



NEWS



Stephen Gross/The Anniston Star

Justin Jones, a junior and an SGA Student Senator, addresses the panel of university officials at the town hall in the fifth floor of Meehan Hall on Wednesday, October 30.

Students raise concerns at town hall

Ashleigh Crouch
News Correspondent

On Wednesday, October 30, the Jacksonville State University Student Government Association hosted a town hall on the fifth floor of Meehan Hall to discuss the proposed dining hall, \$275 commuter fee and other campus related issues.

The event consisted of a panel including SGA President Ulises Herrera, SGA Vice President of Student Activities Desmond Thomas, acting President Don Killingsworth, Vice President for Finance and Administration James Brigham, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Christie Shelton, Vice President for Student Affairs Tim King and Dean of Students Terry Casey. The event was mediated by SGA Vice President of Student Senate Jerod Sharp.

Several students appeared before the panel to ask questions and voice their concerns for the panel to respond to.

Justin Jones, a junior and an SGA Student Senator, began by inquiring about communication between university leadership and students.

"Why did students find out about [the proposed dining hall] after the fact?" asked Jones.

Killingsworth conceded that the university was at fault for not properly relaying that information.

"Going forward [the university] will have better procedures in place to not let that happen again," said Killingsworth.

Jamerious Borden, a sophomore at JSU, raised a concern about the proposed dining facility and \$275 commuter fee. Borden said he likes the way the model of the proposed dining hall looks, but that he "feel[s] like we could use that

for general funding or parking".

"I can already barely afford to attend college and I'm just blessed that I even have the opportunity to attend this college, because I love it," said Borden.

Brigham responded by stating that the \$275 mandatory commuter meal plan was proposed by Sodexo and not finalized by the university.

"What was reported in the paper and what you heard that was approved at the Board of Trustees meeting was simply a proposal from Sodexo," said Brigham. "The issue is that I think we've got a little ahead of ourselves because we haven't even sat down and started the negotiation process yet. If you read in the paper that the \$275 is a mandatory done deal, then that's incorrect."

Though the agreement has not been finalized by the board, the Management Committee and the university Cabinet, prior to negotiation of the contract, recommended Sodexo's 'Option 4' proposal be adopted, an option that includes the mandatory commuter meal plan.

Students also brought up buildings on campus that are currently in need of repairs or reconstruction, including Merrill Hall and Wallace Hall. The panel of JSU officials stated repeatedly that the proposed new dining hall would not affect any other issues regarding building repairs on campus.

"Merrill is on the schedule to be rebuilt ... and as we move forward there are going to be other changes made," said Brigham.

Brigham also emphasized the possible benefits of a new dining facility, including a possible convenience store and meeting spaces for on campus organizations in the proposed dining facility.

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Scott Young/The Chanticleer

Students marched around Trustee Circle on Jacksonville State University's campus on Friday, Nov. 1. The students planned a protest in a Facebook group that had over 300 members prior to the protest. When the students met at around 12:30 p.m., about 15 students showed up. The protest came a few days after a new \$26 million dollar dining hall was announced and a petition started circling campus.

WLJS to host Q&A with acting president

Anastasia Barker
News Correspondent

WLJS is hosting a live interview with acting Jacksonville State University President Don Killingsworth, JSU Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Christie Shelton and Vice President for Student Affairs Tim King on November 12 at 1:30 p.m.

The interview was announced on the WLJS Facebook page last week. WLJS has asked students to suggest questions on the Facebook post, stating that a few might be asked on-air.

"WLJS and The Chanticleer have always been the voice for students at Jacksonville State," said Adjunct Communication Professor and former WLJS Program Director Billy Ramsey. "We felt that the townhall meeting was a bit vague, therefore we wanted to bring the administrators into the studio for a one on one, question and answer session, to hopefully get more questions answered."

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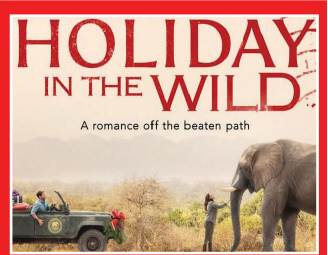
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News

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Killingsworth, former chief external affairs officer, was appointed as the acting president by the Board of Trustees on October 22 following President Beehler's termination. Killingsworth is a graduate of Jacksonville State University and has been working at JSU since 2001.

Shelton was promoted to provost earlier this year following the retirement of Dr. Rebecca Turner and previously served as dean of the School of Health Professions and Wellness. King has over

15 years of experience in higher education pertaining to academic and student affairs. Prior to working with JSU, he was at the University of Alabama, University of Alabama at Birmingham, University of Arkansas and University of Dayton.

NEWS

JSU looks to start Athletic Training Masters Program

Kaitlin Fleming
Editor in Chief

After 14 years of athletic training at Southside High School, Chris Clark recently became a full-time professor of Kinesiology at Jacksonville State University in July of 2019.

Clark is just in time to witness JSU joining ranks with the likes of Sanford, Troy and West Alabama universities when it completes final approval for its new Masters in Athletic Training program.

According to Clark, who was formerly employed by Northeast Orthopedics, the process to get the program off the ground has been time-consuming but extremely enjoyable.

Clark, who has been taking the lead on this project along with JSU Kinesiology Department Head Dr. Gina Mabrey and Provost Christie Shelton, stated that this program would be similar to other professional programs the university currently offers.

"The program will be specifically geared toward athletic training," said Clark. "It will be a

very fun and professionally based clinical experience."

The 59-hour master's program was approved by the school's Board of Trustees in early 2018 and approved by the Alabama Commission on Higher Education (ACHE) in June of 2019. Now, it is just awaiting final accreditation from The Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACSCOC).

According to Clark, the program will utilize current faculty and staff, along with a Clinical Education Coordinator, to teach the newly created schedule of classes.

"The most challenging part has been designing a quality program," said Clark. "Starting from absolute scratch has been interesting. Current athletic training programs at other institutions exist at the bachelor's level in athletic training. We're beginning from the graduate level. It's very exciting to design the program the way we want it. It's a great experience for all of us."

Although JSU does not currently have a bachelors program in athletic training, the Department of Exercise Science and Wellness does offer several classes relating to basic athletic training, exercise science and physical education.

To increase opportunities to achieve accreditation, the program have hired an outside consultant and studied other accredited universities.

Once approved, most of the new classes will be held in the recently renovated Stephenson Hall, which is where the previous student gym was located before the Recreation and Fitness Center was built.

Depending on the decision of SACSCOC, the program will either begin in the summer of 2020 or the summer of 2021.

"We're hopeful for a summer 2020 start date," said Clark. "We've worked hard on this program and we want to offer a top notch professional opportunity for future students at JSU."

Before the program's first graduating class, the Commission on Accreditation of Athletic Training Education (CAATE) will conduct an on-site evaluation and provide a recommendation of accreditation.

This article originally appeared in the October 25, 2019 edition of The Messenger Newspaper in Gadsden, where Fleming is a part-time reporter. Thank you to The Messenger.

HOT TAKE

Student Op-Ed:

"JSU officials misunderstand what is genuinely valuable..."

James Waller

As knowledge of Jacksonville State University's contract renewal with Sodexo's food service has become public, I have noticed a worrying trend in the attitude cultivated by JSU's officials. As of this fall semester, JSU's undergraduate student enrollment is the highest it's been since 2012, and JSU officials are motivated to appeal to this expanding student body by creating an environment in which the students feel content. But, I believe JSU officials misunderstand what is genuinely valuable to a collegiate.

JSU is attempting some rapid expansion. Before President Beehler's termination, students saw JSU erect an impressive new recreational facility, complete with gymnasium, pool, exercise equipment, video-gaming station and an in-building cafe. Following this achievement, JSU's Board of Trustees now wants to sign a new contract with Sodexo, which entails building a new, \$26 million dining hall and mandatory meal plans for commuters.

There is a growing unease amongst students. As we've seen more and more fees appended to our attendance costs, we've become suspicious of the motives of our university officials. Was there ever any demand amongst the student body for finer, newer facilities? Is it wise to take such an expansionist approach when JSU has yet to recover fully from the damage done by the tornado in 2018? Why should funds be wrung from us when those funds are going to be used on superficial amenities, instead of repair to damaged class buildings?

The attitude cultivated by JSU officials is one of glamour. For all appearances, they wish to enchant prospective students with impressive secondary facilities. However, this surface level appearance of collegiate quality will only attract the denigrated stereotype of the party-student. A fine cafeteria or a rec center rock wall will

not attract and hold a serious student, but the quality of academic service will. If students are to be properly supported in their academic advancement, funds should be used to repair our class buildings.

This suspicion and dissatisfaction with JSU's use of their money has increasingly galvanized students to take a stand and say that they will not be extorted from and then mollified by a pretty campus. JSU students have established a Facebook group over 500 students strong, wherein they've expressed their dissatisfaction by airing complaints and sharing stories and photos of university negligence. As of the writing of this article, these students plan to publicly protest JSU's expenditures by marching across campus on Friday, November 1.

It is worth considering that JSU signing onto the terms of Sodexo's contract may not result purely from greed. JSU initially contacted three major food service organizations, but one of those declined to make an offer on a contract with JSU and the other asked that the university wait another year to consider contracts. This practically left Sodexo as the only option, putting Sodexo in a place of strong bargaining power, essentially allowing them to dictate terms with little leeway to JSU.

Regardless of the board's true intentions, it is my hope that the coming protest will cause those in power at JSU incorporate student feedback more heavily into their decision-making and allow us the chance to shape our academic experience to fulfill our needs and goals.

Editor's note: this article was originally meant for publication in the Oct. 31 edition of The Chanticleer. In all of our excitement for our Halloween spooktacular edition, this article was misplaced. To keep the integrity of the author's words, we have opted to run the article as it was submitted to us, just a week later than intended. Our deepest apologies to this writer and our readers.

THE CHANTICLEER NEWSPAPER

JSU's student operated newspaper since 1934

The staff at *The Chanticleer* reserves the right to edit and change any submissions for any reason. We are not responsible for the opinions inside the paper; we simply print the opinions of others. Opinion pieces will be clearly labeled as opinion and news will be labeled as news.

If you have any questions or concerns you may contact us by email at chantynewstips@gmail.com or by phone at 256-782-5701. You may also contact our adviser Mr. Mike Stedham by email at mstedham@jsu.edu or by phone at 256-782-5713.

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WLJS
91.9 FM

NOT here for a Long Time...
... Just here for a GOOD Time



CAMPUS

JSU protest generates low turnout

Scott Young
News Editor

The protest of the proposed Jacksonville State University dining hall and \$275 mandatory commuter meal plan took place in front of the Theron Montgomery Building (TMB) on Friday, November 1 after a short march around Trustee Circle.

Of the 500 members of the ‘Real JSU Students Protest’ group, only about 15 students attended the protest. The march around Trustee Circle began at 12:50 p.m shortly after students rallied at Mason Hall.

The protesters chanted “degrees, no fees” as they made their way around the circle, carrying signs that say “keep your hands out of pockets” and one defining the word extortion. The march ended on the lawn of the TMB at around 1 p.m.

Keeley Tibbitts, the protest organizer, directed the group at 1:30 p.m. to walk to the front of the Jack Hopper Dining Hall to gather more students to join the protest. Shortly thereafter, the protesters walked back to the TMB and the protest ended at about 2:30 p.m.

On Tuesday, October 22, the Board of Trustees approved a resolution to authorize Jim Brigham, the university’s vice president of finance and administration, to execute a contract with Sodexo. Attached to the resolution is a list of four proposed contracts from Sodexo for the university, with two of them requiring a \$275 per semester “com-



Scott Young/The Chanticleer

Students protest on the lawn of the Theron Montgomery Building as traffic passes by on Pelham Road.

muter student flex plan.” “It wasn’t really made public before voting,” said one protester in reference to the resolution. “There’s mold and pests. We don’t have a music building. We don’t have a medical center. There’s a lot of stuff that needs more focus than a dining hall.”

Many students who attended the protest expressed similar concerns with the condition of existing campus buildings and projects that have not been completed, such as Mason Hall repairs or reconstruction the School of Business and Industry complex.

Jordan Chandler, a junior majoring in music education, said she attended the protest to bring awareness to Mason Hall, the home of the Music Department which was severely damaged during the March 19, 2018 tornado.

“If I’m right, the year of 2017 was the last freshman year of people who were

able to experience being in that building,” said Chandler. “It’s two years later and there are two sets of freshman years who think that having our classes in like three different places is normal.”

Brigham stated in an SGA-sponsored town hall that he agrees several buildings on campus should be updated, but that the cafeteria is not “dependant on any other building projects that are going on.”

Alex Huselton, a freshman student who attended the protest, said that he’s opposed to the proposed \$275 commuter fee as a commuter himself.

“I still live with my parents,” said Huselton. “Financial aid has taken its toll to where I only have one required textbook for this semester, and being November, that’s pretty bad. So, to add another fee on top of that? No way.”

Additionally, Brigham noted at the town hall that

the final contract with Sodexo has not been negotiated, stating that the mandatory \$275 commuter fee and dining hall are not set in stone.

“What was reported in the paper and what you heard that was approved at the Board of Trustees meeting was simply a proposal from Sodexo,” said Brigham. “The issue is that I think we’ve got a little ahead of ourselves because we haven’t even sat down and started the negotiation process yet. If you read in the paper that the \$275 is a mandatory done deal, then that’s incorrect.”

Though the university has stated the details of the contract have not been finalized, the Board of Trustees Management Committee and the university Cabinet have both recommended the trustees adopt a Sodexo proposal that includes a \$275 mandatory commuter meal plan.

After the protest ended, Tibbitts expressed dissatisfaction with the turnout of the event.

“I’m kind of disappointed that more people didn’t come out, but I’m so thankful for the ones that did,” said Tibbitts. “I’m proud of students who want their voices to be heard.”

When asked about what she believes prompted the low turnout, she said, “Maybe lack of information. Could be the town hall meeting. Also, there are people who want change but don’t want to show up to make the change happen.”



Campus Crime Log

- November 5, 2019, Information Report, Logan Hall
-
- November 2, 2019, Information Report, Theron Montgomery Building
-
- November 1, 2019, Information Report, Theron Montgomery Building
-
- November 1, 2019, Leaving Scene of an Accident, Paul Carpenter Village
-
- November 1, 2019, Consumption of Alcohol by a Minor, Logan Hall
-
- October 31, 2019, Consumption of Alcohol by a Minor, Paul Carpenter Village
-
- October 31, 2019, Possession of Marijuana and Drug Paraphernalia, College Apartments
-
- October 31, 2019, Information Report, Off Campus
-
- October 31, 2019, Theft of Property, JSU Campus
-
- October 31, 2019, Duty Upon Striking an Unattended Vehicle, Curtiss Hall Parking Lot
-
- October 31, 2019, Information Report, Pannell Hall
-
- October 30, 2019, Information Report, Salls Hall
-
- October 30, 2019, Information Report, SBIC Parking Lot
-
- October 29, 2019, Information Report, Quad
-
- October 29, 2019, Domestic Violence, Meehan Hall
-
- October 29, 2019, Unlawful Breaking and Entering a Vehicle, Paul Carpenter Village
-
- October 29, 2019, Information Report, JSU RMC
-
- October 28, 2019, Automobile Accident, McGee Hall Parking Lot

Have an emergency?
Dial (256) 782-5050 or 911

CAMPUS

JSU honors first-generation students

Bonae Barrs
News Correspondent

JSU is celebrating ‘National First-Generation College Student Day’ on Friday, November 8, from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., on the Quad. Students will get to enjoy free pizza, drinks, games and giveaways to celebrate students who are the first in their families to attend college.

A first-generation college student is the first person in an immediate family to attend college. Being a first-generation college student represents progress for families.

Students who are first-generation often face unique challenges

that make their accomplishments even more amazing to see. College provides a pathway for those students to explore themselves and find their interests. First-generation students face many obstacles like lack of college readiness, familial support and financial stability.

According to Factsheets, 48 percent of first-generation students enrolled in a two-year school, compared with 32 percent of students whose parents had at least a bachelor’s degree. Only 25 percent of first-generation students attended four-year institutions.

As of 2008, nearly one-half (48 percent) at Jacksonville State Uni-

versity were first-generation students.

“Being a first-generation college student makes you challenge yourself to reach the college-level that your parents never reached,” said Kylie Romine, a junior transfer student from Beville State Community College. “Being a transfer student and first-gen is hard because you’re missing the support because your family doesn’t understand the process and it’s harder to feel supported by your family. But it definitely makes you more independent and want to strive for the best and do what your family couldn’t.”

TOWN HALL from Page 1

“Some of the things that the Anniston Star or the Chanticleer didn’t mention is that there are going to be a lot of resources for students that come out of this process,” said Brigham.

A concern that the board raised as an argument for a new dining facility is the lack of space in the Jack Hopper Cafeteria.

Griffin Harris, a junior majoring in communication, disagreed that Jack Hopper lacks space and cited his concern with the state of the food in the cafeteria.

“One of the goals of the new cafeteria is to make more space, but I’ve never had a problem finding a seat in the cafeteria that we have now,” said Harris. “If we want a top tier place to eat in then first we need top tier food to eat.”

“If the student body doesn’t want a new cafeteria, then we don’t have to build a new cafeteria,” Brigham replied.

Harris also discussed concerns about conditions of buildings on campus and claims the Department of Communication receives a lack of attention. He went on to say that there are better things the university could spend a proposed \$26 million on than a new dining facility.

“I agree that there are many buildings on campus that need to be updated,” said Brigham in response. “We under-

stand that there are classrooms and buildings that need to be renovated. The cafeteria is not dependant on any other building projects that are going on.”

Discussion of former university president John Beehler’s termination made its way into the town hall as well.

“I think it needs to be made a public statement to all of our students why President Beehler was taken out of his presidency mid-semester, because the Chanticleer and the Anniston Star are blanket covering these issues and we aren’t really seeing what is going on internally,” said Darby Angel, who was elected Miss JSU in 2019. “Why are we spending this time looking for a new president when we had a fabulous one?”

On Oct. 22, the board voted to terminate the contract of Beehler to serve as president of JSU, without cause.

“Dr. Beehler has never been accused of any wrongdoing that would cause him to be relieved with cause, and this is just the Board of Trustees’ decision to move in a different direction,” said Killingsworth, in response to Angel.

On Friday, Nov. 1, a group of about 15 students protested on the lawn of the Theron Montgomery Building, after rallying at Mason Hall at 12:30 p.m.

CAMPUS



SGA Vice President of Student Senate Jerod Sharp, pictured middle, presides over a meeting of the Jacksonville State University Student Senate.

SGA nominates Lambda Alpha Epsilon for Organization of the Year

Madison Bailey

News Correspondent

The Jacksonville State University Student Senate voted unanimously to pass a resolution to nominate the Alpha Sigma Omega chapter of the Lambda Alpha Epsilon Fraternity for the Organization of the Year award on Monday, November 4.

The president of the Lambda Alpha Epsilon Fraternity at JSU, Ashley Patrick, attended the Senate meeting and provided a student body report on the many accomplishments of the criminal justice professional fraternity.

Patrick stated that a good reason to nominate the Alpha Sigma Omega chapter of the Lambda Alpha Epsilon Fraternity for Organization of the Year was the results of Region Five of the American Criminal Justice Association 2019 Regional Competition, which was hosted in October of this year at Florida State University.

“We competed against six other chapters of the criminal justice association in physical agility [tests], written testing, firearms training and a crime scene exercise,” said Patrick.

There were ten members of the Alpha Sigma Omega chapter at JSU that attended the regional competition.

“Out of the ten people that went, we came back with 18 medals,” said Patrick. “We had eight first place medals, eight second place medals, and two third place medals.”

There were no questions or opposition from the Senate in regards to the nomination of the organization. The Senate voted unanimously to pass the resolution to nominate the Alpha Sigma Omega chapter

of the Lambda Alpha Epsilon Fraternity for the Organization of the Year award as well as to recognize the achievements and outstanding representation of JSU through the criminal justice fraternity.

Other business:

The SGA Senate voted unanimously to pass a bill to appoint President Ulises Herrera’s nomination of Kendal Garrett to the Presidential Cabinet as a representative of the Unit of Graduate Studies.

Student Judiciary Advocate Emily Barfield swore in the newly elected member of the Presidential Cabinet, Kendal Garrett.

Officer reports:

Kathleen Seibert, the SGA vice president of public relations, stated that there are many upcoming events and opportunities around campus such as the voter registration drive from 11:00-2:00 on Tuesday, November 12. There will be flyers posted on social media to remind students about the voter registration drive.

Will Bowen, the SGA vice president of organizational affairs, said that the Organizational Council had just finished meeting and that they went over things like event training and work presence.

SGA Vice President of Student Activities Desmond Thomas was absent to the Senate meeting.

SGA President Ulises Herrera announced that he would be happy to answer any questions pertaining to the recent town hall held in Meehan Hall on Wednesday, October 30.

“We are hoping to keep on doing town halls like that in the future – if not once a month because of people’s schedules – definitely at

least two or three days after Board of Trustees [meetings],” said Herrera.

Herrera commended the Senate for making a genuine effort to make a difference by writing bills and resolutions.

“Continue to be dedicated,” Herrera said. “I thank you for your service, and I thank you for what you do and working alongside Jerod to make the Senate better.”

Herrera also discussed the upcoming career fair that will be held in the rec center from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. on Thursday, November 7. If a student is viewed as a potentially good candidate by an employer, the student will be asked to come back that same afternoon between 1:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m. for an interview with the employer.

Herrera stated that he will be working this week to finalize and publicize the SGA Chaplain applications and concluded his report by saying,

“If you need anything from me, or if I can help you in any way, fire away. Let’s always be nice, be kind, and respect one another.”

“I want to echo the report from President Herrera about the career fair,” said Jerod Sharp, the SGA Vice President of Student Senate.

He stated that he had a list of employers that will be at the career fair on Thursday. The list includes majors that employers are looking for and even require.

Sharp urged everyone to post the flyers about the career fair and concluded his report by saying,

“It would be very beneficial for you to go, as you can find the rest of your career right here on this piece of paper.”

Grace Cockrell/JSU

Upcoming Campus Events

NOVEMBER

7 - Career Fair and Interview Day, 9 a.m., Leone Cole Auditorium

7 - International House Presentation: Jordan, 11 a.m.

7 - Gamecock UPD Meet and Greet, 11 a.m., Quad

7 - Ireland Study Abroad May 2021 Interest Meeting, 4:30 p.m., Martin Hall

8 - LGBTQ Safe Zone Part 1 Training, 10 a.m., Self Hall

8 - Jazz Club Night, 7:30 p.m., 5th floor of Meehan Hall

11 - 2019 Veterans Day Celebration, 12 p.m., Leone Cole Auditorium

12 - JSU Center for Autism Studies, 5 p.m., Houston Cole Library

14 - Riley Green & Friends “Coming Home” Concert, 7 p.m., Baseball Field

15 - Production of “The Imaginary Invalid”, 7:30 p.m., Stone Center

15 - LGBTQ Safe Zone Part 2 Training, 10 a.m., Self Hall

16 - Production of “The Imaginary Invalid”, 7:30 p.m., Stone Center

17 - Production of “The Imaginary Invalid”, 2:30 p.m., Stone Center

18 - Capturing Pablo, 1 p.m., Leone Cole Auditorium, Steve Murphy and Javier are competing to JSU to tell their story of how they caught Pablo Escobar.

18 - SGA Senate Meeting, 6 p.m., TMB Auditorium

15 - Production of “The Imaginary Invalid”, 7:30 p.m., Stone Center

21 - International House Presentation: Singapore, 11 a.m.

21 - Foothills Fall Festival, 3 p.m. to 8 p.m., Pete Mathews Coliseum

21 - “While I Breathe, I Hope”, 6 p.m., Longleaf Studios
Third screening in JSU’s documentary series

23 - JSU vs. Eastern Kentucky Tailgate, 10 a.m., Dillon Field

DECEMBER

2 - JSU in Lights, 4:30 p.m., Bibb Graves Hall Ring in the season with JSU! This annual holiday event is for everyone to have a good time and donate toys for needy children. Refreshments provided.

WLJS 91.9 FM Interview

The radio station will conduct an interview with acting President Don Killingsworth, Provost Christie Shelton and Vice President for Student Affairs Tim King.

Have a question? Submit it to www.facebook.com/wljs919fm or @WLJS_919FM on Twitter.

Tuesday, November 12 @ 1:30 p.m.

Dr. Don Killingsworth

Dr. Christie Shelton

Dr. Tim King



REVIEW

Add 'The Nightingale' to your book list

Breanna Hill

A&E Editor

Best-selling author Kristin Hannah published 'The Nightingale' back in 2015 and won over the hearts of millions with her capability of making a story come to life throughout the pages. The demand for more from audiences has managed to encourage the making of a major motion picture based off of this wonderfully creative novel.

This book completely charmed me from the first few pages of chapter one to the very end. It's a book that keeps you guessing, and you won't know how the story is quite going to end until the last few pages. It's a book that will tug at heartstrings and cause readers to feel every emotion known to man. It is definitely a book that I will keep tucked away on a bookshelf and read more than once.

The book is very unique for one specific reason - the story captured in the pages is told by two separate characters, and both of them are protagonists. The characters that are telling each side of their story are sisters, Vianne, the older sister and Isabelle, the younger. The entire book is centered around how the two sisters are torn apart and reunited again and again throughout World War II.

The book starts off with a bit of background information about how the two sisters came to be apart at the beginning. When they were younger the sisters lost their mother and their father was never the same after it, so he decided to send them off to live in an orphanage. It wasn't long before the older sister abandoned her younger sister Isabelle, believing that it would be better that way. Isabelle was already abandoned by her father, and her sister leaving soon after wasn't something she understood. The relationship between the two sisters was never really the same after that decision made by the bigger sister Vianne.

Vianne then started her life, married and had a daughter. Everything was perfect until her husband, Antoine, was drafted into the war, leaving her to tend to her daughter and keep up with the house all by herself. While Vianne is dealing with the catastrophic knowledge that her beloved may not return home anytime soon, or at all, her younger sister is sent back to her estranged father after yet another mishap at a boarding school she was attending.

While in France with her father, who isn't really thrilled that she's there, Isabelle ends up meeting a boy named Gaëtan. Once they get to know each other and feel a sort of bond together, Gaëtan asks Isabelle to go to Carriveau with him to fight against the German. Isabelle agrees and they embark on a journey to the city that her older sister resides in with her daughter, Sophie.

Once they finally arrive, after several hardships, Gaëtan decides to leave Isabelle while she's asleep, realizing that any harm that may come to her would destroy him. Isabelle is found by her sister and taken in. They live together, butting heads several times on many different issues. While Isabelle is staying there she becomes a part of an underground operation which is part of the French Resistance movement, not only endangering her life, but unknowingly endangering Vianne's life as well as Sophie's.

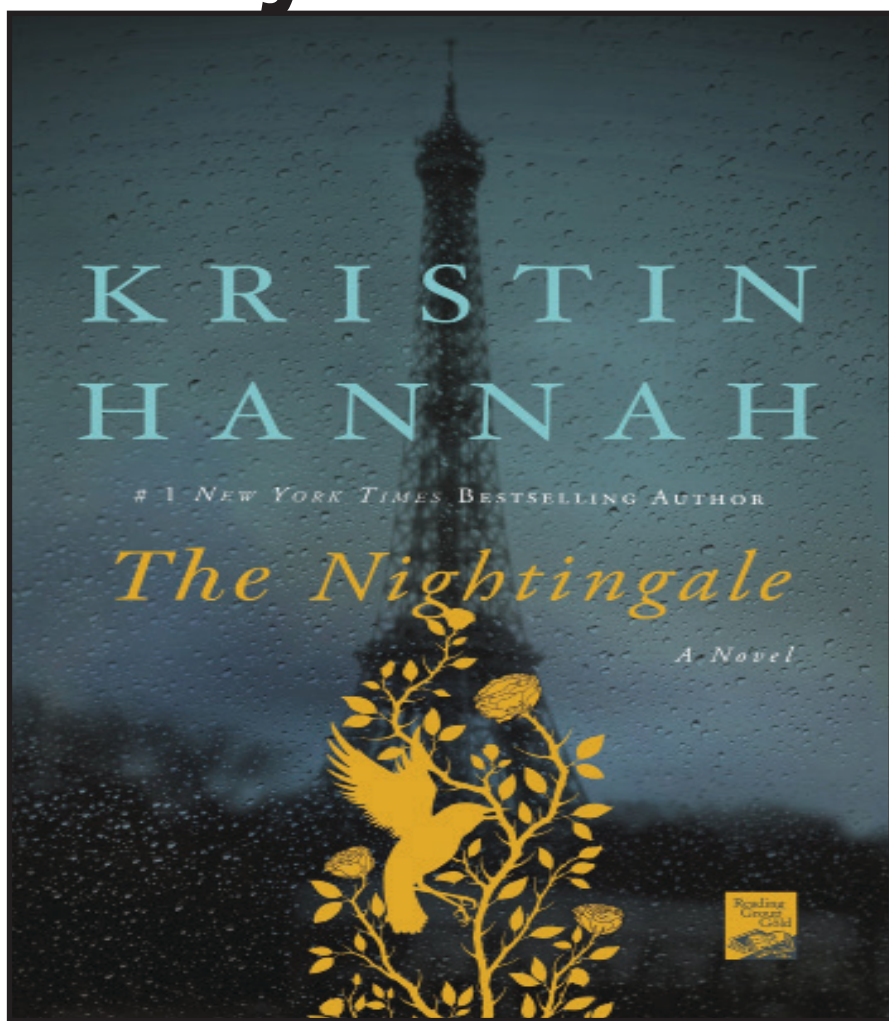


Photo courtesy of Amazon

'The Nightingale' is one of the twenty novels Kristin Hannah has released, gaining her the title of a bestselling author.

The war continues on and Nazi officers begin living with families in Carriveau as they begin taking over more and more territory. All the while Isabelle has become even more involved with the French Resistance movement, gaining her the title of the Nightingale while simultaneously reuniting with Gaëtan.

Isabelle ends up getting caught and tortured by the German government, and she's almost executed before her father shows up claiming that he is the Nightingale. Despite their rough relationship as father and daughter, he sacrifices his own life in order to let her go free. She watches as he's killed, then she's eventually released and returns to her sister. The entire family is back together including Antoine and Gaëtan. Isabelle ends up dying as soon as she's reunited with Gaëtan due to health complications, but she dies happily, knowing that she rescued so many people and got them to safety. She made a huge difference when she accepted the title of Nightingale.

The book goes so much more in depth and is truly one of the most incredible books I've ever had the pleasure of reading. It caused me to experience so many different kinds of emotions and come to appreciate each and every character, no matter how big or small of a part they played in the plot. I encourage every history buff, or romantic mind to read this book.

HOT TAKE



National Novel Writing Month

Photo courtesy of Burlington Public Library

Will you participate in national novel writing month?

Miranda Prescott

A&E Correspondent

November is a beautiful time for me, personally. A week-long break from school happens in November, and I will not find anyone complaining about that, especially after the high tension that comes to fruition during finals week that comes shortly after. I also celebrate my birthday, and it usually leads in all through the month in one large celebratory occasion. I love everything about November, really I do. The colder weather, the winding down of the semester that comes after the mass panic from midterms, basically everything related to the month, I am down for.

However, there is one portion of the month that I absolutely dread. I cannot stand to think about it, but it lingers over everything I do. It is one fact that exists in the month that causes problems for anyone who loves creative writing and just writing in general.

November is also called National Novel Writing Month.

For those who do not know, National Novel Writing Month, which is shortened by most people with the acronym NaNoWriMo, is the month where writers are encouraged to write an entire novel. In the span of 30 days or less. A typical novel takes, at a minimum, a year to write, edit, rewrite and edit again. The challenge is to complete everything that takes this long in a twelfth of the usual time span for an entire novel to take shape.

It is all the writing prompt accounts on social media can talk about these days. It is sandwiched between the Halloween prompts and the holiday prompts like a beautifully ugly creation. The constant promotion gets really unnerving for me. It makes me shudder every time I think about it. I do not understand how anyone can be happy writing a whole novel in a month.

Also, for anyone participating in this

challenge, how will they be able to deal with writer's block without failing. It takes weeks or months for me to get over writer's block. If your writing style is anything like mine, then you get writer's block quite often. This makes the challenge a hundred times worse. If you cannot get over the rut that this horrid disease puts you in, then the chances of you succeeding in this challenge is next to none. Actually, the chances of completion are probably in the negatives.

A typical novel is anywhere from 50,000 to 250,000 words. If you were to set a word count everyday for the month, it would be approximately 1,700 to 8,400 words a day. That is equivalent to a five to 15 page research paper. As a college student, are they really promoting that idea to me?

I can barely write my papers by the deadline, much less a whole novel. The whole concept is absolutely ridiculous.

Arts & Entertainment

REVIEW

Top Netflix crime documentaries to binge

Breanna Hill

A&E Editor

Netflix may be a bit slow when releasing new seasons for their most popular shows, including Netflix Originals, but they have managed to bring about an extensive, high quality crime documentary section that I have currently been obsessing over for months. Here are the top four crime documentaries that had me hooked from the very beginning:

Conversations with a Killer: The Ted Bundy Tapes— There are a total of four episodes in this limited series on the malicious killer Ted Bundy. This documentary series became increasingly popular since its release date in January of this year. Along with the fascination that is easily associated with Ted Bundy and his notorious killings, the audience was able to finally hear the tapes of the killer speaking with a reporter. The tapes are incredibly unique because Ted speaks as if he's examining the killer instead of him

being the actual killer. The series not only shares parts of the tapes, it goes through the entire horrific life of Bundy and talks of the killings he committed.

Abducted in Plain Sight— This documentary detailing an abduction of a little girl in the early 1970's is truly mind boggling and utterly frustrating to viewers. Throughout the series while the story of how the abduction came to be plays out, the family of the little girl named Jan shares their sides of the story, and how they played a major part in it. Jan was abducted by a family friend, a second dad to her and her siblings. The family didn't alert authorities right away when Jan went missing because they knew she was with him. They let her stay with him for a couple of days before calling the cops. What sane parents would do that? Something even crazier that happened during this challenging part of the family's life is that the parents of the abducted girl, both parents, had

affairs with the child's abductor. In order to fully grasp the chaotic concept of this documentary you simply have to watch it.

The Disappearance of Madeline McCann— There are currently eight episodes on Netflix, making up season one. Madeline disappeared when she was three years old at the time. She disappeared while she was on vacation with her family in Portugal in 2007. The series focuses on trying to figure out who abducted Madeline. Even the parents are questioned due to their lack of parental watch during the time she was taken from their apartment while on holiday. Watching the series causes you to question every one involved in Madeline's life, and, unfortunately, her remains have not been found and nobody has any idea of what happened to her as of today.

Evil Genius— This 2018 documentary series focuses on an incredibly diabolical woman who pulled off one of the biggest bank

heists in history. During the beginning of the four part series you see the murder of Brian Wells literally happen. A bomb is strapped to him and he blows up, and the mastermind behind this entire plan plays the victim throughout the series, blaming her doings on close friends and relatives. The series will keep you guessing, and wondering how someone could do this to another human being and how she pulled this off for so long before getting caught.

These true crime documentaries are captivating from start to end. I love crime shows and mysteries and learning about how serial killers have been caught, and what mistakes they made in order to get caught.

I encourage everybody to watch at least one of these documentaries even if it's not something they typically watch. It doesn't take much to get hooked on documentaries, especially if they are crime documentaries. Check them out.

FILM REVIEW

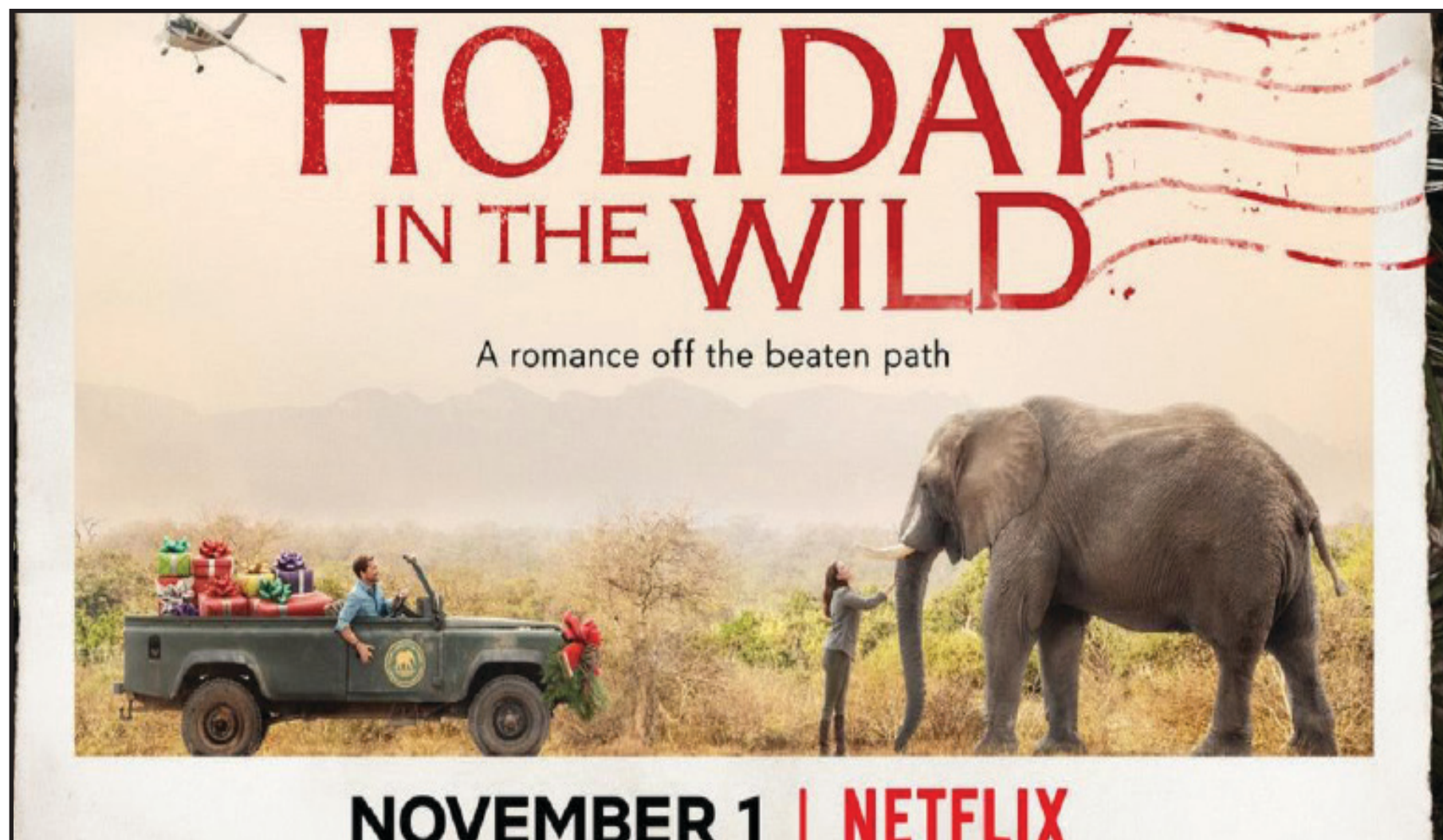


Photo courtesy of Africannews.com

Netflix releases new movie 'Holiday in the Wild'

Alyxxis Jones

A&E Correspondent

Out with the horror of October and in with the romance of November. The beginning of November marks the official start of, what college students like to call, "cuffing season." What would be a better way of celebrating the cold weather than sitting in your room binge watching a holiday romance movie? One film that viewers should watch this season is the Netflix original "Holiday in the Wild." Directed by Ernie Barbarash, the movie was set to be released the 1st of November 2019. "Holiday in the Wild" relates to most Hallmark style films. It's upbeat, and always pushing the cast in a positive way.

In the beginning of the movie, the main character "Kate" faces many challenges. Her son is leaving for college, she's trying to find success in her career, and her husband is filing for divorce after several years of marriage. Everyone in her life is moving on from her while she's left figuring out what to do. In-

stead of getting depressed about her issues, she decides to stay positive. She moves on with her life for the sake of her son and her own pride. She goes on a much needed trip and lands in Africa. This exotic getaway is an escape from reality and stresses of life that she's dealing with. The trip is positive for Kate. It shows her what she wants to do with her life. It becomes a trip for Kate to find herself. The movie shows empowerment and pushes individuals to place their worth above all.

After one day at the location, she meets a hunk played by Rob Lowe named "Derek." Derek has it all. He's single, a pilot, he cares about the local wildlife and is a total dreamboat. This guy is definitely unrealistic. However, he does have everything that Kate needs in a man. The film influences the protection of Africa's natural wildlife. Specifically, this involves the elephant reserves. Poachers kill several wild elephants for their ivory tusks. Sometimes, this leaves baby elephants having to fend for themselves. Reserves like the one

in "Holiday in the Wild" take care of these orphans and later releases them in the wild.

From Popular 80's Movies like "The Outsiders" and "St.Elmo's Fire" Comes veteran actor Rob Lowe. Netflix scored huge with getting Rob to play in this film and it does a ton to help the Netflix film. Rob Lowe and Kristin Davis do a great job in the movie as Derek and Kate. Many of the Netflix original films are very low budget and many times it shows in the quality of the movie, "Holiday in the Wild" Contrary to the norm has a very high quality production with a much more well trained cast and crew.

The Unusual direction of the plot is interesting: being that it is a romance movie surrounded by the very real problem of poaching...specifically to elephants. This movie suffers however in writing, when you start to tear away the plot of the movie it really just turns into another romance movie. Predictable... as you wait for the conclusion which generally in romance movies is the same.

FOOTBALL


Courtesy of Jacksonville State Athletics

Jacksonville State's Zion Webb gets chased by TN-Martins TJ Jefferson during the JSU at UT Martin OVC football game in Martin, Tennessee.

Gamecocks fall to UT Martin

Josie Howell
Sports Editor

Despite taking an early lead in the game, the Gamecock football team fell short five points to UT Martin with a final score of 17-22 on Saturday, Nov. 2.

Jacksonville State has leaned heavily on their strong defense throughout the season, and while they continued to show out in this game, UT Martin's defense proved to be just as strong.

The Gamecocks started out strong and prevented the Skyhawks from scoring for the entire first half while also putting the first touchdown and extra point on the scoreboard with a 75-yard drive in just three plays. However, in the second quarter, the Skyhawks came back onto the field with a vengeance and did not look back.

UT Martin scored two back-to-back touchdowns with only one successful extra point, one at the six-minute mark and the second

one at the one-minute mark. The Gamecocks were able to sneak in one extra touchdown that ran out the clock and put them in the lead by one point with a score of 14-13.

With both team's strong defenses, the third quarter did not see much action from either team offensively. Eventually, UT Martin broke through JSU's defense with a 75-yard punt return, with 24-seconds left in the third quarter, which had everyone on the edge of their seat. The Skyhawks then went for a two-point conversion but failed to get the ball in the end zone. This brought the score to 14-19.

In the last quarter of the game, neither team were able to put the ball in the end zone, but instead both teams put a field goal on the board. Eventually, after much back and forth, the game came to a close. This game brought the Gamecocks overall record to 6-4 and their OVC record to 3-3.

"It was a tough loss - I thought we put a lot into that game. We knew

the importance of that game going in and our bunch battled. You have to take your hat off to Coach Simpson and UT Martin and it is always a great game with them every year. It has been a possession ball game if you go back throughout the years. They are well-coached and have a really good football players," said John Grass, JSU's head coach. "We have to work harder to find answers and nobody is excited about losing that game on Saturday. We have not been in this position, so I think it is very important for our seniors in the program to get a win this week on the road against a very good Tennessee Tech team."

In this match, the Gamecocks saw wide receiver KJ Stepherson bring in over 100-yards for the Gamecocks, this being his first game to do so. Starting quarterback Zerrick Cooper continued to add to his personal record of total yards by bringing in 240-yards against UT Martin, he currently has a total of 2,781 yards for this season and over

6,000 for his career.

The Gamecocks also saw Jamari Hester record 61 receiving yards against the Skyhawks. This brought Hester to a career total of 2,155 receiving yards. He is now third on the school's list of career receiving yards. Hester is one of only three previous players in school history with over 2,000 receiving yards in a career.

"In the last three to four weeks, this football team has really made a lot of improvement. We are playing better at the line of scrimmage. We play two or three of those types of games where it's a possession game and we have always been able to make enough plays to win those games. We just didn't do that on Saturday," said Grass.

The Gamecocks will travel to Cookeville, Tennessee Saturday, Nov. 9 to play Tennessee Tech. Kick-off will begin at 1:30 p.m. Fans can tune in to the game on ESPN plus, or they can listen to the game on the JSU Radio Network.

VOLLEYBALL

JSU suffers heartbreak against SEMO

Sadie Appleton
Sports Correspondant

This past Saturday, the Jacksonville State volleyball team traveled to Cape Girardeau, Missouri in hopes of beating Southeastern Missouri State University for the top spot in the OVC. Leading up to the match, both the Gamecocks and the Redhawks were both tied for this spot and this showdown would serve as a tie-breaker for the two. Unfortunately, Jax State came up short following a nail-biting four-set battle that ended with Southeast Missouri capturing the victory in a 3-1 decision.

In last year's season, JSU secured the fourth seed in the OVC tournament after sweeping SEMO in the regular season finale. JSU then went on to earn their first postseason win in nine years. This season, the Gamecocks are eyeing a regular season title with only a few matches remaining.

The initial set opened with both teams trading points that led to the score being tied 8-8. SEMO then started to take off with the scoring drive and forced a JSU timeout following a 16-12 spread. JSU tried to come back, but came up short as the Redhawks took the first frame 25-19.

Mirroring the first frame, the two teams both reached another 8-8 tie in the following set. However, this time Jacksonville State would be the ones to run up the scoring drive after putting up ten points against Southeast Missouri's three.

Senior Kaylee Frear would score the tenth point in this drive to not only make the score 18-11 putting JSU in the lead, but also to break her

monumental 1,000th kill mark, becoming the 21st player in school history to do so. JSU closed out the second set with a score of 25-19.

Similar to the two previous frames, both teams remained even with the scoring tally in the third set. Eventually, SEMO began to take the lead again, leaving JSU behind at 24-13. A late rally of six points would help with damage control for the Gamecocks but the Redhawks sealed the set with a 25-20 decision, leading the match at 2-1.

The fourth and final set saw JSU take off with a 9-5 lead. JSU's gap began to slim as SEMO would respond by putting down back-to-back aces to bring the score to 12-10. Southeast Missouri would go on to even the score at 14-14 following another service ace and a few errors by the Gamecocks.

Trading blows, the score eventually ran up to 18-18. JSU then found themselves against the ropes as SEMO ran away with a 6-1 scoring drive to widen the gap to 24-19. Looking to keep the match alive, Jax State prevented four match-points but ultimately fell as the Redhawks drove home the winning score, ending the frame at 25-23.

While the defeat was disappointing for the Gamecocks, the effort was led by impressive performances by multiple players. In addition to her historic scoring mark, Kaylee Frear also achieved a team-high 15 kills.

Junior Kaylie Milton went on to post a double-double with 12 kills and 13 digs. Sophomore Lena Kindermann put up 11 kills and a .348 hitting clip. Junior Lexie Libs supported the team



Courtesy of JSU

Senior Maddie Cloutier jump-serves the ball for her team during Saturday, Nov. 2 game.

with 47 assists alongside freshman Erin Carmichael who put up 21. Overall, the squad etched in a .282 hitting percentage for the match.

Jacksonville State, now 15-9 overall and 9-3 for the OVC, will face their final conference games on the road against Eastern Kentucky on Friday, Nov. 8 and Morehead State on Saturday, Nov. 9. Both games can be streamed on ESPN+.

Women's Basketball

Courtesy of JSU

Junior guard Kiana Johnson attempting a free throw in Wednesday, Oct. 30, game against Berry College. JSU went on to score triple digits against the Vikings.

Gamecocks put up over 100 points

Josie Howell
Sports Editor

On Wednesday Oct. 30 in their exhibition game against Berry College, the Jacksonville State Women's basketball team dominated on the court putting an impressive triple digit score on the board, with a final score of 104-37. The Gamecocks well outshot, out-rebounded and overall outplayed the Vikings throughout the entirety of the matchup.

Graduate-senior Destiney Elliott led her team with a total of 25 points for the Gamecocks. Following Elliott in points is junior Kiana Johnson who contributed 15 and junior Taylor Hawks with 14. Jessie Day almost hit double digits scoring nine points for her team. As a team overall, Jax State had a dozen players put points on the board in this preseason contest.

Defensively, the Gamecocks also saw Elliott pull down seven rebounds, JuToreyia Willis with six, and Day and Chloe Long both with five. Jacksonville State's defense was also able to score 54 points against the Vikings off of turnovers alone.

In the first quarter of the game, the Game-

cocks took the lead right away without losing it at any point in the game. The Vikings were able to keep up for the first quarter only being behind six points by the end of it, but by the end of the 2nd quarter, the Gamecocks were already ahead by thirty points going into half-time. Throughout the game, the Gamecocks consistently increased their lead, eventually beating the Vikings in a 67-point lead.

The Gamecocks were able to score around 40 percent at both the three-point line and in the field while averaging over 80 percent at the free-throw line. Meanwhile, Jacksonville State's defense kept the Vikings field goal shooting percentage to 25 percent and their three-point average to 33 percent.

"[The game] was very exciting. Last year, we struggled scoring but we have placed a huge emphasis on scoring this year. We knew it would put us in better positions to win if we could simply score better," said Elliott. "I think that [the win] spoke to our character and discipline. We trust each other a lot more and we all want the same thing, which is to win, regardless of what it takes."

Elliott previously played for Samford University and later came to play for the Gamecocks in the 2018-2019 season. In last year's season, Elliott started all 30 games, the team with 327 points and recorded a team-best 41 three-pointers. Fans are excited to see what Elliott will continue to do on the basketball court.

"Personally, I think there is always room for improvement, for myself and as a team. There was a lot of good in the game but there were also some breakdowns, [but] we went over it in the film and corrected it. I think if we continue with this mindset we will be fine," said Elliott. "The atmosphere that JSU brings is a totally different vibe that's satisfying. My teammates are more like my sisters and have become my best friends. JSU is just a great place to be and playing basketball here just makes it even better."

The Gamecocks will be playing Florida A&M on Saturday Nov. 9 at Pete Mathews Coliseum. Tip off will begin at 2 p.m. Fans can watch the game on ESPN plus or tune into the game at WLJS 91.9. FM.

Men's Basketball

Men's basketball falls short in season opener

Josie Howell
Sports Editor

On Tuesday, Nov 5, the Gamecocks traveled to Dallas, Texas to face off against Southern Methodist University in their season opener, and while this was anyone's game, the Gamecocks fell behind and came up short at the end with a final score of 74-65.

While SMU outshot the Gamecocks in the field, Jax State's 31 percent three-point average out beat SMU's 23 percent. The Gamecocks also outshot the Mustangs at the foul line with a 75 percent shooting average compared to SMU's 68 percent. JSU's main downfall throughout this game was turnovers. SMU scored 20 points just off of turnovers alone. The Gamecocks saw this same issue in their exhibition game against Montevallo the week before.

In the first quarter, there was some back and forth between both teams at the beginning of the half, but the Mustangs found themselves in the lead for the

majority of the time. SMU was eventually able to gain a 10-point lead by the end of the half.

In the second half, the Gamecocks found themselves behind by as much as 18 points with a score of 33-51 at the 12-minute mark. At this point, the Gamecocks stayed determined and narrowed SMU's lead as much as they could until the clock ran out. With two last successful free throws by sophomore De'Torriion Ware, the game came to a close with the Mustangs up by nine points.

Despite the loss, the Gamecocks still had players that shined on the court. Senior Jacara Cross and Ware both led the team with 13 points each. The Gamecocks also saw junior Kayne Henry score 10 points in his first game playing for Jacksonville State. Martin Roub, Derrick Cook, Marek Welsch and Elias Harden also played their first game for the Gamecocks in this matchup. Cross and Henry both lead the team in rebounds with eight each. JSU will not be playing any of


Courtesy of JSU

Senior point guard Ty Hudson dribbles the ball down the court for the Gamecocks.

their OVC rivals until January 2, when they will face-off against Morehead State. Until then, fans can look forward to the Gamecocks playing big teams such as Purdue and Tennessee State.

The Gamecocks will be play-

ing their first season home game Tuesday, Nov. 12 at the Pete Mathews Coliseum. Tip off will start at 7:30 p.m. Fans can stream the game on ESPN plus or listen to the game on 91.9 FM WLJS or 97.9 WVOK.