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April 18, 2019

CAMPUS

JSU is 'United with Ulises'

Herrera elected new Jacksonville State SGA President

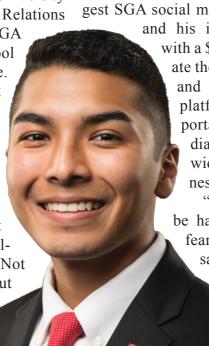
Scott Young Staff Reporter

Current Jacksonville State University SGA Vice President of Public Relations

Ulises Herrera has been elected SGA President for the 2019-2020 school year, succeeding Kasey Gamble. His victory follows a two-week long campaign against the Vice President of Organizational Affairs, Will Milner.

"I want to make sure that every single student is being represented on campus. My campaign was all about unity and that it what I seek to promote," said Herrera following the news of his victory. "Not only between our student body but also with our administration."

Herrera is a junior majoring in marketing who began his involvement with SGA his freshman year, when he joined the Freshman Forum and was later selected to be a Collegiate Legislature delegate. Later on, he became a JSU ambassador, student elected Vice Presi-



Ulises Herrera, who served as Vice President of Public Rela- $_{\dot{1}S}$ senator, and was tions in 2018-19, will be the SGA's president in 2019-20.

dent of Public Relations last year.

During the campaign, Herrera touted his accomplishments as Vice President of Public Relations, such as having "one of the biggest SGA social media outlets in the State"

> and his involvement in working with a \$50 million budget to create the new School of Business and Industry. As part of his platform, he stressed the importance of creating an open dialogue to discuss campuswide sexual assault aware-

> > "Students should not be having to walk around in fear of being sexually assaulted," he said, "Every student has the right

> > > to attend college and earn their degree. I will bring back a campus wide sexual assault awareness campaign for the betterment of our student body."

Herrera argues that the biggest challenge facing Jacksonville State University being more open-minded

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It's time for all Greeks to get the credit they deserve

in SPORTS



Brown leads JSU to bounceback win to claim series

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on CAMPUS

Give Back Expo Thursday, April 18, 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. **TMB**

The Calhoun County Area Chamber and Visitor's Center is partnering with Jacksonville State University & United Way of East Central Alabama to present the "Give Back Expo." After the March 2018 tornadoes, thousands of volunteers flooded Jacksonville to provide assistance in a variety of ways. The "Give Back Expo" is a nonprofit & recreational program expo where our local organizations can present their various volunteer opportunities to the JSU community.



CAMPUS

JSU Honors Program grows in numbers and opportunities

Daniel Mayes

Editor-in-Chief

Ten years ago, the Jacksonville State University Honors Program consisted of eight students and a dream.

Since then, those eight students have turned into 394 members from all majors across campus, and the dream of creating an academic community that opens new opportunities for students has been realized.

JSU had offered honors classes in some form in the eighties and nineties, but the program as it exists today began in 2009, when eight incoming freshmen were selected as "Elite Honors Scholars" to kick-start the fledgling program.

Longtime JSU English Professor Dr. Steve Whitton served as the first Honors Program Director after the program kicked off under the leadership of former Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences J.E. Wade.

Dr. Whitton spent five years helping to establish the program



Grace Cockrell/JSU

The staff of the JSU Honors Program Includes Coordinator Janet Whitmore, Director Dr. Lori Owens and Secretary Amy Tomlinson.

before returning to his classroom full-time in 2014. With the Honors Program looking to expand even further, Dr. Lori Owens was brought on board as Director.

"Dean Wade called me into his office one afternoon and told me he had the perfect job for me: Director of the Honors Program," Owens said. "I was excited about this opportunity and immediately accepted the offer. I saw it as a wonderful opportunity to build on the foundation that Dr. Whitton and the Honors Board Members had established."

The Honors Program continued to select eight incoming freshmen each year to serve as the core of the program, but began to offer not just honors classes, but emphasize membership into the program to the student body.

"We also began an effort to make the program more Program-wide instead of the emphasis being solely on those students

see HONORS page 2









CAMPUS

Firebird reaches 'Ultimate' goal

JP Wood

Staff Reporter

Football school? Basketball school? Marching band school?

How about ultimate frisbee school?

JSU's Ultimate team- known as Firebird Ultimate- is making some noise across the region on the ultimate field. The team, still in its infancy as a program, competed in and won their very first sanctioned tournament earlier this month at UAB.

For program founder Andrew Record, this is the culmination of three years of hard work and team building to reach this very point. "This year we finally felt like we were ready. We had beat some teams that were sanctioned earlier and realized we could really start competing."

Record, set to graduate in May, was part of a pick-up group within the Southerners when he got the idea to start an organized university team.

"I did as much to educate myself on the sport and get better, because I had hadn't really played competitively before. After that the biggest thing was just recruiting. And that's the hardest thing to do in any sport, is to get people to commit."

Firebird started out in a developmental league for their first two years. These years saw the team playing mostly B-teams and other upstarts. After a non-sanctioned tournament in Samford in the fall which saw JSU Firebird finish sec-



Photo Courtesy of @JSUFirebird

ond overall, the team realized they were ready for the next level.

That brought them to UAB for their first sanctioned tournament: The Magic City Invite. Entering play as the dead-last #12 seed, JSU upset #1 seed UAB 11-4 in their first game of pool play. JSU would finish pool play undefeated, taking down Middle Tennessee State, Berry, Alabama, and Ole Miss en-route to the four-team playoff the next day. In bracket play, JSU would then defeat North Georgia and Mississippi State to claim the tournament title.

Seven major wins over two days and a first-place finish, all in their first taste of sanctioned play? Not bad.

For Record, this is just the stepping off point for a program with a very high ceiling. To be performing at this level in only its third season is pretty significant. "It's a big deal for a team this young to be defeating teams that have existed for five, ten, twenty years already, and I think we can keep building upon that."

JSU Firebird will compete in a sectional tournament this weekend, that will see them face off against teams within their section—teams like Alabama, Auburn, UAB, and Mississippi State. A high finish there will see them move on to regionals where they will matchup with teams from all over the south-

With Record's graduation next month, the program he's shepherded from the beginning will be passed on to someone else's hands. In fact, he's already named two new captains this year in order to prepare them to fully take over next year. One of those captains, Luke Thomas, looks to help the program succeed well into the future.

"Success is not necessarily just

from winning, but also seeing the program grow." he says. Success, he says, starts off the field with recruitment. He also wants to see the team make deep postseason runs and compete in larger tournaments. Under his leadership, he wants to see the team continue its upward trajectory in both wins and recruitment.

JSU Firebird has already initiated one move toward growth: A women's team. Captained by Emily Yeend, the women's team is new as of this semester.

"In the fall, the goal is to at least attend one tournament just for fun," Yeend says. She says that in the past, girls at rookie week can be overwhelmed, and that one goal of the women's team is to have prospective female players less likely to be intimidated. "I'm trying to get girls interested in playing, because a lot don't even know what it is."

If you're interested in joining the JSU Ultimate team, keep an eye out for their rookie week announcements at the beginning of the fall semester. Rookie week is an opportunity for new players to come out and play with other new players to ease in to the game. If you've never played before, don't let that turn you away. According to the JSU Ultimate website, most players don't actually learn the game until they reach college.

For more information on the sport and the program here at JSU, jsuultimate.com has an FAQ section with more resources.

HONORS from Page 1

on the top scholarship offered by JSU," Owens said. "This has resulted in greater interest and involvement by students who are bright, dedicated students who might not necessarily be on the top scholarship that JSU offers."

This brought in more students, and with that, more opportunities for the program to expand.

Janet Whitmore, who has served as Coordinator of the Program since August of 2010, has seen the program grow immensely during her

"Over the almost nine years that I have been here, the Honors Program has expanded in many ways, including the number and type of classes offered, the travel opportunities offered, and the community involvement," Whitmore said.

In the Honors Program, it's not all just about the academics. The program has strived to create a community where students can nurture lifelong relationships and give back to the community.

Current Senior Katie Peyton, who has served as Honors Program Co-President during her time at JSU, is grateful for the people she's met through the program.

"The Honors Program is not only the reason I came to JSU, as it gave me a great scholarship, but it's also the reason I met some of my best friends in the world," Peyton said.

Dr. Owens says it's a goal of the program to help students build relationships.

"It is easy to get lost on a college campus unless a student becomes a member of a smaller learning community," Owens said. "Honors is an opportunity for like-minded students from various backgrounds and majors to learn together, form life-long friendships, engage in service for the campus and community, and become a productive, global citizen."

The service aspect of the program has also grown in recent years. Through Honors, students have the opportunity to collaborate on



The Honors Program officers (from left) Mariana Alvarez, Micheal Myrick, Kaleigh Ferguson, Katie Peyton, Laci Gurganus and Ashley Adamson

service projects or volunteer in the Jacksonville community. Students organize trips on Fridays to volunteer at the local Boys & Girls Club, and Jacksonville First United Methodist Church has partnered with the Honors Program to allow students to help with the church's 'Serving Table', where they serve free meals to the community.

"It has shaped me into a better leader and has given me many opportunities to push myself a little further," Peyton said of her opportunities within the Honors Program.

The Honors Program has grown a lot in its first 10 years, but it isn't done yet. Dr. Owens and Whitmore plan to offer even more opportunities for students in the coming years.

"I look forward in the future to be able to offer more upper-level Honors classes and expand our reach to more of the university population," Whitmore says.

Currently, the official Honors classes are limited to lower-level and introductory classes due to student numbers, but plans are already in place to offer interdisciplinary Honors courses starting in Spring 2020.

To learn more about the JSU Honors Program and its offerings, visit JSU.edu/honors-program

SGA from Page 1

more change, and that the current administration has been hard at work to make sure they are being more "efficient and effective."

"I want to be able to come up with new methods in fixing any recurring issues to help our student body. Change shouldn't scare us, it should make us excited for new things to come," he said.

Other elections for SGA were held in which all candidates for the four Vice President positions ran unopposed. The winners of those positions are as follows: Jerod Sharp, Vice President of the Student Senate; Desmond Thomas, Vice President of Student Activities; Kathleen Seibert, Vice President of Public Relations; Will Bowen, Vice President of Organizational Affairs.

For Student Senators, the winners are Mariana Alvarez, Michael Canady, Destiny Paris-Cartwright, Harrison Cheatwood, Noah Davis, Dexter Ferguson, Paige Harles, Gregory Heathcock, Giovanna Hernandez, Timothy Hinkle, Justin Jones, James King, Camri Mason, Auburn McKee, Adam McNeal, Mason Prince, Kaylee Rawlins, Matt Reed, Guadalupe Rosiles, Taylor Smith, Garrett Squires, Taylor White, Demetria Williams and Katelyn Wolf.

The winners of Miss Friendly and Mr. Friendly are Elle Kate Patterson and Craig Scott, Jr., respectively. The winners of Miss and Mr. Jax State are Kate Fleming and Brad Vonner.



It's time for all Greek organizations to get the due credit they deserve

Patrick Yim Staff Writer

"Greek Life" is something that is an apparent staple on most college campuses nationwide. Many people don't realize that there are a few different categories of what we know as Greek Life. Jacksonville State University has roughly 40 different Greek lettered organizations on its campus that are separated into honor, professional, service, and social categories. However, the Fraternity and Sorority Life (FSL) office at JSU only actively recognizes the sixteen social organizations in the National Panhellenic Conference (NPC), National Pan-hellenic Council (NPHC), and North American Interfraternity Council (IFC). There are those who don't believe that professional fraternities and Greek honor societies should be involved in the FSL because they are not strictly social organizations specifically set within their specific councils. However, many students, myself included, wonder why those social Greek organizations not under a specific council are not treated with the same standards or respect as the council members.

A primary example is the organization Sigma Alpha Omega. This organization is a social sorority that also has a Christian focus and background. However, while a recognized organization by the Student Government Association, they are not recognized or supported by the Fraternity and Sorority Life office.

In the past, comments discussing Sigma Alpha Omega have been deleted from the JSU Fraternity and Sorority Life social media, which has raised red flags for many students. A member from the JSU Panhellenic Conference said it was done because Sigma Alpha Omega was not on one of the social councils. However, at the time, the FSL social media and JSU website stated that the Fraternity and Sorority Life pages were for all social greek organizations. It has since been updated and changed. The professional fraternities and Greek honor societies are also facing a disadvantage when it comes to recognition and support on social media outside of their individual profiles.

"Our campus is very biased when it comes to the social organizations. We have no representation outside of our personal pages. It is only about their councils," said Noelani Haberlin, who recently finished serving as president of the Tau Phi Chapter of Delta Sigma Pi. This fraternity is professional-based fraternity with a business focus.

"Marketing from inside our personal organizations is important, but when students come for things such as preview days or orientations, [social organizations] are the ones who get the resources from the school to look better, which gives them an upper hand when it comes to their recruitments. If they would help promote us, even in the slightest bit, it would help us so much. Incoming freshmen have no idea that we exist most times. They are told about IFC, Panhellenic, and NPHC, but they aren't told about us."

One of the more concerning issues regarding equal standards with all Greek organizations is in regards to hazing. While at anti-hazing events this fall semester, which are mandatory to attend for all organizations under the Fraternity and Sorority Life office, the administration acknowledged their awareness that some organizations outside of the FSL office have been known for hazing. They encouraged students to speak up if they hear about any incidents,

but a big issue is that groups outside of the FSL office are not given the same prevention and awareness training. Some say it doesn't even matter.

One student who has served with the JSU National Panhellenic Conference this past year said, "I think it is similar to how the D.A.R.E. [America] program works. We can tell people not to do it, but you know. For instance, after the hazing prevention video, I heard some of the fraternity guys saying how they thought that it was all just a bunch of crap."

At the same time, FSL believes that all the organizations should be held to the same standards. "If one of our social organizations has an incident, we would be in serious and immediate trouble, would be put on probation and would be dealt with immediate consequences. It is mandatory for our organizations to go to these prevention and awareness events but not for professionals or honors. All of these groups, social and professional, are supposed to be brotherhoods and sisterhoods, and it is hard if you don't feel safe in the organizations, or you aren't properly trained."

A prime example is the recent situation surrounding the organization Kappa Kappa Psi, which is a service fraternity. According to members and the administration, the organization has recently been dealt a blow with hazing allegations against the chapter. Due to the incident, JSU has suspended the chapter from campus until the year 2025. As stated previously, administration has acknowledged that hazing has actively occurred in other areas of campus.

If administration knew that this was happening outside of the social FSL organizations, why was nothing done beforehand to help curb this issue affecting outside organizations? FSL is always trying to improve themselves, even more so in the last few years. Due to this, why has no one in or outside the office looked into this sooner. With negativity towards "Greek Life" nationwide increasing due to hazing incidents, high prices of dues, sexual assault allegations and other factors, it has become extremely important to show incoming students, families, and the local communities that people in Greek lettered organizations are not just stereotypes.

This is something that JSU FSL has been trying to curve with the #knowgreek campaign started by Fraternity and Sorority Life Coordinator Josh Robinson. When the campaign began, some of the professional organization members and leaders also started using the hashtag to help raise awareness about their organizations and issues that are regularly overlooked. They were asked to stop by a member of the JSU National Panhellenic Conference and have since been mostly using #gogreekgoprofessional.

Many people don't realize that professional fraternities and the Greek honor societies face most of the same issues as social organizations. Regardless of professional, social, honor, or service status, all of these organizations use the Greek letters the same.

"When I see [Greek] letters, I honestly just see them all as Greek life," said JSU student Dejah Estes. When she first arrived at JSU as a freshman, Estes was heavily interested in rushing for a social sorority. Unfortunately, due to funds and time she was unable to rush.

"I think either social or professional would have been beneficial. They all have their own things that make them good choices. If I had the time and funds, I would even consider joining both a professional and social organization."

At this point, there are many issues that Greek individuals face. Many students, especially those involved in professional organizations, have voiced their concerns, but they unfortunately have not been fully heard. One suggestion has been for the university to hire someone who is solely dedicated to supporting, promoting, working with, and tracking the progress of professional fraternities and Greek honor societies. Not only would this help give the non council and professional organizations the support that they have been asking for and need, but this would ensure the organizations have someone to report to who could make sure that all groups are following standards and are given proper training to prevent hazing.

Could this not be accomplished by the Student Government Association Vice President of Organizational Affairs (VPOA)? On one level, yes, but Haberlin explained why, overall, this doesn't work."The VPOA is an elected position. They are elected by the students, and they cycle out almost every year. It isn't a permanent position like the Fraternity and Sorority Life coordinator. There isn't that same type of accountability. It is always changing while the social organizations have a constant dedicated person from the university whose paid purpose is to work with them."

Another flaw with the VPOA position being the only coordinator is they are also responsible for keeping up with all the other organizations on campus. If the non-council, professional and honor organizations were held under the same umbrella, or if they had someone to act in the same capacity, it could alleviate many of the issues. There is another reason to hire a person to act in the same capacity as the FSL coordinator or bring the outside organizations under the umbrella: looking at the membership numbers of the sixteen or so social Greek lettered organizations in FSL, there are roughly 1,200 members between the three councils. The remaining Greek lettered organizations have 1,459 members combined. Some of this is overlap but not as much as you would think. It is important to note that the numbers for ten of the professional/honor organizations have not been counted as there is no official record with the school containing the numbers. The missing ten organizations have not yet responded and were not able to be factored into the professional/honor organization count. This also does not include social organizations not on councils or the new organization Pi Kappa Alpha, also known as "PIKE", as Pi Kappa Alpha is still in their colonization process. Taking into consideration the numbers so far, we can see that there are almost 300 more members than those registered under FSL and twenty-three unaccounted-for organizations compared to the sixteen organizations that the Fraternity and Sorority Life office recognizes.

With so many skill, networking, service, and development opportunities within the Greek community, it is a shame that not only the Fraternity and Sorority Life office but also Jacksonville State University do not acknowledge these organizations along with their social council counterparts. So, again, why treat them separately? Why not represent all sides of the Greek community on this campus? While I do not personally have membership in any of the social organizations, it cannot go without saying that these groups have merits that help students just as much as the professional groups. That is why they have lasted as long as they have. However, many feel that it is time for the rest of these organizations to get the due credit that they have been missing. Most the professional and honor organizations have start dates from the same years or earlier than those of some social groups. They are nothing new and should not be held at a lower standard or recognition than they deserve.

Saying Goodbye...

Daniel Mayes

Editor-in-Chief

Well, here we are.

The best and fastest four years of my life is coming to a close.

I've been dreading writing this almost as much as I have graduating and leaving. Even now, I'm sitting here struggling to come up with adequate words to describe what Jacksonville, Jacksonville State University, and The Chanticleer have meant to me over these years, and how much I'll miss them.

Here's what I got:

Jacksonville gave me a home. It really is true what they say about Jacksonville, Alabama. You don't know how to describe it or to explain it, but it's home. Four years has seen me fall in love with a town, get emotionally ripped to shreds as I watched it get demolished by a tornado, and feel myself get stitched back together as the town itself was.

together as the town itself was.

Jacksonville State University gave me a family. Aside from the education I've received here, the most important thing I think JSU has brought me is the people it's introduced into my life. From all the friends I have made, to connections with professors I've established, and an introduction to someone I plan on making a

part of my life for a long, long time. The Friendliest Campus in the south is such

an accurate description of Jacksonville State.

The Chanticleer gave me a path. From starting out as a volunteer staff sports writer to being in charge (for better or worse) of the whole thing, my time working on The Chanticleer has taken someone with no real guidance on what they wanted to do with their life other than a love of sports and turned him into someone with slightly more guidance on what they want to do with their life other than a love of sports (just kidding). My experiences here have inspired me to walk headfirst into a declining and evolving industry with the resolve of I'm going to make it or go broke trying. Experiences like getting to cover an actual real-life March Madness game for Jacksonville State in 2017 have made me realize that this whole sports journalism thing is something I'm just meant to do. I hope I've helped to lead The Chanticleer in the right direction in my short time involved

To anyone who's gotten any information or enjoyment out of anything I've written, said, or tweeted about Jacksonville or Jacksonville State sports over the past few years, thanks for letting me do what I love for the place I love. I hope I've been worthy of the level of coverage the outstanding community of Jacksonville State deserves. It's been a pleasure to do what I could to serve what

really makes this place special: its people. Thank you, Jacksonville, and goodbye.

(For now at least)



Arts & Entertainment

JSU ART

JSU showcases senior art projects

Sydney Spencer

A&E Reporter

This Thursday, Jacksonville State University will be hosting their annual Senior Art Showcase for students who will be graduating with a Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA), Bachelor of Arts (BA), and a Master of Fine Arts (MFA).

The students who will be receiving their BFA are Christian Everhart, Alec Cornutt, Austin Whitt, Bekah Britton, Harley Stickney, Kara Clay, Kaylee Woodall, Kelsey Blangin, Meghan Lee, Shelby Holman, and Toby Satterfield. Students who will be receiving their BA are Sydney Sorrells, Madelynn Barker, and Paige Christ. Last but not least, the student receiving their MFA is Stefanie Cobb.

All of these students have put in numerous hours of preparation leading up to this night. Majority of them have been working towards this showcase since the beginning of their collegiate careers. There are many different fields of artwork going to be on display like photography, paintings, drawings, and graphic designs. These students are also looking forward to the opportunities that could come about from being able to display their craftmanship during this showcase.

Sydney Sorrells, who is receiving her BA in Photography at the end of the semester feels students have put a lot of work has gone into the show

"It takes a lot of preparation because you have to come up with at least three ideas, present your ideas, and then decide on your topic. After that you have to prepare everything to do the entire semester," she explains.

She adds how each year is different and every student brings their own style to the showcase so there is diversity in the artwork and culture being displayed.

"I'm excited to see what the graphic designers came up with because every year it gets more phenomenal and we have a really good graphic design program," says Sorrells

Sorrells photography that will be on display is about the struggles of an upcoming artist and that artist finally mak-



















BFA SENIOR EXHIBITION 2019











MILLENNIUM

April 18, 2019 | 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM | Hammond Hall Gallery

JSU Art Department

ing it. The Senior Art Showcases over the past couple of years have had renowned artwork and many students and faculty look forward to this event each year. All artists would like to have support and participation from the whole Jacksonville State community by just asking for people to come out and take

a look at the showcase.

There has been a change in date for the Opening Reception and it will now be held Thursday, April 25th. This Thursday, April 18th, the senior's artwork will still be displayed from 5:00PM to 7:00PM in Hammond Hall, the Roundhouse, and Student Galleries.

FILM REVIEW

Episode III: the strongest prequel

James King A&E Writer

This is the *Star Wars* movie I've been wanting to see since beginning this look at *Star Wars* movies. It's not the strongest movie in the *Star Wars* canon, but after the wasteland of boredom that was the first two movies in the prequel trilogy, it's definitely the strongest of the three. The movie does have a few big flaws, but its enjoyable enough that I wasn't as bored by it as I was with the other two prequels. The movie basically is one big action flick, but it was a welcome turn after the first two movies focused on the politics of the characters. This was honestly the only prequel movie I would recommend actually watching, because other than character introductions and set up, it's the only prequel that really gives any of the characters something to do.

two movies focused on the politics of the characters. This was honestly the only prequel movie I would recommend actually watching, because other than character introductions and set up, it's the only prequel that really gives any of the characters something to do.

The story in this movie has problems with pacing. Some parts of the movie feel like they skipped over way too fast; like Anakin's ultimate turn to the dark side or the deaths of the villains. These parts should have held a lot of emotion, but are not set up enough for the audience to really care. The movie also doesn't give you much time to breathe in between scenes of

war and scenes of dialogue. The fast pace does help strengthen

the movie, though as it keeps the movie from dragging which

has been a major problem in the last couple of movies.

This movie was also one of the better-looking *Star Wars*, it's a CGI fest, but it never is as distracting as it was in the *Phantom Menace* and it has aged pretty well. The beginning war scene is a visual feast with tons of robots flying through space and giant space ships exploding. The dialogue isn't as strong as it has been in some of the previous *Star Wars* films. I have problems remembering anything the characters said beyond a few lines from Obi-Wan towards the end of the movie. It's not enough to drag the movie down, but worth mentioning since the dialogue has been the best part of Star Wars.

It's not one of the strongest movies, I feel like that honor goes to The Empire Strikes Back. Revenge of the Sith does have some of the strongest acting of the prequels. I wasn't begging the actors to emote like I was with the first movie or just bored with the acting like in the second. I actually was actually much more engaged with the story this time. It makes me really looking forward to watching the modern Star Wars movies to see how they stack up to the other movies.

how they stack up to the other movies.

I am still not quite caught up with all the movies I still need to watch *The Last Jedi* and *The Force Awakens* for that, but it has been fun catching up on the various trilogies. These movies mean a lot of things to a lot of people. Much like the way they describe the force in these movies, they connect people and brings them together.



FILM REVIEW

Mercy Black, more like mercy whack

Breihan Dryden

A&E Writer

Thousands of years ago into the future, the year was 2014 and two pre-teens thought it was a cool idea to lure their friend into the woods and stab her to appease a fictional creepypasta known as "Slenderman" (or as I like to call him, SlenDaddy Long Arms). Why do I bring this up? Well, my dear reader, this is basically the plot of the 2019 horror film Mercy Black. Obviously, this might come across as being in poor taste to some people. I find it a bit odd that this movie could be considered far more offensive to the OG victim's family, yet the actual Slenderman movie (that shares surprisingly little to do with actual crime) was subject to a crap ton of controversy when it was finally crapped out by Sony, but I digress. My point? "Is this in poor taste" isn't something I generally consider when reviewing a film. No, "Mercy Black" isn't a bad movie because of what it's based on, it's bad because it just kind of sucks.

Seriously, I was actually interested in this movie when it popped up on Netflix outta nowhere a couple of weeks ago. It looked like the Slenderman movie that I always wanted. Sure it wasn't *actually Slenderman, but the title character of the film, the aforementioned Mercy Black, looked cool and it didn't look like your average "is the monster real or is the crazy person ¡UsT cRaZy?" horror movie. It's kind of disappointing to watch it and find out that, yeah, it's just a bland, milk toast, and cliché-ridden direct to video (VOD, actually) horror movie, complete with creepy kids, lame jump scares, exposition dumps, and every adult acting like an actual, literal baby. Now excuse me while I re-use the same review format from my Us review, because I'm tired and I wanna go to bed.

"So what did you like?" Well, something I thoroughly dig is the look and use of color in this movie. Reds and blues permeate throughout and the whole film has a really solid look. Lots of cool shots are scattered about the film and there was only one CGI shot that I could see. Yes, that means that "Mercy Black" is chock full of some pretty decent practical effects. Mercy herself is a real, physical presence in the film...kind of. More on that in a second. Some other things that are decent: the editing....uh, the soundtrack? Maybe? It's a pretty decent soundtrack.

"Sooooo what didn't you like?" Pretty much everything else. The acting is dodgy, the story makes no sense, the film doesn't follow its own rules, and what is perhaps the most egregious problem this movie has, it's just soooooooooooo boorrrrrrrrrrrrrrrr. Forreals though, homie. The pacing of this film constantly chugs back and forth between breezing through what seem to be important moments, just to spend fifteen minutes with people we don't care about, doing things we don't care about, in places that don't matter. Plot convenience? This movie has loads of that, too. Since when does the creepy son of the sister of the crazy lady have a fat best friend? From the earlier scenes of him at school, it implies that if he isn't bullied, he at least stays away from other kids. So why is he hanging out with someone now? Oh yeahhhhh, it's be-



cause we need fatty to be in this (admittedly cool torture scene). Also, don't get mad because I'm calling him fatty; a good number of people in this movie (including lard lad and Dwight from *The* Walking Dead) are straight up Dicks, like my good friend Richard.

Is Mercy Black a good movie? Oh god no. Didn't you read the last paragraph? No, Mercy Black is a couple of steps above bottom of the barrel Netflix trash like American Poltergeist II, 13/14 Cameras, The Hatred, or Cam. At least it has those few steps, though. Besides, it's still leagues better than the actual Slenderman movie. Seriously, who thought it was a good idea to turn Slenderman into a f----- tree??!

Mercy Black gets 4 Golden Taylors out of

TELEVISION REVIEW

Umbrella Academy is a ride worth taking

Taylor Mitchell

A&E Editor

The Umbrella Academy is a comic book series written by former My Chemical Romance frontman Gerard Way, originally beginning publishing of its first limited series in 2007. It has since done two more limited series with the first issue of the third being released in October of 2018. With the series meeting critical and fan acclaim it was only a matter before the series got picked up for a Tv show or movie. This brings us to the Netflix Television adaptation The Umbrella Academy

The show starts with the miraculous event of 43 children being born the same moment all across the world, despite none of their mothers being pregnant until they went into labor. Sir Reginald Hargreeves, an eccentric and reclusive billionaire, then decides to adopt as many of these children as he can, which predictably is only seven, in order to train them as a superhero team. 20 years later the children, which have long gone their separate ways, reunite for their adoptive father's funeral. Sadly, things start to fall apart as they learn of a looming threat and that things about their childhood may not be what they seem.

I am going pretty light on plot this time because the story and writing are by far the greatest aspects of the show. The dialogue is top notch and the story feels pretty satisfying. The one issue I will give is that near the end of the season the pacing just kicks into overdrive, which can be pretty jarring. This only really comes into effect on the last couple of episodes though, so it doesn't drag down the whole thing to much. It's because of this I would say that the show is stronger at the beginning than the end, which drags it down from the great heights it climbs to.

The greatest achievement of the show is its characters. They are all written and performed incredibly well. In particular I want to give massive credit to Aidan Gallagher and Robert Sheehan who play Number 5 and Number 4/ Claus. Gallagher's only main acting credit up to this point has been a Nickelodeon show (though granted an Emmy award winning one), yet he is by far the most fun and engaging actor in *Umbrella Academy*. The fun thing about 5 is that he is an old man in a 15 year old body, and somehow Gallagher sells that with a level of authenticity that is astounding. Sheehan also played a part that would be hard to balance out for most actors incredibly well. Claus often rides the line between annoying fool and tragic addict, ad Sheehan brings a lot of delicacy to towing that line that helps keep the character believable and not cartoonish.

If there is one big acting problem I would say it comes from Ellen Page, who plays Number 7/Vanya. I won't go into why buy for most of the season Vanya is on medications that specifically bring her down and even her out, which Page does a wonderfully job of portraying. The catch comes later when Vanya becomes more emotional, and Page doesn't sell that emotion at all. Admittedly, this is a generally issue I have with her acting in most things, she just never seems to emote in quite the right way. It's always too much or too little, usually too little. I will say this on crops up at the end though, and all the other performances stay stellar throughout, so it may not be a huge issue.

All in all *The Umbrella Academy* is a really good show and everybody should give it a shot. It does have a few minor issues, but rest assured they are minor.

The Umbrella Academy gets 8.5 golden Breihans out of 10



Trivia Answer: April 11th Edition!

1. What luxury car company introduced the Boxster roadster in 1996? Answer: Porsche

2. Who patented the concept of a flat engine or "boxer" engine in 1896? Answer: Karl Benz

3. Established in the 1920s, what historic double-digit highway connected Chicago and Los Angeles? Answer: Route 66

4. What automobile manufacturer was first to implement the assembly line for the mass production of an entire automobile?

Answer: Ford Motor Company

5. The vehicle manufacturer Volvo was founded in what country?

Answer: Sweden

6. General Motors was founded in which city?

Answer: Flint, MI

7. What do the letters "PT" stand for in the name of Chrysler's family car, the PT Cruiser? Answer: Personal Transport

Life Hacks





If you want the best sound experience in a theatre, sit 2/3rd of the way back and as close to the middle as possible.

Need to remember an item in the morning? Put a picture of it as the background for your phone.

If your calculator runs out of batteries in the middle of an exam rubbing the ends of the batteries together can give you an extra 15 minutes.

Soda been shaken up? Tapping the lid does nothing. Tapping the side prevents bubble buildup and soda explosion.

If you're at a hotel and forgot your charger, the TV usually has a USB plugin.

Candles will burn longer and drip less if placed in the freezer a few hours before using.

Did YOU know?

Most lipsticks contain fish scales.

Butterflies taste with their feet.

Some dogs can predict when a child will have an epileptic seizure and even protect the child from injury. They're not trained to do this, they simply learn to respond after observing at least one attack.

Very punny...

The sun doesn't have to go to college, because it's already got like 28 million degrees.

If a fraternity open a coffee shop they would specialize in fratacinno.

Riddle of the week...



Five pirates are parting ways after finding a treasure of 100 pieces of gold. The pirates decide to split it based on a vote. Each pirate, from oldest to youngest, gets to propose a plan on how to split the gold. If at least 50 percent of the other remaining pirates agree on the plan, that is how they will split the gold. If less than 50 percent of the pirates agree, the pirate who came up with the plan will be thrown overboard. Each pirate is smart, greedy, and wants to throw as many others overboard as possible without reducing the amount of gold they get.

What plan can the first (oldest) pirate propose to live and get as much gold as possible?



JSU BASEBALL

Brown leads JSU to bounce back win to claim series

Daniel Mayes

Editor-in-Chief

UPCOMING EVENTS

Baseball

@ Eastern

Kentucky

4/18 - 4/20

vs Auburn

4/23

Women's

Tennis

@ Belmont

4/19

@Tennessee

State

4/20

Men's

Golf

@ OVC

Champion-

ship

4/21 - 4/23

Softball

vs Murray

JACKSONVILLE — After a series-opening shutout win Friday night, Jacksonville State split Saturday's doubleheader with Belmont to take the overall series victory.

The Gamecock offense was shut down in a 7-1 loss in Saturday's opener, but used two bases-loaded, twoout triples early in the second game to jump ahead of Belmont and held on to win 9-4

"We were able to do a lot of things with two outs," JSU coach Jim Case said. "We were able to keep innings going and score runs. Devin Brown stepped up with the bases loaded and two outs and tripled. That was huge for us."

In the second inning, Brown got a ball to drop into right field for a triple that scored three. A Nash Adams bunt and a Cole Frederick double later, and Jacksonville State had chased Bruins starter Korey Bell and built a 5-0 lead.

With JSU leading 6-1 in the third, a Frederick triple brought home three more and gave the Gamecocks the commanding 9-1 lead.

Belmont chipped away at the stagnant JSU offense, but the Gamecocks held on to

After scoring in the first three innings Friday night, the Gamecock offense faced a slower start Saturday. Jacksonville State was held without a hit in the first three innings of Saturday's opener, falling behind Belmont 4-0 as the Bruins scored their first runs of the series.

Carson Crowe made sure the Gamecocks wouldn't get shut out, blasting a solo shot over the right field fence in the sixth to tally the only run of the night for JSU. The Bruins scored three more in the seventh to put the game out of reach.

What to know

—Twice Brown stepped up to the plate with the bases loaded in Jacksonville State's series-clinching win, and twice he delivered. After his big triple in the second inning, he

scored another with a bases-loaded single in the third. He finished 4-for-4 with four RBIs in the game.

—Christian Edwards was credited with the win for the Gamecocks in the second game. In 2 2/3 innings, Edwards struck out two and allowed two hits and two

—Crowe's homer was one of just three hits in Saturday's opener for the Gamecocks. Isaac Alexander and Adams also reached base for Jacksonville State. Belmont's Joshua South pitched a complete game, stifling the Gamecock batters and

picking up the win.

—With the series win over Belmont, the Gamecocks have now secured a win in their last three series.

Who said

 Brown on his big performance: "I was just trying to get my foot down and see it early. I've struggled a little bit lately, but my team has believed in me and kept trusting in me. I'm happy to come through for them today."

-Case on the opening game: "Their kid pitched great. He threw strikes basically any

JSU Sportswire time he wanted to. We had very few opportunities, and the ones we had we couldn't do anything with them. When you get dominated like that, you really wonder how you're going to

Next up

bounce back."

—The Gamecocks (19-16, 10-5 OVC) will hit the road for a Thursday-Saturday series against Eastern Kentucky before returning home to Jim Case Stadium to play in-state opponents Auburn and Alabama on back to back days April 23 and



State DH

4/19

vs UT Martin DH

4/26

vs SEMO DH

4/28

Women's **Track**

@ War Eagle Invite

4/19

Men's **Tennis**

@Tennessee **State**

4/20

@ OVC Championship

4/26-4/28

JSU MEN'S GOLF

JSU Men finish 10th at Shoal Creek Invitational



JSU Sportswire

BIRMINGHAM - The Jacksonville State men's golf team wrapped up its regular season on Tuesday with a 10th-place finish in a tough field at the Shoal Creek Invitational.

The Gamecocks carded rounds of 295 and 307 on a long Tuesday that finished just before dark. They posted a 54-hole score of 894 on the par-72, 7,400-yard Shoal Creek Country Club to finish two shots ahead of Tennessee, the 22nd-ranked team in the

event that featured five of the

nation No. 24 Alabama was 13-under and won the 15-team top 25 teams in the nation. No. 12 LSU finished 19 shots behind Alabama in second, while No. 15 North Florida came in third.

The tournament got off to a late start on Monday due to a delay forced by severe weather over the weekend. On Tuesday, three teams had to finish their first round before the wrap up the tournament.

entire field played 36 holes to JSU senior Benedikt Thalmayr finished 23rdin the 87-player field to lead JSU. The Ouching, Germany, na-

tive carded a 54-hole score

of 220 after a 72 on Tuesday

morning and a 78 in the final

round. Thalmayr birdied six holes in each of his first two rounds, but didn't record a birdie in the third round.

He did finish tied or ahead of five nationally ranked golf-

Sophomore Quim Vidal Mora tied for 36thfor JSU with a total score of 223. The native of Barcelona, Spain, opened the event with a 71 on Monday before shooting rounds of 73 and 790 on Tuesday.

Fellow sophomore Jesus Dario Montenegro tied for

39thwith a score of 224. A na-

tive of Buenos Aires, Argen-

tina, Montenegro shot 73 on

Monday before a morning 77 and afternoon 74 on Tuesday. Sophomore Maximo Portais

shot 74 and 76, respectively, on Tuesday to wrap up a 231 that tied him for 66th, while sophomore Max Basler's 76 and 79 on the final day put the finishing touches on a 233 that tied him for 73rd.

The Gamecocks will play in the Ohio Valley Conference Championship beginning Sunday at The Fighting Joe course at The Shoals on the Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail. JSU will be going for its thirdstraight conference title and its sixth in the last nine years.

JSU Sportswire



JSU SOFTBALL

Gamecocks sweep TSU to wrap up long week in Tennessee



JSU Sportswire

NASHVILLE - The Jacksonville State softball team capped a week that saw them play six games in the state of Tennessee on Saturday with a doubleheader sweep of Tennessee State.

The Gamecocks (28-12, 12-4 Ohio Valley Conference) rolled to an 8-0 mercy-rule win in the opener before hanging on for a 4-0 win in the nightcap against the homestanding Tigers (10-24, 3-13 OVC).

In the circle, Faith Sims earned the complete-game win in the opener before closing the door and earning the save in the final game of the day. At the plate, five different JSU players drove in at least one run in the first game before freshman Anna Hood delivered the big blow in the finale with a pinch-hit, two-run homer in the seventh that proved

to be the difference.

That blow came with JSU leading just 2-0 with two outs in the top of the seventh and just after a lengthy lightning delay had the teams wait around an hour to finish the game. She native of Locust Fork, Ala., fouled off fivestraight Raven Loveless pitches before belting a 3-2 pitch over the center field wall to make it a 4-0 game.

TSU scored twice in the home half of the seventh and then brought the tying run to the plate before Sims was able to finish her two-inning save by inducing a ground out.

Sims, a native of Cordova. Ala., recorded five outs in her fourth save of the season, allowing two runs on two hits. She relieved starter Nicole Rodriguez (7-4), who held TSU scoreless on five hits

in 5 and 1/3 innings. She struck out five in the winning effort.

Loveless (8-11) suffered the loss for TSU, allowing four runs on six hits in seven innings of work. She walked one and struck out four.

The first two runs she allowed came in the third, when freshman Karsen Mosley's two-run triple scored Sidney Wagnon and pinch runner Hannah Brown to break a scoreless tie.

In the opener, JSU scored early and often, scoring in every innings after a scoreless first. The first two runs came in the second on Wagnon's two-run single, and then a four-run third broke the game open. Amber Jones singled in the first in that inning, followed by an Anna Chisolm RBI and a two-run double from Hayley Sims that made it a 6-0 Taylor Beshears dou-

bled in a run in the fourth, and Chisolm scored on a passed ball in the fifth that put the mercy rule into effect.

Faith Sims (17-4) tossed a two-hit shutout in the five-inning game, striking out eight. She beat Jessina Espinoza (1-5), who allowed two runs on three hits in 2 and 1/3 innings.

The Gamecocks return home on Friday, when they host first-place Murray State in a doubleheader at University Field that will start at 1 p.m. JSU will enter the twinbill trailing the Racers by two games in the league standings. JSU students and fans ages 18 and under will receive free admission, and tickets can be purchased online at www.JSUGamecockSports.com/Tickets.

JSU WOMEN'S TENNIS

Women's tennis stays hot with 4-3 win over **SEMO**



JSU Sportswire

JACKSONVILLE - The Jacksonville State women's tennis team earned its third consecutive win Saturday with a 4-3 nail-biter over Southeast Missouri at the JSU Tennis Courts.

The Gamecocks (12-3, 5-1 OVC) sit in third place in the Ohio Valley Conference standings with two matches remaining in the regular season. JSU trails just Murray State (6-1) and Austin Peay (6-0) for the top spot in the league. APSU and Murray State also have two matches left to play, scheduled to meet on Friday, April 19 in Clarksville, Tenn.

Alba Conejero's three-set victory at No. 4 in singles play turned out to be the match-deciding contest in JSU's win over the Redhawks (9-9, 2-4 OVC).

Tied 3-3 with five singles matches complete and the doubles point already in the books, Conejero took the first set 6-3 over Anais Emelie. The second set went to Emelie as she battled back to take a lopsided 6-2 victory to tie the game. With the win on the line, the JSU junior outdueled the SEMO senior 6-2 to claim the win for the Gamecocks.

Jacksonville State went up 1-0 with the doubles victory. Conejero and Malin Buechner remained undefeated with a 6-3 win at No. 1 doubles, improving to 10-0 for the season, while the team of Harriet Hamilton and Elena Tendero secured the point with a 6-3 win at No. 2.

After Hamilton fell in two sets to Romana Tarajova at No. 1 singles, Buechner get the Gamecocks back on track with a twoset win over Isabella Krupa at No. 3. Cristina Moll Alles put JSU up by two, 3-1, with her win at No. 6, but back-to-back losses at No. 2 and No. 5 tied the match 3-3 before Conejero would put away Emelie for her 10th singles win of the year.

The Gamecocks return to action Friday, April 19 at Belmont before wrapping up the regular season the following day at Tennessee State. The OVC Championships are set to take place Friday, April 26 – Sunday, April 28 in Nashville, Tenn.

For more information on the JSU tennis teams, follow the Gamecocks on Twitter (@) JSU Tennis) and on Facebook (Facebook.com/JSUTennis). For more on all Gamecocks sports teams, follow the official social media accounts of JSU Athletics on Twitter (@JSUGamecocks), Facebook (Facebook.com/JSU-Gamecocks), Instagram (@JSU-Gamecocks) and Snapchat (@ JSUGamecocks).

JSU Sportswire

JSU WOMEN'S GOLF

Gamecock Women third at OVC after round two

MUSCLE SHOALS -With one round remaining, Jacksonville State sits in third at the 2019 Ohio Valley Conference Women's Golf Championship.

The Gamecocks shot a 302 in Tuesday's second round on the Schoolmaster course at The Shoals on the Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail, while Murray State and Eastern Kentucky each shot 289 to create some separation atop the nine-team field. The Racers lead the 54hole tournament by five shots over EKU, who is 11 shots ahead of the Gamecocks.

JSU's lone senior led the way for the secondstraight day. Paula Vega carded a 73 on the par-72, 6,025-yard layout to

move to even par after 36

holes. The Medellin, Colombia, native is in fourth on the 45-player leaderboard with one round remaining.

Vega used a solid back nine to pull into fourth. She posted back-to-back birdies on the 12th and 13th holes to set the tone down the stretch. Murray State's Anna Moore is 5-under after an OVC Tournament record tying 66. She is one shot ahead of EKU's Elsa Moberly in second. Vega trails MSU's Lynette Holmslykke in third by one shot.

Junior Pia Ohlenbusch is tied for 10th for JSU after her second-round 76 gives her a two-day score of 150. The Nurnberg, Germany native posted two birdies in her second round and is 6-over with

18 holes remaining.



Freshman Claire Ver-

mette and sophomore Ana

Perez Altuna are tied for

13th after Vermette shot

77 and Altuna 76 on Tues-

day. Their 36-hole score

of 151 has them at 7-over.

Vermette birdied four

holes on Tuesday, while

Perez Altuna opened her

round by holing out from

just inside of 100 yards

to eagle the first hole.

Sophomore Valentina Cu-

JSU Sportswire

ret shot 77 in the second round and is tied for 20th with a 153. She played the final 10 holes at even par on Tuesday.

The Gamecocks are paired with the Racers and Colonels in Wednesday's final round, which will begin at 9:40 a.m. CT. Live scoring can be found online at www.JSUGamecockSports.com.

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