



CAMPUS

Reframing the conversation

Campus speaker shares his experience with sexual assault



Photo Courtesy of CAMPUSPE

Speaker and sexual assault survivor Tim Mousseau spoke on JSU's campus Monday about his experience and how to provoke change in the way society talks about sexual assault and domestic violence.

James Waller
Staff Reporter

In a presentation entitled "Retaking Our Story: Reframing the Sexual Assault Conversation," speaker Tim Mousseau presented the realities of sexual assault on a university campus to Jacksonville State University students at Pete Matthews Coliseum on Tuesday.

Mousseau, an activist and advocate for victims

of sexual assault, has spoken professionally for five years, delivering over 300 keynotes, many on college campuses through an organization called CAMPUSPEAK, an organization that arranges and promotes speakers on college campuses.

"Using powerful stories grounded in personal experiences, Tim Mousseau uses his passion and vulnerability to guide conversations

that will leave students inspired to combat sexual violence, redefine masculinity, and provoke change," says Mousseau's web page on CAMPUSPEAK.

Mousseau's speech opened with a story of his own victimhood of a sexual assault: a story in which he was stalked for a lengthy period of time and sent letters by an unknown sender

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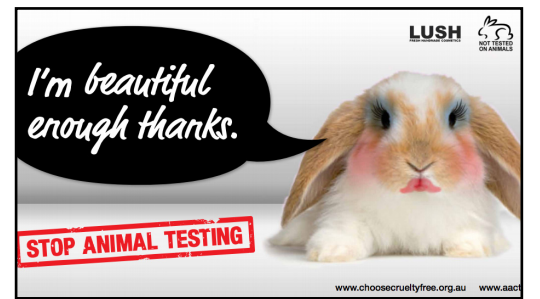
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on CAMPUS

International House Presentation: Japan Thursday, March 14, 11:00 a.m. International House

Come learn more about Japan from one of our JSU students!

Beyond Pinocchio Friday, March 15, 4:30 p.m. Room 234 Stone Center

Dr. Carmine Di Biase presents his translations from Carlo Collodi's Pinocchio, but also from Pipi the Pink Chimpanzee, a sequel to Pinocchio which has never been faithfully translated into English.

CAMPUS

Honors Program offers 'escape' from homework

Katie Peyton

Special to the Chanticleer

Next week, the JSU Honors program will give students the opportunity to escape homework—and from a mad scientist's lab.

The program's second-annual Escape Room is an event that challenges participants to find clues, solve puzzles, and decode messages all within a period of 30 minutes.

The event will be held March 18—March 21 from 6:00—10:00 p.m. each night in the basement of the Baptist Campus Ministries building.

This year's theme will be escaping a mad scientist's lab. Dr. Wakefield, a morally ambiguous geneticist, has been working on creating a perfect (but potentially dangerous) specimen. Participants will act as a group of federal spies who have infiltrated his lab. They will have to think quickly in order to find the ID badge that will keep him locked out of his own experiments for good.

Not only does the Escape Room raise funds for the program, but

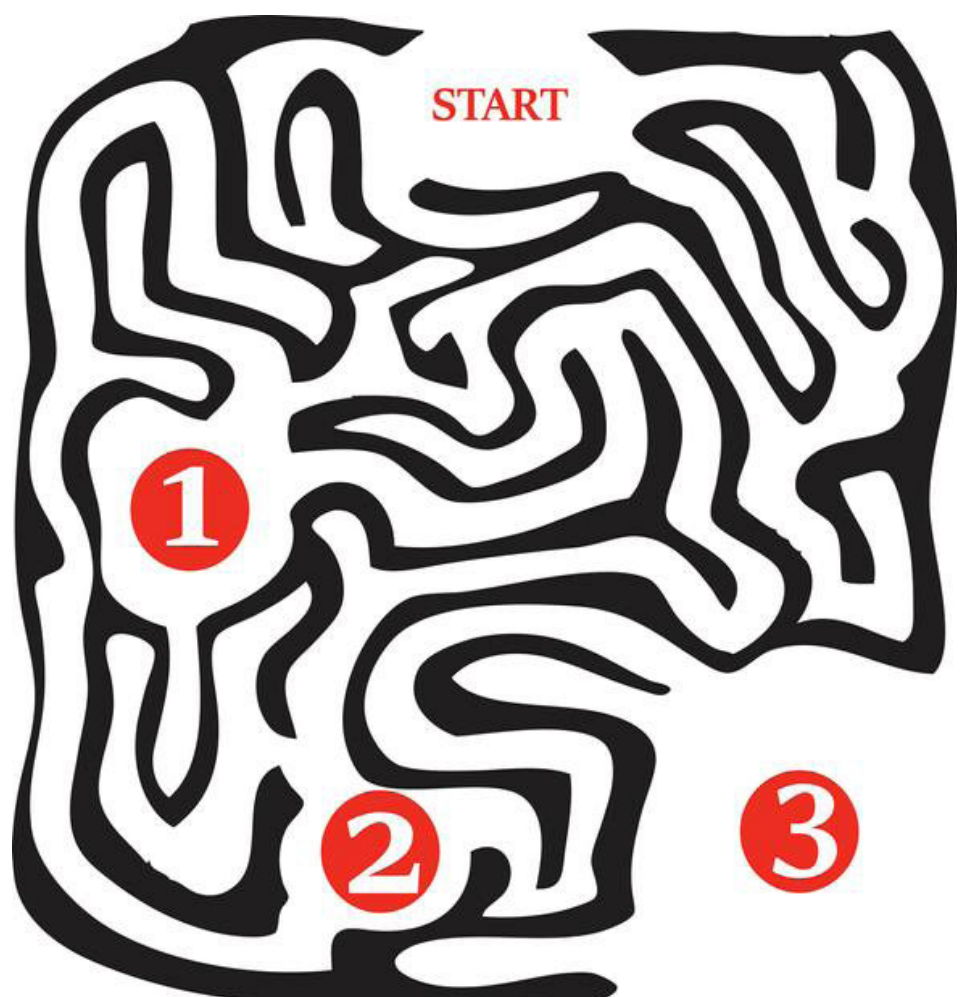
it also allows Honors students to reach out and offer a fun experience to the community.

Honors program Fundraising Coordinator Ashley Adamson, who has planned the event for the last two years, enjoys the way participants respond to the escape room.

"It's very satisfying, after creating the puzzles and putting them in a strategic order, to see people having a good time and everything running smoothly."

Even though she's graduating after this semester, Adamson

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that contained photos of his own, unre-membered, sexual assault while he was intoxicated. Mousseau explained society-at-large's poor reaction to him as a male sexual assault survivor.

"As a male survivor of sexual violence and severe sexual harassment, it is my mission to ensure no one has to experience what I went through," Mousseau

says. "It is my mission to redefine how our companies, leaders, and employees create workplaces welcoming to all and devoid of harassment."

Mousseau also gave advice on tackling sexual assault and preventing sexual violence, envisioning the creation of a culture where people (especially other men) treat sexual assault and its survivors with due

respect, creating a consent-based narrative around sex positivity, and listening to the stories of victims of sexual violence.

"When I say that we are going to re-take our story, what I mean is that we are going to change the way we are having conversations around this topic, because right now the way that we talk about this conversation is wrong," Mousseau said.

CAMPUS

JSU Strong: One Year Later

Monday, March 18

Meet and Greet with James Spann: Meet Alabama's favorite meteorologist, James Spann of ABC 33/40, 4-6 p.m., on the fifth floor of JSU Stadium. He will chat with guests and pose for selfies in-between broadcasting his evening weather forecasts live from campus. Bring your own weather radio (with batteries) and have it programmed by the weather team!

Tuesday, March 19

Anniversary Ceremony: "JSU Strong: One Year Later" - Take part in a short commemorative ceremony recognizing how far we have come in the past year. It will take place at 11:30 a.m. at Pete Mathews Coliseum, followed by lunch. Attendees will be provided a free \$5 voucher, which can be used at any campus dining location from 12-2 p.m. Take a stroll through campus and check out the repairs and renovations and share your experiences from last March with friends and colleagues over lunch. Offices will be closed and classes will not meet 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. to give employees and students the opportunity to participate.

Candlelight Commemorative Ceremony: Return to campus at 7:30 p.m., in front of Bibb Graves Hall, to hear a diverse group of local and campus storm

survivors share their stories of resilience. In the event of inclement weather, the ceremony will be moved to the TMB Auditorium.

Wednesday, March 20

Emergency Preparedness Lunch and Learn: Hear from a panel of emergency management experts, 12-1 p.m., at the Rec Center's multipurpose activity center. Panelists will include JSU emergency management faculty Dr. Tanveer Islam and Dr. Jane Kushma, the UPD's emergency management expert Officer Elizabeth Morrow, and Calhoun County EMA Director Michael Barton. Our emergency management students will unveil JSU's new official emergency preparedness video. Boxed lunches from Momma G's will be served. Seating is limited. Please RSVP online.

Thursday, March 21

Campus Safety Day: The third annual Campus Safety Day will be presented by the University Police Department, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., on the Quad. Students are invited to enjoy free food, t-shirts and other giveaways while learning safety tips and best practices. Blue parking decals for the 2019-2020 academic year will be given away to five lucky students! Life South will be on site conducting a blood drive.

ESCAPE from Page 1

hopes that the escape room continues to entertain Jacksonville residents and students for years to come.

Senior Hannah Bryant, who participated in the Escape Room last spring, says the event offered a great time and a challenge.

"My group didn't quite escape, but it was really fun trying to beat the clock!" she shares. Bryant says she will return with a new team next week for another shot at victory.

"It's a really unique, inexpensive way to have fun with your friends," says Kaleigh Ferguson, Honors Program President. Though she is helping plan the event this year, she participated last year. She says her team escaped with a couple minutes to spare, laughing all the way.

Groups can contain up to 5 people, and each participant must pay \$5. To sign up for a time slot, email Katie Peyton at kpeyton1@stu.jsu.edu.

JSU STRONG



ONE YEAR LATER

STATE

Gov. Kay Ivey signs Alabama gas tax hike into law

Mike Cason
 AL.com

Alabama Gov. Kay Ivey signed a bill into law Tuesday afternoon that raises Alabama's fuel taxes by 10 cents over three years to increase funding for roads and bridges.

The Alabama Senate passed the main bill by a vote of 28-6 earlier in the day.

The vote marked a continuation of the bipartisan support for a plan Ivey and Republican legislative leaders called their top priority. Ivey called a special session to handle the issue and the legislation passed within the minimum five days.

It passed the House by a vote of 84-20 last week and won approval in a Senate committee by a vote of 12-0 on Monday.

The plan would raise an estimated \$320 million a year for road construction and maintenance. About \$12 million a year would go to a project to improve the shipping channel in the port of Mobile.

The plan received bipartisan support in the 105-member House, with only two of the 28 Democrats voting against it. In the Senate, 22 of the 28 Republicans voted for the plan and six of the eight Democrats voted for it.

Senate President Pro Tem Del Marsh, R-Anniston, a leading advocate for the plan, said after today's vote that the plan won't change Alabama's status as a low-tax state and will promote economic opportunity.

"We are in a position because of being a very efficient government, doing things the right way, to pass a piece of legislation that in my opinion is going to allow an opportunity

for our children and grandchildren to stay in Alabama, find good jobs here, earn a good living," Marsh said. "So, this is about the future of Alabama. We're all participating in this. But it's a great day for Alabama.

Despite the plan's strong support in the Legislature, there was opposition outside the State House. The state Republican Party executive committee voted to oppose a gas tax increase without an offsetting tax decrease. Opponents of the plan formed a political action committee to campaign against it.

They say the tax would be a betrayal of Alabama taxpayers who elected Republican leaders.

Others have argued that the tax will hurt low-income families, the same group that could have benefited from Medicaid expansion, which Republicans have opposed.

Proponents say the plan has been studied and revised and will address problems of aging bridges, traffic jams, Alabama's high rate of traffic fatalities and difficulties in moving products for business.

"I look at this as a great opportunity for citizens," Marsh said. "We're doing the right thing."

The plan will raise the state tax on gas and diesel fuel by 6 cents a gallon after Aug. 31 this year. It will increase by 2 cents a gallon on Oct. 1, 2020 and again on Oct. 1, 2021. The tax is now 18 cents a gallon for gasoline and 19 cents for diesel. It has not changed since 1992.

Sen. Clyde Chambliss, R-Prattville, sponsored the legislation in the Senate.

In addition to the 10-cent increase over

three years, the bill links the state fuel tax to a national index on highway construction costs that could adjust it by a penny every two years beginning in 2023.

"It's not extreme, it's not exorbitant," Chambliss said.

Sen. Vivian Davis Figures, D-Mobile, said today she supports rebuilding the state's infrastructure but opposes the gas tax. Figures said it would hurt the same low-income families who could have benefited from Medicaid expansion, which the state's Republican leaders have resisted.

Figures said she didn't understand the justification for passing the bill quickly during a special session.

Figures was one of the six senators to vote no today. The others were all Republicans, Sens. Will Barfoot of Montgomery, Jim McClendon of Springville, Dan Roberts of Mountain Brook, Shay Shelnett of Trussville and Larry Stutts of Sheffield.

Roberts, a first-year senator, proposed an amendment that would have increased the tax 10 cents this year, rather than over three years. His amendment would have set aside \$40 million a year for to set up a fund to pay tax credits as an offset to the increased fuel tax to people who qualify based on income. And it would have stopped the automatic link to the highway construction cost index after 2039.

Chambliss opposed adding the amendment and the Senate tabled it. Chambliss pledged to work with supporters of the amendment during the regular session, which resumes March 19.



Viewpoints



I'm beautiful enough thanks.

STOP ANIMAL TESTING

LUSH
FRESH HANDMADE COSMETICS

NOT TESTED
ON ANIMALS

AACT
Alliance Against
Animal Cruelty
Tasmania

www.choosecrueltyfree.org.au www.aact.org.au

Cosmetic testing on animals must stop

Breanna Hill
News Editor

Cosmetic testing on animals has been going on for far too long, and it needs to be stopped. It's estimated that approximately 100,000 to 200,000 animals are killed every year because of cosmetic testing, which should be illegal not only in the United States but the rest of the world as well. Companies are given a choice to test on animals, and the amount of companies that still choose to harm animals in such a way is disgusting and terribly unfair to the little creatures who are unable to keep it from happening. Innocent and gentle creatures are being used to test cosmetics such as lipstick, shampoos,

and other possible hazardous chemicals. They need our help. So what can we do? What can we do to get the United States to join in with the other countries and finally ban this awful cosmetic testing that is taking place throughout our country? One of the biggest ways we can all help out is by joining the #BeCrueltyFree campaign. Thankfully there are legislative bills being considered to help stop such animal abuse. Another simple thing that can help promote the disbanding of animal testing would be to only shop for products that have a guaranteed no animal testing policy. Do the research if you have to. We need to educate ourselves on issues like animal testing in the cosmetic and ingredient industries.

Almost there!

Jacksonville State takes on Spring Break

Breanna Hill
News Editor

Spring Break for Jacksonville State is quickly picking up and will be here before any of us know it. Spring Break is a time for students to unwind and relax a bit doing various activities ranging from sleeping in to taking a trip. It's not uncommon for most of us to eagerly plan ahead to try and swipe up all the good hotel rooms for a weekend getaway, but if you've been a bit preoccupied with classes and extracurricular activities you might have been a bit too busy to even attempt to plan anything. Never fear, there are plenty of exciting endeavors to fill your week no matter your budget.

Starting off with the cheapest, and the most appealing option in my opinion...being lazy! This semester has definitely been one for the books—the crazy weather, continuation of construction and demanding coursework can make spending a week off and sleeping in till noon sound like pure bliss. Picture it. Monday, spring break. The alarm is nonexistent, you get those precious extra hours of sleep, and then you're able to wake up and lay in bed for who knows how long. Go ahead and binge-watch that show you've been wanting to catch up on, or read a book if that's your cup of tea. Just relax. Sounds nice, right?

Maybe you're not into the whole couch potato scene, no worries. Let's talk about an option for the adventurers. Though the Alabama weather tends to be a bit unpredictable, I'm sure there'll be at least a couple of days during the week we have off that we could use to our advantage. Man, I hope I didn't just jinx us. Anyways let's list a couple of not-so-far-away outdoor activities we could partake in. Alabama is gifted with the beautiful scenery that Cheaha State Park has to offer. It has the works: hiking/biking trails, campgrounds, picnic pavilions, etc. Spring break is the ideal time to take in the beautiful nature surrounding the area. Oh, don't forget to possibly check out Noccalula Falls as well. It has the same amenities as Cheaha, just mix in some mini-golf. Moving on from the whole state park aspect of outdoor activities, let me mention the numer-

ous lakes that are scattered throughout the state. Again, with the erratic weather Alabama is known for, there's no sense of certainty that any lake activities will be achievable over spring break, but it's always nice to keep them in the back of our minds. The list for lake activities never really comes to an end it would seem. You have canoeing/kayaking, fishing, swimming (obviously), and maybe even a bit of boating. Just take advantage of the free time and the (hopefully) desirable weather. Lie in a hammock for an hour or two, develop a sun-kissed tan, savor the indication that summer is just around the corner.

Onto the next category of spring break activities, which might make your wallet just a tad bit thinner. An easy, slightly more affordable alternative to going to the beach or on a cruise would be going to an amusement park—no, not one halfway around the world. Let's think closer. Perhaps Six Flags Over Georgia? Most of us have been. Who doesn't enjoy thrilling rollercoasters and slightly overpriced, yet delicious, food? I know I do. Grab a couple of friends who have nothing else going on and pile into a car. Drive on over to Georgia and enjoy the sick rides and sweet shows.

I know, I know...spring break = beach. Believe me I get it. It seems as if everybody's first choice for spring break shenanigans includes making a trip to the beach. There's just something about taking 'gram worthy pictures with the ocean waves in the background. The beach is always a popular option. Most people in Alabama who are in the process of setting up a beach vacation usually picture going to Panama City Beach, or maybe even Fort Walton, which are both in Florida. Take the time to tally up the extra dollars it takes to make it all the way to Florida and you'll be happy to know that there's a cheaper, and closer beach right here in Alabama. That's right, Gulf Shores. So if you're just DYING to taste the salty air and watch the ocean waves roll in just ride on down to Orange Beach and enjoy yourself.

Hopefully with a few new ideas up in the air for spring break you'll be able to enjoy yourself a bit more. Only one more week standing between spring break and us. We got this.



FILM REVIEW

The Phantom Menace bores

James King

A&E Writer

The Phantom Menace is the most boring movie I have ever seen. I don't feel like it deserves the hate it gets as a bad movie, but I can certainly see where it comes from. The previous *Star Wars* movies have had their boring parts, but it made up with it with an interesting world and fun dialogue, but this movie doesn't do either right. The visuals run the gambit between somewhat interesting and completely boring. Its dialogue had me begging for characters to emote and it's a chore to sit through and watch.

I'll start with what I liked about the movie, it isn't much though. All the familiar things I and most people love in the star wars movies are in it. The costume design is on point especially for Queen Padme who wears amazingly elaborate costumes in every scene that she's in. The world is colorful with almost every piece of tech, and every alien having interesting and fun designs. The callbacks to earlier (or later since this is the prequel trilogy) characters are fun and nostalgic. The pod racing was a lot of fun and the battles at the end are pretty fun.

Though that's where my positivity ends for this movie. My biggest complaint about this movie is that the acting is extremely wooden. Every flesh and blood character in this movie feels like their reading their lines just off-screen. The CGI characters actually feel like better actors, because they're allowed to emote, but some of the CGI hasn't really aged well, particularly some of the Naboo scenes the backgrounds look blank. The characters have no growth in the movie they end pretty much where they begin for the entirety of the movie, it almost feels like filler. The kind of thing studios put out because they need a tax write off or a movie they need to make to fulfil a contract.

This movie gives me nothing interesting to ponder as an audience member. I wasn't wowed by the visuals. There are no interesting lines for me to mull over. The action isn't well choreographed or animated depending on the scene. There is little to no growth for any of the characters and worst of all there is nothing I would say even looked all that cool. It is a



Lucasfilm

wasteland of half-baked ideas, poor writing, and acting.

There are many minor things that fans of the franchise tend to be annoyed by, but didn't bother me as much as I thought they would. Jar Jar Binks was grating, but I never was all that bothered by the character. The retcon of the force being tied to a person's cells even made some sense within the universe as not everyone is or can be a Jedi. The Jedi did feel a bit overpowered in this movie though compared to the older movies. None of the droids felt like a threat and even the Sith characters felt completely un-

derdeveloped.

This is one of the few Star Wars movies I have actually seen before, and I honestly remember liking this movie more back then, then I do now. I might be spoiled by superhero movies and more modern CGI, but it came out the same year as the *Matrix* and *Galaxy Quest*, movies with CGI that has more or less stood the test of time. It's a real shame that this movie hasn't considering the movies made in the late 70s have aged better than the one from the late 90s.



Lucasfilm



Marvel Studios

Brie Larson as Carol Danver/Captain Marvel

FILM REVIEW

Captain Marvel 'marvels' viewers

Taylor Mitchell

A&E Editor

Captain Marvel has had an interesting history recently. Carol Danvers has been had a surge of popularity in comics since taking the mantle of Captain Marvel in 2012, even going as far as being one of the big players in Marvel's *Civil War 2* storyline. She is by far one of Marvel's most popular female characters going back as far as before she took the mantle of Captain Marvel. It was only a matter of time before Marvel decided to bring such a character their cinematic universe and boy did they.

Captain Marvel is a 2019 entry into the Marvel Cinematic Universe starring Brie Larson as Carol Danvers, the eponymous Captain Marvel. The story of the film follow Danvers, believing herself to be a Kree warrior named Vers, as she is thrown into conflict with the shape shifting Skrulls and her own memories on planet Earth. Along the way, she meets up with a young Nick Fury, played by Samuel L. Jackson, and begins to unravel how she ended up working with the Kree. The story actually takes a wonderfully unexpected turn about half way through, so I will not go into anymore on that, but it will be sure to keep you guessing for a bit.

One of the movies biggest strengths is the performance of the actors. Brie Larson is an absolute treat. She is not only incredibly funny but incredibly believable in her role. Larson's performance keeps Captain Marvel grounded, which is a feat considering there is a point in the movie where she basically proves invincible. A cocky rebel with very little consequences, can easily come off as unlikable but she is able to keep you firmly on her side which really speaks to writing and acting. Another standout performance comes from Ben Mendelsohn, who plays the Skrull commander Talos. Talos is a long time fighter against the Kree, and this brings him into conflict with Danvers over the course of the film. Mendelsohn gives him a wonderfully affable air that just makes every moment he is on screen a lot of fun. Other performances from Samuel Jackson and Jude Law are also great. Jackson really sells a younger, less intense and experienced Nick Fury just as well as he does the older version of the character. Jude Law also really sells Yon-Rogg, showing the kind of soldiers an incredibly strict society would be full of.

One thing that also really needs praising in this film is the effects. I was originally very worried about the de-aging effects that had to be used on Samuel L. Jackson for the film, but that was for the most part unfounded. He looks completely natural for most of the film with very



Marvel Studios

few noticeable hiccups. The effects in the movies are in general just great but getting that younger Nick Fury look right really impressed me even if it only works due to Jackson's very graceful aging.

The only major problem with the film is that is that it doesn't feel as big as *Avengers: Infinity War* did, but it's also not supposed to. It's a complaint I have seen since *Ant-Man* and *The Wasp* came out and it really has no feet under it. With cinematic universes it is still important to keep each film as a single product. So while it won't give you the same kind of ride as *Infinity War*, I still highly recommend *Captain Marvel*. Don't believe the haters my dear readers, because this new Avenger packs a punch.

Captain Marvel gets 8.5 Golden Breihans out of 10



Study Break

Trivia Answers: March 7th Edition!

1. Who holds the record for the most home runs in a single major league baseball season?

Answer: Barry Bonds

2. What was the first all-professional baseball team with salaried players?

Answer: Cincinnati Red Stockings

3. The 1927 New York Yankees batting order, including Babe Ruth and Lou Gehrig, was known by what nickname?

Answer: Murderer's Row

4. Which baseball team won the first World Series championship in 1903?

Answer: Boston Americans

5. What was major league baseball's Yogi Berra's real name?

Answer: Lawrence Peter Berra

6. What is the most common type of pitch thrown by pitchers in baseball?

Answer: Fastball

Riddle of the week...



A student has missed an excessive number of days at school and thus the principal called him to his office and requested for an explanation.

The student said, "There just isn't enough time for school. I need 8 hours of sleep a day, which adds up to about 122 days a year. Weekends off is 104 days a year. Summer vacation is about 60 days. If I spend about an hour on each meal, that's 3 hours a day or 45 days a year. I need at least 2 hours of exercise and relaxation time each day to stay physically and mentally fit, adding another 30 days.

Add all of that up and you get about 361 days. That only leaves 4 days for school."

The principal is confused, but can't figure out why. What is wrong with the student's argument?

Did ya know?

In 1963, major league baseball pitcher Gaylord Perry remarked, "They'll put a man on the moon before I hit a home run." On July 20, 1969, an hour after Neil Armstrong set foot on the surface of the moon, Perry hit his first, and only, home run while playing for the San Francisco Giants.

The Olympic flag's colors are always red, black, blue, green, and yellow rings on a field of white. This is because at least one of those colors appears on the flag of every nation on the planet.

The moon is moving away from the Earth at a tiny, although measurable, rate every year. 85 million years ago it was orbiting the Earth about 35 feet from the planet's surface.



Very Punny...

I'm positive I just lost an electron. Better keep an ion that.

Why do some people hate puns? Because they are laughtose intolerant!

I listen to the radio with such frequency that my ear Hertz.

What do you call Batman disguised as a pastry chef? The Crepe'd Crusader.

What do you call a dog that's ready for spring break? Pug boat.

What do you call a cat that throws all the most expensive parties? The Great Catsby



Sports

JSU BASEBALL

Gamecocks claim OVC series with 12-5 win over Eastern Illinois

JACKSONVILLE – Jacksonville State claimed the opening series of Ohio Valley Conference play after erupting for eight runs over the last four innings to down Eastern Illinois, 12-5, on Sunday afternoon at Rudy Abbott Field at Jim Case Stadium.

Coupled with Jax State's 12th-inning walk off win, it has now won eight straight series over the Panthers, dating back to 2012. The Gamecocks improved to 7-10 overall and 2-1 after the first weekend of conference activity. EIU dropped to 4-9 on the season and 1-2 in the OVC.

Junior Chase Robinson broke up a 4-4 deadlock in the fifth with a two-out double in to the right field corner, plating senior Nic Gaddis and sophomore Alex Strachan. Gaddis, who finished Sunday 3-for-4 at the plate, had a one-out single, followed by Strachan's double inside the third base line. Robinson posted a .333 batting average in the first OVC set with four hits, including a home run on Friday. Gaddis, from Trenton, Georgia, capped off his first league weekend of the season with a three-run home run that broke open the game in the home half of the eighth.

The lead was extended to 8-4 in the seventh on the second of three home runs on the day by U after junior Taylor Craven belted his OVC-best sixth home run of the season. The Wadley, Alabama native entered the



JSU Sportswire

weekend as the conference leader in home runs but started Sunday as the co-leader in the OVC with Morehead State's Hunter Fain. Sophomore Cole Frederick, who connected on the walk off home run on Friday, tallied his second home run on the weekend in the fourth. Frederick's solo dinger equalized the contest at 4-4.

It was a battle of the bullpens between EIU and JSU as both Sunday starters exited before the end of the first inning. EIU took a 2-0 lead in the first inning without recording a hit off of Dylan Hathcock. EIU starter, Ryan Ignoffo, could not finish the first frame as JSU plated two runs off of an errant throw by the Panther shortstop.

Sophomore Colin Casey turned in a career-long 3.2 innings to settle in to the contest before junior Alex London recorded the final

two outs in the fifth. London picked up his first win as a Gamecock. Junior Corley Woods tossed the final four frames notched his first career save. Woods picked up a win in Friday's 5-4 extended game. JSU roughed up EIU reliever Josh Cooper for four innings as he allowed four runs on four hits.

EIU took a 3-2 lead in the second on Jimmy Govern's third home run of the weekend. JSU answered with another unearned run in the bottom of the inning as Frederick's fly ball to right field was mishandled and the Tuscaloosa, Alabama product raced to the third. Sophomore Isaac Alexander picked up an RBI with a sacrifice fly to right field.

Junior Alex Webb finished the weekend on a high note with a pair of hits and threw out a runner trying to take second base. Webb's second

hit of the day drove in a run.

The Gamecocks continue its lengthy stay at home in the month of March with a Wednesday evening match up with the Trojans of Troy. JSU will be looking for the season sweep of its in-state nemesis after topping the Trojans, 9-7, in Troy on February 27. JSU steps back out of conference play as it welcomes first-time foe and Big 10 Conference member Purdue to Rudy Abbott Field at Jim Case Stadium for a weekend series, beginning on Friday, March 15. All four game will be available on ESPN+ and on the Gamecock Sports Network.

First pitch against Troy is set for 6 p.m. For ticket information, log on to JSUGamecockSports.com. All JSU students and fans 18 years old and younger are admitted free.

JSU Sportswire

JSU SOFTBALL

Beshears named OVC Player of the Week

BRENTWOOD, Tenn. – Taylor Beshears has been named the Ohio Valley Conference Player of the Week for her efforts in guiding the Jacksonville State softball team to a 3-2 record last week.

Beshears, a senior centerfielder from Trussville, Ala., led the Gamecocks (11-6) by going 8-for-17 (.471) at the plate with seven runs scored, four home runs and seven RBI. She enjoyed a record-tying weekend for JSU, thanks to a three-home run game against Northern Colorado on Saturday.

In that game, she went 4-for-4 with three home runs and six RBI vs. the Bears to tie Melinda McDonald's school record for home runs in a game that was set in 2004 vs. St. Bonaventure. Her six RBI tied for the fourth-most in a game and led JSU to a 12-6 win over UNC

Over a week that included a third-straight win over Atlantic Coast Conference for Georgia Tech, Beshears posted a 1.176

slugging percentage, thanks in large part to her efforts in two games against Northern Colorado. Against the Bears, she went a combined 7-for-8 with four homers and scored all but one time she reached base during the week.

Several national outlets featured her on social media as one of the NCAA's top performers on Saturday.

The Gamecocks are scheduled

to return to University Field on Wednesday for the first time in over a year. The field was damaged by an EF-3 Tornado on March 19, 2018, forcing the Gamecocks to play their home games at Choccolocco Park in Oxford. JSU will host Kennesaw State in a 4 p.m. CT doubleheader on Wednesday.

JSU Sportswire



JSU Sportswire

UPCOMING EVENTS

Baseball

vs Purdue
3/15 - 3/17

@ Murray St
3/22 - 3/24

vs ASU
3/27

Men's Tennis

@ KSU

3/19

@ EIU

3/22

Women's Tennis

@ KSU

3/19

@ EIU

3/22

Softball

vs Jacksonville University

3/16 & 3/17

@Morehead St

3/22

@ EIU

3/24

Women's Track

@ Doc Anderson Invite

3/15

Beach Volleyball

vs Central Arkansas

3/15
@ 8 am

vs Missouri Baptist

3/15
@ 4 pm

Second Chance U

How transfers helped Jacksonville State build their best team in Division I history

Daniel Mayes
Editor-in-Chief

Three years ago, who could've predicted the regular season the Jacksonville State men's basketball team just wrapped up, that the Gamecocks would set a school record for Division I conference wins and clinch their highest seed in a conference tournament.

Not the current JSU head coach. While the Gamecocks slogged to an 8-23 record in their final season under James Green, Ray Harper was still coaching the Western Kentucky Hill-toppers.

Not the fans. Not that there were very many back then. Jacksonville State ranked last out of 12 Ohio Valley Conference teams in home attendance then. The Gamecocks were fifth this year.

Certainly not any of the players. Christian Cunningham, a rangy 6-foot-7 post player, is the lone four-year senior on this year's team. He also is the only player on the roster to have experienced JSU basketball before what many in Jacksonville call the #HarperEffect.

Two years ago, that bold prediction would've made a bit more sense.

Enter Harper. Cue the one-year turnaround that saw Jacksonville State go from basement-dwellers to champions. From a program that, even with the optimism of a new, successful coach, was picked last in the league but made the school's first appearance in the NCAA Division I basketball tournament.

But everyone knows that story.

Off the court dring Harper's debut season, the foundation was built in a much more real and tangible sense than the usual feel-good story of first-time success provides. The seed that grew into a new normal for Jacksonville State was planted.

"The goal is to keep it going year in, year out," Harper said. "That's when you know you've got a program not just a team."

While coaching that 2016-17 team, Ray Harper also was busy building a program.

The first pieces

Three years ago, while Cunningham was putting together a productive individual freshman season on a poor team in Jacksonville, his future frontcourt partner Jason Burnell was busy riding the pine for a young Georgia Southern team.

On a team laden with fellow freshmen, Burnell played just eight minutes a game and scored just 2.9 points a contest as the Eagles slogged to a 14-17 record. Toward the end of the season, Burnell didn't even get to play in some games.

"At Georgia Southern, it was a situation where I came in, and they weren't utilizing me like they should have or like I wanted to," Burnell recalled. "They basically told me I wasn't good

enough."

Then, Burnell bet on himself.

The DeLand, Fla., native moved closer to home to St. Petersburg College, looking to prove in junior college he was ready to succeed in Division I basketball. Just a few games into his lone season for the Titans, he signed to play for Jacksonville State.

"I went JUCO, and when Coach Harper came and saw me, he immediately told me he wanted to offer me," Burnell said.

Harper and the Gamecocks had just kicked off their 2016-17 campaign, and Burnell already saw something special in what Harper was building.

"I believed in this coaching staff and the style of play they were using," Burnell said.

Burnell, a 6-foot-7, 220-pound forward, signed in the early signing period, with JSU making the announcement Nov. 15, 2016. He joined Mississippi State transfer Maurice Dunlap in the Gamecocks' young signing class. Dunlap, a 6-2 guard, shared a similar story to Burnell.

He appeared in just seven games for the Bulldogs, scoring just 20 total points before an injury in December of his true freshman year ended his season and his time in Starkville.

Dunlap played two years at Jones County Junior College in Mississippi, then, like Burnell, jumped at the chance to return to Division I with Jacksonville State.

"I remember the first day I stepped on campus, I met Maurice on the stairs, and we just got to talking and laughing it up," Burnell recalled. "That's been my boy ever since."

With the two transfers already on board, Harper wasn't done adding former Division I players.

A 6-3 guard, Jamall Gregory, came in after spending a year at South Carolina and one at Chipola (Fla.) College, and 6-3 guard Marlon Hunter, a former player under Harper at Western Kentucky, joined Jacksonville State after a yearlong pit-stop at Odessa (Texas) College.

Gregory was just grateful for the chance to make it back to Division I.

"Honestly, I didn't have any offers leaving JUCO," Gregory recalled. "Jacksonville State was the only offer. This was definitely a second chance for me, because if I didn't accept this offer, I don't know where I'd be and I don't know what I'd be doing, so I'm definitely appreciative of the second chance."

By the time the dust settled, the Gamecocks bolstered its roster by adding four players with experience at high-Major schools or better. All four would be eligible to play in 2017-18.

But Harper wasn't done with that offseason just yet.

Detrick Mostella, a 6-1 guard from Decatur, came on board after spending three seasons at Tennessee. Ty Hudson, a 6-1 point guard and a two-year veteran of Clemson, joined late in the summer. Both had to sit out the 2017-

18 season, waiting their chance to see the floor again.

Showing improvement

With seniors and OVC tournament team holdovers Malcolm Drumwright and Norbertas Giga still on the roster, the new squad of transfers slotted in to help Jacksonville State prove that year one of the Harper era wasn't a fluke.

The 2017-18 season saw the Gamecocks improve their record again, finishing 23-13, but JSU fell in the semifinals of the OVC tournament, then were bounced in the same round of the College Basketball Invitational.

With Mostella and Hudson eligible to suit up in 2018-19, the recruiting boon of that one offseason was finally ready to bloom to its full effect.

"On paper, you hear Clemson, Tennessee, South Carolina, Mississippi State, Western Kentucky, Georgia Southern, you automatically think the talent is there," Burnell said. "And it was. It always has been. I think this season it's showed more than it did last year."

Coming into 2018-19, the expectations were certainly there for Jacksonville State. The Gamecocks were picked third in the OVC headed into this season.

But there were still questions.

Drumwright was gone after serving as the go-to guy and steady rock at the point guard for Harper's first two JSU teams. Giga, who anchored the front-court offense for the previous two seasons, had graduated as well.

The Gamecocks appeared to need of a new leader.

Hunter and Gregory all had their flashes in 2017-18, but none seemed ready-made to take up the slack.

Mostella and Hudson had their moments at their respective Power-Five schools, but neither had proven he was capable of being a top option game-in, game-out.

Cunningham was the most experienced player on the team, but his expertise lies in swatting shots into the stands and dunking down low — not in leading an offensive attack.

It was Burnell who stepped up.

Team leader

"JB" was an on-and-off starter in the three-headed frontcourt with Cunningham and Giga in 2017-18, and averaged a perfectly respectable 11.2 points and six rebounds, but he was needed to take a step forward to lead this year's Gamecocks.

"Last year, I struggled a little bit to adjust my game when I first got here," Burnell said. "This year, I think I really came into myself and really came into my game, and I have no one to thank more than Coach Harper. He's helped me develop on and off the court."

This season, Burnell ranks fifth in the OVC with 17 points a game, and he's second in rebounding with 9.6 a game. More than that, he's come into

his own as the leader of the team.

"The talent level on this team is great, and for me to be in the position to be a leader is a huge honor," Burnell said. "These guys, I love them all, and they trust me and I trust them. To know those guys want to put the ball in my hand is special."

With Burnell in place as the leader, that class of transfers flourished around him.

Hudson has stepped in as the starting point guard. Mostella, after starting a few games early, has locked down a position as an offensive spark plug off the bench.

Hunter, Gregory, and even Dunlap took their bigger roles with increased playing time and ran with it.

That class of transfers, along with a few returnees and fresh faces, became the nucleus of the team.

Of the top seven players in minutes played for JSU, six of them transferred to Jacksonville State during that OVC tournament championship season. The lone holdover, Cunningham, anchors a group of castoffs that plays as if they are on their last chance to succeed in college basketball.

"We all came from situations where we thought we might not have belonged," Burnell said. "We all came here with a chip on our shoulder. That's why I think we always play on edge, because of our passion and our background. That's what makes us so unique"

This sense of urgency, of being on edge, has propelled the Gamecocks program into new heights. That mentality was all brought in with one recruiting class.

"I think the fact that we are all mostly transfers gives us sort of a chip on our shoulders," Gregory said. "We want to show everyone we can still play. A lot of people look at transferring as a bad thing, but we all came here together to try to do something special, and that's what the plan is."

If you consider becoming Jacksonville State's best team in its Division I history as "special," then mission accomplished — this year's team has 23 regular-season wins, 15 conference victories, and the third seed in the conference tournament. All are JSU Division I records.

Though Jacksonville State fell in the semifinals of this year's OVC Tournament to eventual champion Murray State and future NBA star Ja Morant,

Those transfers have validated themselves as players, validated that they belong, and validated their place in school history.

"People have always said this may go down as the best class in Jacksonville State DI history, and I honestly believe that," Burnell said. "On paper, I don't think there's going to be another class come through better than us."

"I always tell the coaches they aren't going to find another me. It's hard to find guys like us."

Matt Reynolds/JSU