game three on Sunday.

The Gamecocks exploded for a season-best of 18 hits on their way to the victory.

Trent Simpson kept up his monstrous series performance, going 2-for-4 with 5 RBI including a 3-run blast, his third homer of the series.

Colton Pate (5-1) earned his third win of the season, pitching six scoreless frames with 8 K’s and 3 walks.

The Gamecocks will now look to their next OVC series this weekend, as they travel to take on Eastern Illinois starting on Friday.

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**Chambers blasts JSU to rout in return to OVC contest**

**Maddie Reynolds/JSU Sportswire**

Colton Pate led JSU to their lone win of the series against Austin Peay.

JSU scored three runs in the top of the first inning off of Austin Peay opening pitcher Bryce Elliott. The Gamecocks exploded for a season-best of 18 hits on their way to the victory.

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**Women’s Tennis defeats UT Martin in OVC series this weekend**

**Maddie Reynolds/JSU Sportswire**

JSU dropped OVC opener to Austin Peay on the JSU Tennis Courts on Friday.

The Gamecocks (8-1, 1-0 OVC) swept the doubles point and took four of the singles matchups en route to their eighth victory of the season.

Following the doubles point, the Skyhawks (0-8, 0-4 OVC) took the first two singles points of the afternoon. Jemima Potter toppled her Local opponent on two sets No. 2 and Malin Buechner fell in two sets to Andrea Plantado at No. 3.

Following the slight slip, the Gamecocks would go on to win the next four contests to win the match. Genevie Buechner fell in two sets No. 2 and Malin Buechner in two sets No. 3.

The Gamecocks are back in action March 16 when they continue their OVC schedule at Eastern Illinois. JSU Sportswire
Grass announces new Football staff

JACKSONVILLE – John Grass has completed his coaching staff for the 2018 season, adding new faces to fill three vacancies on the defensive side of the ball.

The fifth-year head coach announced this week the addition of new defensive coordinator and linebackers coach Andrew Warwick, associate head coach and safeties coach Kelvin Sigler and new defensive ends coach Landius Wilkerson. The trio replaces co-defensive coordinators David Blackwell and Brandon Hall and defensive ends coach Nick Gundy, who each left to take a job at the FBS level.

“We are excited to add three great coaches to our staff, but even more important is that we are adding three good men to our program,” Grass said after Tuesday morning’s practice.

The kids are latching on to them, and I’m excited about the way they’re fitting in. All three of them bring something a little different to the table, and it’s going really good.”

Warwick joined the staff prior to the start of spring practice, while Sigler and Wilkerson more recently completed the process to join the Gamecocks early in the spring schedule.

Grass also announced additional responsibilities for the two returning defensive assistants, William Green and Owen Kilgore. Green, the defensive line coach, will coordinate the team’s run defense, while Kilgore will head up the Gamecocks’ pass defense efforts.

Warwick joins JSU from Clemson, where he spent the last six years in different capacities. He was most recently the Tigers’ Director of Defensive Player Development, a position he held for the previous three seasons.

In 2013, he helped the Clemson defense to a top-25 finish in tackles for loss, sacks, total defense and scoring defense. The 2014 Tigers led the nation in total defense, while the 2015 group paced the country in tackles for loss.

He held the No. 8 defense in the nation lead the 2016 Tigers to the National Championship, a unit that also finished third in tackles for loss and fourth in pass efficiency defense. Another ACC title followed in 2017, thanks to a defense that ranked fourth nationally in total defense, second in scoring defense, fourth in passing defense and fifth in sacks.

Warwick is a 2007 graduate of Knox College in Galesburg, Ill., where he was a three-year starter at tight end and wide out. He won the Micro Crown Award as the team’s top receiver in 2006.

The native of Oklahoma City, Okla., began his coaching career in 2008, when he became the defensive backs coach at Thomas More College and helped it to a league title. He spent the 2009 and 2010 seasons at Central Oklahoma, where he coached defensive backs.

In 2011, he coached at Coffeyville (Kan.) Community College.

Sigler comes to JSU from South Alabama, where he spent two seasons as the Jaguars’ cornerbacks coach during a three-year stint at Northern Illinois.

In his first season at USA, Sigler led the defensive backs as NIU posted a 11-1 (73.9%) overall record and a 21-3 (87.5%) mark in the Mid-American Conference, earned three consecutive post-season bowl berths and claimed the 2014 league championship.

Prior to NIU, Sigler was on the 2012 defensive staff at Alabama, where he helped the Crimson Tide to a 13-1 record and a 42-14 win over Notre Dame in the BCS National Championship Game.

He went to Alabama after serving four seasons as the head coach at Blount High School in Pritchard, Ala., where he led the Leopards to four-straight playoff appearances and the school’s first 10-win season since 1998 in 2011. He also served as a high school coach at Bob Jones and Greenbrier High Schools.

Sigler lettered for four years at Alabama from 1995-99, helping the program to a 30-3 mark as a sophomore; the Tide played in the Southeastern Conference championship game that fall before going on to beat Michigan in the Outback Bowl. He was also part of a squad that played in a bowl game his senior season, while Alabama went 8-3 his first year of collegiate league. During his career, Sigler intercepted six passes, stopped 12 teams in tackles as a junior and was one of five permanent team captains his senior year.

Wilkerson joins Grass’ staff after a eight-year stint at Huntington College in Montgomery, where he most recently served as the Hawks’ defensive line coach and recruiting coordinator.

During his eight seasons, Wilkerson helped two of his linemen earn All-American recognition. Defensive tackle D.J. Chapelle became the first All-American in program history in 2012 and defensive tackle Heath McCray was named honorable mention All-American in 2015.

During the 2016 season’s first three games, as members of the USA South Athletic Conference, Wilkerson’s defensive line has produced one USA South Defensive Rookie of the Year (Dame’ Gregory), six All-Conference performers and 17 Academic All-Conference selections. Wilkerson has also coached six NFL National Honor Society student-athletes.

Wilkerson earned his B.S. degree in Mathematics Education from the State University, where he played football and ran track. He completed his M.A. degree in Instructional Leadership from Tennessee Tech. He coached for five years at McMinn Central High where he coached both offensive and defensive linemen and served as assistant head coach.

At ASU, Wilkerson was a captain and an All-Conference lineman. A three-year starter on the offensive line, Wilkerson was a member of the 2004 SWAC championship team.

In high school, Wilkerson was a two-time All-State defensive lineman and was selected to play in the Tennessee East-West All-Star Game.

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