Drs. Turner, Fielding announce plans to end their careers

James Waller
Staff Reporter

Long time Jacksonville State University officials, Dr. Rebecca Turner, Dr. Bill Fielding announced plans to retire.

Dr. Turner has served as Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs, while Dr. Fielding is Dean of the School of Business and Industry.

Dr. Turner will be replaced as provost by Dr. Christie Shelton, Professor of Nursing and Dean of the School of Health Professions and Wellness, on June 1. Until a replacement can be found for Dr. Shelton as Dean in Health Professions and Wellness, she will serve as both provost and dean.

A search for her replacement is being conducted on a national scale.

Dr. Fielding plans to remain voluntarily active on campus following his retirement.

A search for his replacement is also being conducted on the national level.

Dr. Turner stated her that her reason for retiring is that she wished to spend more time with her family, taking care of her 90-year-old mother, who lives alone after the passing of Dr. Turner’s father. Dr. Turner said she would be “just making sure all of her needs

see RETIREMENT page 2

Gov. Ivey proposes ten cent gas tax hike

Scott Young
Staff Writer

Gov. Kay Ivey on Wednesday proposed a 10-cent gas tax hike as part of her “Rebuild Alabama Infrastructure Plan,” a plan designed to raise more funds for building roads and bridges.

“After 27 years of stagnation, adequate funding is imperative to fixing our many roads and bridges in dire need of repair,” said Governor Ivey, announcing her plan.

“By increasing our investment in infrastructure, we are also making a direct investment in public safety, economic development, and the prosperity of our state.”

The bill released by Ivey’s office, called the Rebuild Alabama Act, would implement the gas tax increase over three years, with a six-cent increase on August 31, 2019, and a two-cent increase in 2020, and a two-cent increase in 2021. After 2023, the Alabama Department of Revenue can adjust the fuel tax by no more than one cent every year based on the National Highway Construction Cost Index. The current rate is 18 cents per gallon of gas and 19 cents per gallon of diesel, a rate that has not changed since 1992.

A $250 license and registration fee would be imposed on electric vehicles and a $150 fee on hybrid-electric vehicles.

According to Ivey, the funds are to be dispersed among state, county, and local governments for “used for transportation infrastructure improvement, preservation and maintenance projects.” 66 percent would go to the state, 25 percent would go to the counties, and eight percent to the cities. Another portion of the funds would be used to pay a bond that would be issued to finance improvements to the Mobile Bay shipping channel.

To justify the gas tax increase, Ivey cites a 2019 report from the University of Alabama’s Transportation Institute that found 69 billion miles were being driven on our roads and bridges every year. TRIP, a national transportation research group, found that 30 percent of major roads and highways are in “poor or mediocre condition”, and that driving on the rough Alabama roads costs taxpayers approximately $507 annually.

“I think it’s going to be positive for the people of Alabama, creating much safer roads and bridges,” said see GAS TAX page 2
STATE

Lee County tornado claims 23 lives

March 7, 2019

23 people are dead after an EF4 tornado barreled through Lee County on Sunday. The tornado was one of 34 that spawned during an outbreak across Alabama, Georgia, Florida and South Carolina. Its 23 victims make it the deadliest tornado in nearly 6 years.

Governor Kay Ivey, who toured the devastation, described what she saw as "absolutely horrendous." Ivey requested and will receive help from FEMA in recovery assistance for the area. She went on to praise the reaction of the wider state community in their immediate outpouring of support and assistance, and stated that there is a certain resiliency in the people of Alabama. "We’ve done it before; we’ll do it again."

Attorney General Steve Marshall says that his office will make sure that all those assisting the victims monetarily will have their money go directly to those affected. He said the damage he saw left him speechless.

As of Wednesday, all missing persons are accounted for according to Lee County Sheriff Jay Jones. He stated that "there has been a river of support, and for once I’m happy to see a river of nature that overflows its banks.”

To assist in the recovery of Lee County, Marshall says people should first register with FEMA at www.disasterassistance.gov. Lee County EMA director Kathy Carson echoed the need for assistance from those in the general populous. "We can’t replace their lost loved ones, but we can help them at least get their homes and lives back together in as many ways as we can," she said.

GAS TAX from Page 1

State Sen. Del Marsh, R-Anniston. "The last time Alabama implemented a gasoline tax was in 1992. We’ve had no increase since then. We’ve actually got data out that Alabamians today are paying less percent for fuel than in ‘92 because standards of living have gone up. Yet the fuel tax has stayed the same. We’ve got people driving cars that get more miles to the gallon, so they’re essentially driving more and paying less."

Many have voiced their opposition to Ivey’s gas tax hike, expressing concerns that the tax proposed is a burden for the working poor of Alabama. Critics of the proposal argue that the legislature should consider options to allocate revenue that wouldn’t affect lower-income brackets.

“It affects the poorest people the most. Especially in rural areas with no public transit options,” said Pamela Howard, a Democrat who ran for State House District 46 in 2018. “I think we need to raise property taxes and corporate taxes for infrastructure.”

“I do not think a 10-cent gas hike to pay for infrastructure will work or be enough to cover everything. Maybe our state officials should put the money that is saved to build more prisons into infrastructure,” said Kyeteria Marshall, a JSU student and National Council Chair of the College Democrats of America.

State Representative Bill Poole (R-63) will be the sponsor of the bill in the House and State Senator Clyde Chambliss (R-30) will act as such in the Senate.

CAMPUS

James Spann to visit campus

University and local police are investigating reports of an individual falsely representing themselves as a JSU student seeking donations for a chili cookoff fundraiser. The university is unaware of any such event being organized by a JSU club or organization at this time. Police urge citizens to be vigilant and, if contacted by this individual, to report it to the local police department.

Scam Alert: Hoax JSU Fundraiser

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Citizens can check the validity of a student fundraiser by calling the Dean of Students Office at 256-782-5491. JSU student groups are reminded to please register fundraisers by submitting a Fundraising Form to the Dean of Students Office.

State University's president.

JSU thanks Drs. Turner and Fielding for their exemplary leadership and service over many years. They have had a major impact on JSU. We look forward to strong academic, research and service programs, including the university's social work program and some of the earliest doctoral degrees.

Dr. Fielding gave Jacksonville State University more than 50 years of service as university faculty, beginning from 1966 as an assistant professor and becoming dean in 1997. Dr. Fielding secured accreditation for the university’s school of business with The Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business, putting Jacksonville State University’s business school in the top 5 percent of business schools around the world.

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Jacksonville, Alabama really lives up to the nickname ‘Gem of the Hills’. Though Jacksonville is pretty small, it, along with its surrounding areas, still have fun activities anyone can take part in. Take a look at these top 5 things to do around Jacksonville:

1. Noccalula Falls: Noccalula Falls is just down the road from Jacksonville in Gadsden. The endless breathtaking views and outdoor activities can keep all ages entertained for hours. It not only offers walking trails, a petting zoo, picnic pavilions, and mini golf—it also takes you to see the beautiful cascading waterfalls. Make sure to check out the campground amenities as well.

2. Blackberry Hill Alpacas: That’s right. There’s an alpaca farm in Jacksonville’s neighboring town of Anniston. Debbi and Hank Merrill open their alpaca farm to the public and are willing to answer any and all your alpaca questions. Not only will you get to see alpacas, ducks, and gees but you’ll also be able to browse the gift shop set up there too.

3. Anniston Museums and Gardens: Along with the alpaca farm, Anniston also has a couple of museums and breathtaking botanical gardens. The Anniston Museum of Natural History offers exhibits ranging from various fossils, an extensive minerals collection, over 22,000 herbarium specimens, and an award winning marine exhibit. The Berman Museum offers knowledge and thoughtful collections surrounding medieval to cold-war weaponry and other rare artifacts. Right outside the museums you can find various forms of plant life in the beautiful botanical gardens.

4. Chief Ladiga Trail: The Chief Ladiga Trail is an asphalt trail that measures 33 miles in length. It goes not only through Jacksonville but Piedmont, Weaver, and Anniston as well. Walking, bike-riding, and skating is permitted. Check it out for the views and the obvious form of exercise.

5. Jacksonville Opera Theatre: Last but certainly not least we have the Jacksonville Opera Theatre. Beginning a little over fifteen years ago the Jacksonville Opera Theatre began putting on stellar performances for the Jacksonville community. It’s always fun to support the students here at JSU who take part and participate in such shows and performances.

Whenever a free weekend approaches you and you’re trying to find something to do with friends or family, check out these quick and easy 5 activities that anybody can find fun and entertaining.

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It’s about that time of year again. Trips are being planned, hotels are being booked, bathing suits are being bought. That’s right. In a few short, yet at the same time, agonizingly slow weeks spring break will begin. Spring break season calls for warm weather, spending time with friends, and of course taking a load off from classes.

Though the only thing really on every student’s mind when it comes to spring break is letting loose and having fun, there’s also some things that should be thought about before you even pack your bags. Safety. Safety should be the number one priority when going anywhere for spring break whether it be the beach or some other vacation spot. Check out these quick yet crucial tips to help you have an exciting and safe spring break experience:

1. Most of the time a bunch of students pack into vehicles and drive long hours to get to whatever vacation spot they chose for the week of spring break. A good tip to follow is to take turns behind the wheel on your way to wherever you’re staying. It will keep everyone well rested and everyone will have a greater chance of getting to their destination safely.

2. Whenever you’re out and about make sure to keep an eye on your drink. Never leave it. There have been too many occurrences to count of drinks being drugged. Also, obviously, do not drink and drive. There are so many solutions to stop such an unnecessary problem: Uber, taxi, designated driver, etc. Make wise decisions.

3. If you plan on attending any parties or big events make sure to keep an eye on your drink. Never leave it. There have been too many occurrences to count of drinks being drugged. Also, obviously, do not drink and drive. There are so many solutions to stop such an unnecessary problem: Uber, taxi, designated driver, etc. Make wise decisions.

Keep these tips in mind to have a safe spring break. Above all, have fun and enjoy your well-deserved break.
The best funk, punk and metal extravaganza

A look at The Red Hot Chili Peppers history

Jack Vermuth
Special to the Chanticleer

I should probably preface this by saying that The Red Hot Chili Peppers (RHCP) are my favorite band of all time, so I am a little biased.

The RHCP was conceived when a few friends in the band What is This? wanted to start a side project. These friends were Anthony Kiedis (vocals), Michael “Flea” Balzary (bass), Jack Irons (guitar) and Jack Irons (drums). They formed a band named Tony Flow and the Majestic Masters of Mayhem.

The band’s third release for its Broadway premiere in 1970 and was then revised in it the early 90’s. The most unique part about the play would be that it is not linear. There is no beginning, middle, and end. Colton explains it as being “the most bizarre play we’ve ever done.”

Although it is different, it compliments “She Kills Monsters”, which is another play that was done earlier this school year. She Kills Monsters was big, funny and flashy, while Company is more serious and slower. It is not very movement based and gives technicians something different to work on. Actors and music majors are given a different way of practicing their craft to find things they need to work on or discovering something new that they like. There is not really a message behind the play, but more of questions that Sondheim wanted to ask the audience that are questions everyone in life struggles with. When Sondheim asks questions, he is not really asking them to receive an answer, but to question why we spend majority of our lives trying to find our soulmate. The show dates for Company are March 8-11 at the Stone Center. Tickets are available online in the Drama Department of JSU’s website.

The best funk, punk and metal extravaganza

The Uplift Mofo Party Plan is the second studio album released on August 16, 1985 and The Uplift Mofo Party Plan is the third studio album released on September 29, 1987. The American rock band formed in Los Angeles in 1983. The band’s musical style primarily consists of rock with an emphasis on funk, as well as elements from other genres such as punk rock and psychedelic rock.

The Red Hot Chili Peppers released their self-titled debut album on August 10, 1984. The album was the only album to feature Jack Sherman on guitar. Freaky Styley is the second studio album released on August 16, 1985 and The Uplift Mofo Party Plan is the third studio album released on September 29, 1987. The American rock band formed in Los Angeles in 1983. The band’s musical style primarily consists of rock with an emphasis on funk, as well as elements from other genres such as punk rock and psychedelic rock.

MUSIC FEATURE

The best funk, punk and metal extravaganza

The band’s third release The Uplift Mofo Party Plan produced some classic The RHCP songs such as Fight Like a Brave and “Me and My Friends.” Classics such as these would help make this album their first charting effort. This album was their very best funk, punk and metal extravaganza that would carry them to number 148 on the Billboard Charts. Having finally released a charting album, The RHCP had already taken their first steps on the path towards world domination, but this path would not be without pain and sacrifice. When considering who The RHCP are today, it is paramount that one looks at the history and music of these three works in Chili Peppers history.

This article is part one of a two part series about The Red Hot Chili Peppers.

The Chanticleer
March 7, 2019

Jacksonville State University would like you all to accompany them to their newest drama production. The name of the play is Company and is directed by professor Carrie Colton of the JSU Drama Department. Company is a play based after George Furth’s book and is one of the most influential musicals ever written. Unlike in most plays, Company has no linear plot, but it discusses the theme of marriage, monogamy and finding your partner. Colton describes the play as being “wonderfully and beautifully weird.”

It is not your typical musical with flashy lights and upbeat music, but it does keep viewers intrigued. There are many questions asked that we will be relateable to the audience as well as making the audience think of how the play incorporates their lives.

Auditions were unique and difficult because “the music is hard to sing, there are weird harmonies, and requires really good acting,” according to Wilson. The RHCP was conceived when a few friends in the band What is This? wanted to start a side project. These friends were Anthony Kiedis (vocals), Michael “Flea” Balzary (bass), Hillel Slovak (guitar) and Jack Irons (drums). They formed a band named Tony Flow and the Majestic Masters of Mayhem.

The band’s third release for its Broadway premiere in 1970 and then revised it in the early 90’s. The most unique part about the play would be that it is not linear. There is no beginning, middle, and end. Colton explains it as being “the most bizarre play we’ve ever done.”

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Who will be the next drag superstar?

Patrick Yim
Special to the Chanticleer

Drag Race is coming through bigger and bolder than ever! For those who have not seen the show, RuPaul’s Drag Race is a show that takes drag performers and pits them against each other, competing to become America’s next drag superstar.

The show, which began in 2009, has now cycled through ten full regular seasons, as well as four seasons of RuPaul’s Drag Race All Stars. During the show, competitors, known as queens, compete in two different challenges each episode. The first is known as a Mini-Challenge where queens play small games in the workroom. These challenges typically give an advantage to the winner for the main challenge, known as Maxi-Challenge.

In a Maxi-Challenge, queens will compete in different skills, such as acting, singing, sewing, design, marketing, etc. The reason for these challenges is to see who, if crowned, would be a better representative, not only for the RuPaul legacy, but also for themselves. This competition is a process to help them better themselves for sustainability in the real world as a performer.

For many, the most exciting part of the show comes at the end of an episode. While the show is helping all queens perform better, the one containing the weakest performance will be told to “Sashay away.” This caused them to inevitably be forced to either perform better or a better competitor, but knowing their words proved detrimental. There have been times where a queen was either a weaker performer or a better competitor, but they did not know which song will be performed until elimination day, so it is important that they learn their words. There have been times where a queen was either a weaker performer or a better competitor, but not knowing their words proved detrimental.

This caused them to inevitably be forced to sashay away.

Previous winners who have Shantayed all the way to the crown in order of crowning are: Bebe Zahara Benet (season 1), Tyra Sanchez (season 2), Raja Gemini (season 3), Sharon Needles (season 4), Chad Michaels (All Stars 1), Jinkx Monsoon (season 5), Bianca Del Rio (season 6), Violet Chachki (season 7), Bob the Drag Queen (season 8), Alana Thunder*** (All Stars 2) Sasha Velour (season 9), Trixie Mattel (All Stars 3), Aquaria (season 10), and most recently Monet X Change and Trinity “The Tuck” Taylor from the most recent season of All Stars.

After hitting the decade mark this past summer, the show is jumping into season eleven with a star many know well, Miley Cyrus. Cyrus will help launch season eleven

The special opening musical guest judge. This has become something the show has teased in recent years at the beginning of seasons to encourage viewers to watch their favorite stars.

Past seasons have included guests such as Christina Aguilera (season 10) and Lady Gaga (season 9) for their openings. Other special guest judges include names such as Bob Mackie, Vanessa Williams, Kathy Najimy, Debbie Reynolds, Lily Tomlin, Loretta Divine, Tamar Braxton, Kesha, Shay Mitchell, Ellen Pompeo, and many more.

This new season boasts that it will be bigger and better than past seasons as it not only starts the second decade of RuPaul’s Drag Race, but this is the largest group of contestants the show has ever brought into the workroom. With 15 queens, the show is also heading to a new showtime. Thursdays at 9pm/8pm central, starting on February 28, 2019 on VH1. Other plays and reruns will appear on Logo.

Some of the major names that many super fans have already been talking about are the three Davenports: A’keria Chanel Davenport, Honey Davenport, and Ra’jah D. O’Hara. The Davenport drag family has become a major name on drag race, ever since Sahara Davenport competed back in season 2.

Outside of the Davenports, there are some pretty big names. However, none possibly as infamous as Vanessa Vanjie Mateo. Mateo originally appeared on season 10 in 2018, but their time was cut short, as they were eliminated in the first episode. They are remembered for their backwaits walk as they exited the runway repeating their middle name in a slow and exaggerated manner. Even RuPaul couldn’t hold back from chuckling throughout the season as queens and judges alike had fun on that phrase as it became a meme throughout the drag community.

The fifteen competitors include: A’keria Chanel Davenport, Ariel Versace, Brooke Lynn Hytes, Honey Davenport, Kahana Montrese, Mercedes Iman Diamond, Nina West, Plastique Tiara, Ra’jah O’Hara, Scarlet Envy, Shuga Cain, Silky Nutmeg Ganache, Soju, Tvice Oddly, and the big return of Vanessa Vanjie Mateo.

To find out who will “Shantay” and who will “sashay”, make sure to follow RuPaul’s Drag Race on social media and tune in to the show on Thursdays.
Baseball Trivia!

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

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

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

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

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

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

St. Patrick’s Day Word Scramble!

IIHRS

OABIRWN

ADIELRN

MHSOKCRA

YKLCU

BACBAEG

NETESENEV

ARDEAP

ACDNE

LDOG

KAPCIRT

NEEPHEARCU

HRCMA

ENRAGE

Riddle of the week

You have two coconuts and you want to find out how high they can be dropped from a 100 story building before they break. But you only have $1.40 and the elevator costs a dime each time you ride it up (it’s free for rides down).

How can you drop the coconuts to guarantee you will find the lowest floor they will break at, while starting and ending at floor 1?

Note: They break when dropped from the same height and they don’t weaken from getting dropped.
**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**Men's Basketball**

OVC Championship Tournament
March 7

Women's Basketball OVC Championship Tournament
March 6 vs Morehead State

Baseball
March 8-10 vs EIU
vs Troy
March 13 vs OVC

Men’s Tennis vs vs Mercer
3/7

Women’s Tennis vs vs Mercer
3/7

Softball
Jeanne McHaney Memorial Classic
3/8-3/9

Women's Track
3/15

Choccolocco Challenge
3/8

Beach Volleyball vs Central Arkansas
3/15

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**JSU WOMEN’S BASKETBALL**

Morehead State ends JSU season in OVC Tourney

Daniel Mayes
Editor-in-Chief

EVANSVILLE, Ind.—The Jackson- ville State Women’s basketball team fin- ished the regular season strong to earn their second-consecutive trip to the Ohio Valley Conference tournament, but two-seeded Morehead State ended the Gamecocks’ run 77-60 in the first round Wednesday.

The Gamecocks won four of their fi- nal five to secure a spot in the tourna- ment, including a 68-57 win over the same Morehead State team Feb. 21, but a tournament-ready Eagles team proved to be too much for JSU to handle on Wednesday.

Turnovers and Morehead State offen- sive rebounds sunk the Gamecocks. In the first half, Jacksonville State com- mitted 10 turnovers that led to 31 MSU points, and the Eagles scored 10 second chance points off of 12 offensive re- bounds. The Gamecocks forced just two turnovers and pulled down three offensive boards during the half.

The Gamecocks started off 4-0-4 from the field to keep pace with More- head State early, but as JSU cooled off, the Eagles heated up.

Morehead State jumped out to a 22- 13 advantage at the end of one, then started the second on a 12-0 run to take command. A Britanica Perry three-point- er just before halftime cut the MSU lead to 42-23 at the break. Jacksonville State rebounded in the second half, but the damage was al- ready done, as Morehead State cruised through the final two frames to take the game and move on to the semifinals of the OVC tournament.

What to Know
—JSU Senior Rayven Pearson, who was named First-team All-OVC on the OVC tournament.

—Morehead State coach Greg Todd on facing the Gamecocks: “Offensively, to be able to score the amount of points we did in the first half against probably the best defensive team in our league was awesome.”

—Pearson on playing her last game in a JSU uniform: “Coming into this game, you know it could be your last game or you could keep going, so I just tried to go out there, played my role, and tried to help my team out as much as I could.”

**Next Up**
—After falling in the first round of the Ohio Valley Conference tournament, Jacksonville State closed out their 2018-19 campaign with a record of 15-15 (9- 10 OVC). Morehead State (23-9, 14-5) advances to the semifinal round on Fri- day, where they will await the winner of the matchup between Tennessee Tech and Austin Peay on Thursday.

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**JSU SOFTBALL**

Chisolm clutch again to lead JSU to another win over Georgia tech

Daniel Mayes
Editor-in-Chief

ATLANTA – Anna Chisolm bel- lied a three-run homer in the sixth inning and lifted the Jacksonville State softball team to a 4-3 win at Georgia Tech on Tuesday at MacPherson Field.

The senior from St. Louis, Mo., took advantage of two errors to circle the bases with a 2-for-3 afternoon.

The native of Saraland, Ala., im- proved her average to .460 on the young season.

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Chisolm clutch again to lead JSU to another win over Georgia tech

Daniel Mayes
Editor-in-Chief

Morehead State ends JSU season in OVC Tourney

Daniel Mayes
Editor-in-Chief

Tuesday, had a strong game to finish out her JSU career. Pearson scored 17 points and pulled down 14 boards to lead the Gamecocks in both categories.

Morehead State had a trio of play- ers turn in big scoring days. Durante Seward led all scorers with 26, while Miranda Crockett scored 24 and McK- enzie Calvert had 16. All three were in double-digits before halftime.

In a season where defense has been a calling card for the Gamecocks, JSU struggled to stop Morehead State throughout the game. Morehead State’s three top returning players were the second most given up by the Gamecocks in the first half all year long after JSU gave up 45 to Troy in December.

Who Said
—Petri on the finish to the season for the Gamecocks. “After nine conference games at the end of January, we were 3-6 in the league. These kids deserve a lot of credit for rallying and even putting themselves in position to be where we ended up.”

—Morehead State coach Greg Todd on facing the Gamecocks: “Offensively, to be able to score the amount of points we did in the first half against probably the best defensive team in our league was awesome.”

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Morehead State ends JSU season in OVC Tourney
EVANSVILLE, Ind. – Jacksonville State’s Jason Burnell and Marlon Hunter received All-Ohio Valley Conference honors for the 2018-19 season, as announced by the league office Tuesday.

Burnell was named to the All-OVC First Team, while Hunter received a spot on the All-OVC Second Team. The yearly awards are voted on by the league’s head coaches and sports information directors.

Burnell is now a three-time All-OVC selection, garnering All-Newcomer honors in 2018 and Preseason All-OVC prior to 2018-19. The senior has been named to all-conference teams in both basketball and soccer, in addition to earning 12.7 per game. The Panama, Fla., native had 166 field goals during the regular season and knocked down 19 three-pointers from the floor. He also hauled 122 rebounds from the wing.

Hunter is a first-time All-OVC selection, earning a spot on the All-OVC Second Team. The senior is shooting nearly 50 percent from the floor. He also started 115 games during his career, hitting 88 of 116 shots from the charity stripe.

In the OVC, Hunter shot an even .500 from the charity stripe. He also started 115 games during his career, hitting 88 of 116 shots from the charity stripe.

The Bulldogs jumped out to an early 2-0 run lead in the first, which they would never lose en route to a 5-3 win over the Gamecocks. JSU falls to 5-8 on the season while Samford improves to 8-3.

JSU MEN’S BASKETBALL
Burnell, Hunter named All-Ohio Valley Conference

JSU BASEBALL
Gamecocks fall 5-3 to Samford

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JSU MEN’S TENNIS
Men’s tennis comes up short at Eastern Illinois Saturday

GREENVILLE, N.C. – The Jacksonville State men's tennis team dropped its first match of the season Saturday, falling 5-2 at Eastern Illinois.

Guillermo Agost and Jordi Blanchar made up the Gamecocks' (7-1) two points at the River Birch Tennis Complex.

"It was a very, very close match," head coach Andres Amoros said. "We could’ve won the doubles point, and we went to a tie-breaker in three singles matches. Today was one of those days when you fight hard but things don’t go your way."

"But I was happy with how the team played. If we can stay competitive through the entire season then we will do some great things."

After the Pirates earned the doubles point and picked up the first singles point at No. 4, Agost scored a two-set win over Wisse Jonker at No. 3 to cut JSU’s deficit to 2-1. The junior topped Jonker 6-4 in the first set and 6-2 in the second to claim his sixth win of the season.

Blanchar tied the match 2-2 with a nail-biting two-set win at No. 6 over Simon Labbe. The sophomore took the first set 6-2, but breezed through the second set 6-1.

Three of the Gamecocks’ four singles losses went to three sets. Aljar Kaplja and Joaquin Vallejo fell at Nos. 1 and 2, respectively, in three sets, while Mark Chigara fell in three at No. 5.

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