



CAMPUS



Courtesy of Grace Cockrell/JSU

The Top 15 Homecoming candidates were introduced at the 2019-20 Homecoming Showcase on Tuesday, Oct. 8. JSU students were able to learn more about the candidates and their philanthropy choices.

Homecoming candidates announced

Breanna Hill

Arts & Entertainment Editor

The 2019-20 homecoming meet and greet was held in the TMB auditorium this past Tuesday, giving the chance for any JSU students to gain a bit more insight about the top ten candidates running for homecoming king and queen. Here are the top 15 candidates and a little bit about their philanthropies:

Briley Trammell - Briley's goal is to raise money to sponsor a student's cost in The Body Positive program. It costs \$199 per course, and she hopes to raise \$1,000 for the organization in order to help eight individuals love themselves even more. There are many benefits and opportunities that can arise after completing the program like being able to apply to be a model or a representative of The Body Positive.

Taylor Anne Beckham - Taylor wishes to bring attention to the Youth Health and Wellness pro-

gram. The program's goal would be to educate the young people of today about the benefits of having a healthy lifestyle. If elected homecoming queen, Beckham would love to travel across the county to encourage young children to make smart, healthy decisions to create better impacts on their lives.

Madison Reynolds - Madison wants to shed light on eating disorders and negative body images. She wants to share her own struggles that she has faced, and be able to raise awareness to the harm of eating disorders. She wishes to promote beauty beyond size. She urges everyone to accept the way they are, and that society's version of beautiful is not something everyone should live by.

Abbie Beatty - Abbie is promoting special olympics for her philanthropy. Her mission is to provide sports training and athletic competition year round in a variety of Olympic type sports for children and

adults with intellectual disabilities. She wants to instill confidence, discuss new skills, demonstrate courage and help various individuals experience joy.

Briana Caudle - Briana shares that "The Stage is not the Limit" which is targeted to provide encouragement to those with special needs to create confidence to advance them in their everyday lives. She plans on hosting a week long event to educate those with special needs about all things to do with performing arts.

Brooklyn Heer - Brooklyn's goal is to advocate for those who are unable to advocate for themselves. She is focusing on domestic violence because she finds it to be a topic that not enough people are discussing today. She plans on bringing awareness to domestic violence, especially on college campuses.

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NEWS

JSU goes pink for breast cancer awareness

Scott Young

News Editor

Breast Cancer Awareness Month is a worldwide campaign held in October to increase awareness for the early detection of breast cancer and to raise money for research dedicated to the prevention, treatment and cure of breast cancer.

During October, people often wear a pink ribbon or pink clothing to symbolize breast cancer awareness.

Susan G. Komen, a non-profit breast cancer organization, holds races around the United States called "Race for the Cure" to help raise money for breast cancer and awareness. Their organization expects to have 14 international races in nine countries with nearly 140 races globally.

According to Breastcancer.org, about 1 in 8 women will develop invasive breast cancer over the course of their lifetimes and for wom-

en in the U.S., breast cancer death rates are higher than those for any other cancer, besides lung cancer.

The Cancer Treatment Centers of America urge women to be aware of some of the possible warning signs that they may have breast cancer, including skin swelling or redness, change in breast change, nipple discharge (other than breast milk), breast pain and flaking or dimpling skin.

Many women who have breast cancer do not experience any symptoms, which is why it is important to get regular mammograms.

Zeta Tau Alpha, a sorority at JSU, is doing an annual fundraiser for breast cancer education and awareness, which they have chosen as their philanthropy.

Each October, the Zetas 'paint the town pink' by hanging pink bows around Jacksonville and sells the bows to friends and fam-



Courtesy of Northern Virginia Magazine

ily. They also have 'Think Pink Week' full of several events like a 'Pound Away Breast Cancer' fitness class and a spirit night at Momma Goldberg's.

"ZTA wanted to chose a philanthropy that has effected so many people," said Savannah Tibbett, a member of ZTA. "That is why we are dedicated to helping raise awareness

and find a cure. One in eight women will be diagnosed with Breast Cancer in her lifetime, and that is why Zeta Tau Alpha chose a philanthropy that touches people all around us in a personal way. We hope our contributions will help find a cure for this disease or save someone from losing their life through early detection."

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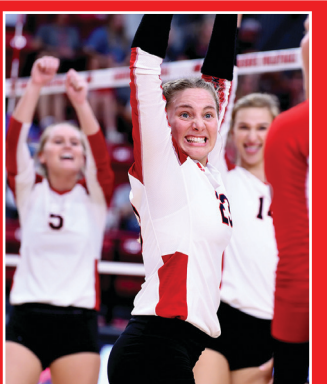


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News

ORGANIZATIONS



submitted photo

Pictured above, the JSU Judo and Jiu Jitsu Club members pose for a photo at a recent promotional.

Organizations of JSU

JSU Judo and Jiu Jitsu Club

Organization name: JSU Judo and Jiu Jitsu Club. **How many members does your organization have?** We have between six and 15 members. **When are your meetings held?** Meetings are held at the School of Business and Industry Complex. **How can students get involved with the organization?** By just showing up. **What does the organization stand for?** Expanding the art and sport of Judo and Jiu Jitsu. **What type of activities does the organization partake in?** We compete across the southeast. *Organizations of JSU is a questionnaire designed to allow student organizations reach new members and spread the word about what they represent. If your organization would like to take part in this questionnaire, please email bhill1@stu.jsu.edu.*

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Meghan Buxton - Meghan's platform is called 'Supporting Those Who Supported Us First'. Not only is she partnering with JSU ROTC but she is also partnering with Alabama National Guard. She wants to be able to collect hygiene products around Jacksonville State and with the help of the JSU ROTC program, deliver these products to local units of the Alabama National Guard.

Taylor Snider - Taylor's campaign titled "Be the Light" is centered around suicide prevention. Snider wants to encourage others to be the light for someone who is experiencing too much darkness. She urges others to stay connected, be there and help them connect with those who are contemplating suicide or have suicidal thoughts.

Savannah Blackwell - Savannah has chosen to promote the Gadsden Humane Society and Rescue Center. She wants to be able to share the importance of pet adoption, pet rescue and also pet healthcare.

Brooke Robinson - Brooke has chosen for her philanthropy to be the Lupus Foundation. She shares that her goal is to educate and inform the Jacksonville community on how to help with the cause.

Isaac Graham - Isaac is promoting the Jed Foundation. The Jed Foundation has a goal of raising awareness not only for depression but suicide as well. Isaac wants to find people who are willing to share their stories that involve dealing with these issues, so that others can see that they aren't alone.

Michael Ray - Michael's philanthropy is focused around Alzheimer's. He wants to be able

to educate others about the signs and symptoms as well as the effects it has on so many people.

Elie Mulonda - Elie's philanthropy is focused around epilepsy. His goal is to educate and help raise awareness on what others can do when those suffering with epilepsy are having seizures. He even used a purple basket filled with candy at the meet and greet to represent the color that is associated with epilepsy.

Harrison Cheatwood - Harrison has chosen for his philanthropy to be muscular dystrophy awareness. This past spring a fishing tournament was held in order to raise money for someone who suffers from the disease, and he hopes to turn this into an annual event to raise money towards finding a cure.

Sean Godfrey - Sean is using this opportunity to discuss creating a cleaner and greener campus environment by effectively using job studies as a tool. He would hopefully like to promote doing small daily tasks around campus to help this goal become a reality, things like recycling, planting more trees and removing litter.

Students can cast votes on Oct. 16 from 12:01 a.m. until 4 p.m. to pick their king and queen. Students must vote through their MyJSU account and can only vote once.

NEWS



Photo courtesy of JSU

Emily Messer promoted to VP of Enrollment Management

Ashleigh Crouch News Correspondent
On Thursday, September 19, Dr. Emily Messer was named the new Vice President of Enrollment Management for Jacksonville State University. JSU President John Beehler announced her promotion in an email to the student body, touting her prior leadership as the Associate Vice President for Enrollment Management. "Under her leadership, the university's first-time freshman enrollment this fall is the highest it has been in recorded school history," said Beehler in the email. Messer has two degrees from JSU: a Bachelor of Arts in English and a Master of Public Administration. Messer also holds a Doctorate of Education in Higher Education Administration from The University of Alabama. Messer has been working at JSU for a little over a year now, and since she began working at the university, JSU's first-time freshman enrollment has reached a record high. When asked what her plans were to improve the admissions process at JSU in her new role as Vice President of Enrollment Management, Dr. Messer explained the progress that has already been made in her time at JSU. Messer stated that in the past year, "successful communication plans that include letters, emails, phone calls, and text messages to inform prospective students of the admissions process" have been implemented to make the process easier for students applying to the university. Messer also said she is very excited about her new role and can't wait to continue her work improving the admissions process. When asked why she chose to work for JSU initially, she stated that she has always had a desire to "continue [her] career in higher education" at her alma mater and that JSU "molded [her] into the professional" that she is today.

HOT TAKE

Why you should hire a blind person

Garrett Sanders Special to The Chanticleer
Over 80 percent of blind people can't find work, so when one is given a chance, it is more likely that they will be much more loyal and dedicated than the average sighted workers. A blind person who has achieved the same qualifications as their sighted peers is, in a sense, more exceptional because it often takes them thrice as long to reach this point - that alone shows you how dedicated they are. A blind person is more likely to have exceptional problem solving skills that those with sight do not. (We have to solve problems all our lives, everyday - practice does make perfect.) When the zombie apocalypse comes and there's no power in the building, the blind person will be the only one who can lead you to safety! A blind person is less likely to get distracted by things like flashing lights, shiny jewelry or random good looking strangers passing by. A blind employee is not going to judge you, or even notice embarrassing little details, like when your zipper is down. A blind employee who gets to work 30 minutes early because he or she has to get up early to spend a hour on the bus, plus 20 minutes walking in the rain to and or from the bus stop, plus 30 minutes waiting for said bus, to get to work, versus a sighted employee who gets in 10 minutes late cause he or she got caught in traffic driving his or her Dodge Van, which one shows more determination, dedication and work ethic? You do the math. Any job that has disabled workers automatically gets a "like" in customer minds - if nothing else, people will take notice and remember you as "oh that's the place with that exceptional blind martial art teacher!" This means you are a few steps ahead of your competitions by default. The blind employee is less likely to lose customers by showing favors towards only the good looking ones. The blind employee is less likely to be distracted by loud trashy music on their phone during work hours because they have to rely on their hearing to work. And for that matter here's a bonus! A blind employee will never miss work due to them getting into a car accident by texting while driving. After reading this, you should make it your goal to hire a qualified, dedicated, loyal, ethical, determined and highly skilled blind superworker!

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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News

CAMPUS

SGA passes hazing, Cabinet eligibility bills

Scott Young
News Editor

The Jacksonville State University Student Senate voted to approve several bills: one that lays out the procedure for placing organizations that haze on probation and one that adds new requirements for members of the presidential cabinet.

Senate Bill 29, introduced by Sen. Justin Jones, states that organizations that are found in violation of university hazing policy and Alabama hazing laws can be put on probation by the SGA and receive sanctions from the Director of Community Standards and Student Ethics.

Organizations put on probation will be prohibited from attending the Organizational Council, a group where campus organizations receive information and updates on SGA and where smaller organizations grow.

The Director of Community Standards and Student Ethics is a university official and their role is to investigate infractions of the Student Code of Conduct.

Sen. Jones said that the bill will bring the SGA and Code of Laws up to standard with the university policy and Alabama hazing laws.

“If an organization wants to be a part of the Organizational Council, they cannot haze,” said Jones. “If they are caught hazing, they will be put on probation from the Organizational Council and the Director of Community Standards and



Student Senators, from left, Adam McNeal, Justin Jones and Guadalupe Orozco, in attendance of a Student Senate meeting on September 16.

Student Ethics will also be able to impose sanctions.”

Senator Matt Reed questioned Jones about what the probation entails for organizations that are placed on probation.

“They will not be able to attend [the Organizational Council] and, therefore, will not be able to receive allocations from them,” said Jones.

According to Jones, the allocations refer to a reimbursement that organizations can receive from the SGA for money spent on an event or travel. Allocations are signed off by the Vice President of Organizational Affairs and can go up to \$600 per organization.

Additionally, the Student Senate passed SB 30, introduced by Sens. Dexter Ferguson and Cindy Danini, which puts in place additional requirements for individuals to meet before they can be nominated to the Presidential Cabinet.

Members of the Presidential Cabinet must have completed 24 credit hours at JSU and be pursuing a major or minor in the

school they are seeking to represent, and must have completed 12 credit hours in that school. They must also be a full-time JSU student and cannot hold more than one cabinet position.

The bill establishing a Presidential Cabinet that was passed on Sept. 16 included a 2.5 GPA minimum.

“I think [the bill] enforces similar requirements and future proofs the selection of the Cabinet members so, that way, future presidents won’t be able to add people there at their discretion,” said Ferguson.

Reed raised a concern about online students not attending on-campus classes and asked if those students would still qualify for the Cabinet.

“I guess so,” Danini replied.

Sen. Natalie Walls asked if the authors believed that President Herrera would appoint someone “who’s never stepped foot on campus,” in response to Reed’s inquiry.

“I wouldn’t think he would do that, but it’s possible a future president

might,” said Ferguson.

The Student Senate passed the bill with no amendments and without any opposition.

Other business:

The SGA Senate passed a bill to change the last day to submit a bill to the Senate from the end of the business day Tuesday to the end of the business day Friday. The bill was tabled in the last meeting due to a typo.

The SGA Senate voted to approve SGA President Ulises Herrera’s nomination of Kendal Featherstone to the Presidential Cabinet as a representative of the School of Business and Industry.

The SGA Senate tabled SGA President Ulises Herrera’s nominations of José Riviera to the Presidential Cabinet as a representative of the School of Arts and Humanities and Amelia Walker to the Presidential Cabinet as a representative of the School of Education. The nominations were tabled due to the nominees being absent to the Senate meeting.



Campus Crime Log

October 8, 2019, Information Report, JSU Recreation and Fitness Center

October 8, 2019, Information Report, Gamecock Village Parking Lot

October 8, 2019, Domestic Violence, The Pointe

October 8, 2019, Criminal Mischief, Pete Mathews Coliseum Parking Lot

October 8, 2019, Information Report, Mason Hall Parking Lot

October 7, 2019, Information Report, Self Hall Parking Lot

October 7, 2019, Information Report, Meehan Hall

October 7, 2019, Information Report, International House

October 5, 2019, Theft of Services, JSU Stadium

October 5, 2019, Information Report, JSU Stadium

October 5, 2019, Information Report, Leone Cole Auditorium

October 4, 2019, Violation of Student Code of Conduct, Mountain Street

October 4, 2019, Duty Upon Striking Unattended Vehicle, Daugette Hall Parking Lot

October 4, 2019, Violation of Student Code of Conduct, Nisbet Street

October 3, 2019, Criminal Mischief, Paul Carpenter Village

October 3, 2019, Automobile Accident, University Circle

October 3, 2019, Information Report, Martin Hall Parking Lot

October 2, 2019, Violation of Student Code of Conduct, The Pointe

October 2, 2019, Automobile Accident, SBIC Parking Lot

October 2, 2019, Automobile Accident, Houston Cole Parking Lot

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

CAMPUS

JSU observes Hazing Prevention Week

James Waller
News Correspondent

With National Hazing Prevention Week behind us, observed from September 30 to October 3, it’s important to maintain continuous awareness of the danger hazing poses, both to communities and an individual, in order to spread resources and knowledge about the risks of hazing.

According to the 2019 College Edition of the Resource and Planning Guide to hazing prevention, hazing is defined as “any action taken or any situation created intentionally that causes embarrassment, harassment or ridicule and risks emotional and/or physical harm to members of a group or team, whether new or not, regardless of the person’s willingness to participate.”

Physical trauma resulting from hazing is quite common, though the public usually finds out only in

severe and extreme cases, such as when hazing results in death. Hazing rituals can frequently result in traumatic injuries. According to statistics from Hank Nower, a journalist dedicated to fighting against hazing, at least one death from hazing has occurred each year from 1969 to 2017.

According to The Economist, one of the leading causes from hazing related deaths is alcohol poisoning through forced consumption of alcohol. Physical hazing also frequently involves sexual abuse, wherein victims of hazing are made to perform sexual acts on each other or for senior members of an organization, such as a sorority or fraternity.

Psychological trauma from hazing is harder to track. Shame, self-doubt and threat of being ostracized by peers complicit in hazing can cause victims of

hazing to be unwilling to share their stories and the anguish they experience as a result of hazing. Statistics from insidehazing.com say that 9 out of 10 students who have experienced hazing behavior in college do not consider themselves to have been hazed.

The effects of hazing are no less real when they result in mental scars. Trauma of hazing can cause depression, suicide and lowered academic achievement. This may even cause victims to withdraw from other activities, not merely the activity around which the hazing is centered.

There are three steps to stopping hazing: recognition, preparation and action. Victims of hazing can be helped when onlookers recognize hazing as it happens around them, prepare to support and protect victims, and take action to institute policies that prevent,



Courtesy of JSU

Lianne Kowiak, pictured, is a hazing prevention advocate whose son, Harrison, lost his life as a result of fraternity hazing. Kowiak spoke at JSU on Wednesday, Oct. 2 as part of Hazing Prevention Week.

discourage and penalize hazing. Helpful statistics and guides for preventing hazing and supporting and protecting its victims can be found at insidehazing.org.

Students can report instances of hazing on campus through the JSU website by visiting <http://www.jsu.edu/studentlife/greek/gamecocks-against-hazing.html> and filling out a report.



News

CAMPUS



Grace Cockrell/JSU

Students enjoy tacos during the 'Tacos on the Quad' event as part of JSU's celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month.

JSU celebrates Hispanic Heritage Month

Ashleigh Crouch

News Correspondent

Hispanic Heritage Month is observed by Americans every year between September 15 and October 15 to celebrate the cultures and histories of American citizens who have roots in Spain, Mexico, the Caribbean, Central America and South America.

Hispanic Heritage Month begins on September 15 because of the significance the date holds as the anniversary of independence for Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua.

Jacksonville State University has been observing Hispanic Heritage Month with a variety of on campus events. An opening celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month took place on September 19 in the Theron Montgomery Building and featured information sessions and seminars from Hispanic students, faculty



Grace Cockrell/JSU

Dr. Eduardo Pacheco, a JSU Spanish professor from Colombia, speaks at the opening ceremony for Hispanic Heritage Month.

and staff.

Dr. Eduardo Pacheco, a JSU Spanish professor from Colombia, is very passionate about the importance of Hispanic Heritage Month.

"To be Hispano/Latino means to belong to a group which is culturally diverse, but at the same time united by a language and a heritage of tri-ethnic descent," said

Pacheco.

Pacheco encourages all students to come to the remainder of the Hispanic Heritage Month events and learn more about Hispanic history and culture.

Ulises Herrera, JSU's first Hispanic SGA president, believes in the importance of this month of celebration

"Hispanic Heritage Month means so much more to me because it is more than just a month of events, it is celebrating my culture," said Herrera.

Several other events have taken place in honor of Hispanic heritage over the course of this month, including Tacos on the Quad, Latin Coffee Testing, Salsa Night and Latin Trivia Night.

JSU plans to close out Hispanic Heritage Month with a closing gala which will take place on Thursday, Oct. 10 at 6 p.m. in the Recreation and Fitness Center.

Upcoming Campus Events

OCTOBER

10 - Hispanic Heritage Closing Gala, 6 p.m., Recreation and Fitness Center

12 - DOG DAZE at the Canyon, 10 a.m., Little River Canyon Center

16 - Homecoming King and Queen Voting From 12:01 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., you can vote for King and Queen through MyJSU.

16 - October Safe Zone LGBTQ+ Ally Lunch, 12 p.m., International House

16 - Homecoming Carnival, 2 p.m., Quad

17 - Wallace Hall Demolition Ceremony, 8:30 a.m.

17 - Homecoming Shrimp Boil, 4 p.m., Location TBD

17 - Homecoming Celebration, 5 p.m., Dillon Field

19 - Homecoming Tailgate, 8 a.m., Dillon Field

19 - Homecoming Parade, 10:30 p.m.

20 - United Nations Day Tea, 2 p.m., International House

21 - SGA Senate Meeting, 6 p.m., Theron Montgomery Building Auditorium

22 - The Groovers: Retrospective Art Show, 5 p.m., Hammond Hall

24 - International House Presentation: Mexico, 11 a.m.

24 - Phi Mu 3rd Annual Dance Marathon, 6 p.m., Theron Montgomery Building Lawn

29 - Harvest Festival, 6:30 p.m., Location TBD

29 - Zombie Chase for Suicide Prevention and Awareness, 6:30 p.m., Theron Montgomery Building Lawn

31 - International House Presentation: Korea, 11 a.m.

NOVEMBER

2 - Canyon Fest 2019, 10 p.m., Little River Canyon Center Art demonstrations, sales, activities, music, food and fun for the entire family!

6 - November Safe Zone LGBTQ+ Ally Lunch, 12 p.m., International House

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

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

LOCAL

Calhoun County launches new 911 texting service

Miranda Prescott

News Correspondent

Calhoun County 911 has implemented a new texting service known as Text-to-911 that became available to the residents of the county starting October 4.

Kevin Jenkins, the agency director of Calhoun County 911, explained how the system works.

"Text-to-911 allows a mobile cellular device to directly reach an emergency call taker by sending a text message to '9-1-1,'" said Jenkins. "Once contact to 9-1-1 is initiated, the GPS location of the device is usually available to 9-1-1 operators."

Calhoun County is stressing that this new texting service should not replace a traditional voice call in the event of an emergency. In fact, it is emphasized that voice calling is the best method for reaching emergency services.

"PLEASE remember a VOICE TELEPHONE CALL to 9-1-1 is always best," the department explained in a Facebook post. "Text-to-911 is most useful when it is unsafe to speak on the telephone."

"Text-to-911 is most beneficial when the caller cannot speak," said Jenkins. "Here are some examples where Text-to-911 is advised: an emergency situation where the caller is unable to speak aloud for fear of their personal safety or instances where the caller has a hearing impairment."

The Facebook post also notes that it is an easier way for those who are hearing-impaired to contact them. Jenkins said they will greatly benefit when using the texting system.

"Hearing impaired person will greatly benefit by using



Courtesy of Calhoun County 911

The Calhoun County 911 Operations Center is located in Jacksonville and lead by its agency director Kevin Jenkins.

Text-to-911 because it does not require the use of translator services such as TDD/TTY equipment," said Jenkins. "This speeds accessibility to report an emergency."

Jenkins believes that there will be a significant impact on the community by using this new system.

"These innovations extend the 9-1-1 service of reporting an emergency to allow voiceless contact whenever the caller is unable to speak for whatever the reason," said Jenkins. "It is an enhancement to our ability to effectively protect the public and our citizens during an emergency."

Jacksonville State University Police Chief Rob Schaffer believes it will have great benefits for students.

"Texting has become a preferred way of communicating," said Schaffer. "Any system that can make students safer is a good one."

For more information on Calhoun County 911 or Text-to-911, visit their website at <http://www.calhoun911.org/welcome.php>.



Arts & Entertainment

MOVIE REVIEW



Photo courtesy of The Globe Post

Average Joe cinema review of "JOKER"

Grant Davis

A&E Correspondent

First of all, I am not a professional film critic, just a fan of movies and a big fan of comic book movies. I would like to thank you to The Chanticleer for asking me to write a review for this movie. This is definitely a new experience for me, so I'll do my best.

This is my spoiler free review of Todd Phillips' *Joker*.

Joker was probably one of the most highly anticipated films of the year. As of Monday, Todd Phillips' *Joker* has earned over \$100 million dollars domestically after less than a full week on release. The movie has been met with both great reviews and negative reviews and has been the subject of controversy. However, I'm just here to talk about the film from my perspective as the everyday comic book movie fan, so let's dive in.

Todd Phillips, best known for his work with *The Hangover* movies, brings life to the first ever *Joker* origin movie and it is absolutely devastating. The movie is not your typical comic book movie. This isn't a stepping stone into a larger DC uni-

verse, there isn't an action scene every fifteen minutes, as has become common with the Marvel movies (which I absolutely love) and there is no after credits scene setting up for a sequel, so that in itself is already very different from the typical comic book movie.

Joker is very much about how Batman's most iconic villain became who he is, and it is a brutally sad descent into madness according to Todd Phillips' vision. Arthur Fleck (Joaquin Phoenix) is a character who, due to a brain injury, has a condition that causes him to laugh uncontrollably at unfitting times. People find him strange and it gets Arthur beat up on multiple occasions throughout the film. It also leads to him losing a job he truly loves, being a clown for hire. He is fired due to unfortunate circumstances out of his control and it breaks his heart. The beauty behind this moment early in the film is it establishes the fact that Arthur feels his best when he wears makeup and is a clown. He doesn't have to be Arthur, the man with a mental disorder who lives with his mother. It is very much similar to Peter Parker

who loves to be Spider-man.

Both characters love to be their alter ego to forget about their everyday lives. Joaquin's take on the Joker is very much child like in a way as well. Arthur comes off as very innocent and really just wants to be normal, although due to his condition and upbringing, that will never be possible for him.

In the film, Arthur attempts to become a stand up comedian because it is a dream of his. Sadly, his condition prevents this as he cannot even get through a joke without laughing uncontrollably, ruining his chance at stardom. His idol, Murray Franklin, ends up having film of the terrible performance and plays it on his show which is heartbreaking for Arthur. At this point, he has been beaten up multiple times, fired from the job he loves and now has been publicly shamed by his idol on national television.

The film uncomfortably tackles the story of someone with a mental illness, struggling through everyday life. *Joker* may leave some viewers disappointed if they have the expectation of a very violent R-rated film but Arthur certainly has his moments late in the

film that deliver some chilling on screen acts of violence.

Joker is very much about the psychological effect of violence and how Arthur thrives off the relief he gets as he takes out his frustrations on others. *Joker* is grounded and gritty and it feels like a film in line with the tone of Christopher Nolan's Dark Knight trilogy, which are easily DC's best films and arguably the best comic book films of all-time but anyways, back to the review. *Joker* is raw, uncomfortable, sad, and a very well untold origin story for the Joker.

This movie is not for everyone but it is certainly a good film.

Phoenix delivers a sick and twisted performance that is electrifying. He was the perfect actor for the role. I doubt we will see a sequel to this film but my fingers are crossed that we do. I would love to see Joaquin's *Joker* take on Batman.

Joker is a film that feels like it could happen in real life and maybe that's why the reviews are so mixed, it gives an artistic reflection of the world we live in and perhaps that what makes people feel uncomfortable. 9 out of 10.

LOCAL

Local fall festivities taking place around Jacksonville

Breanna Hill

A&E Editor

Fall has officially begun and with fall comes festivals, haunted houses and more activities to celebrate the new season.

Here are a few of the events set to take place around Jacksonville throughout the month of October.

On October 12 the fourth annual Fall Fest is taking place at the Anniston Museum of Natural History. It starts at 1 p.m. and carries on until 5 p.m. The event is for all ages, and includes an array of fun activities for all ages. There will be hayrides, nature scavenger hikes, live animal encounters, flashlight-led exhibit halls, hands on history, crafts, face painting and much more.

Everyone is encouraged to wear their Halloween costumes for this year in spirit of the upcoming holiday. Also, Izzie's Treats will be catering delicious festival food throughout the time of the festival. Tickets are available for purchase on their website or over the phone, but you can also purchase them on the day of the event. The price of the tickets vary for those attending. AM&G members that plan to attend can get in for \$8, while a member's child can get in for \$6. The public pays \$10 for tickets, and children under three get in completely free.

On October 24, from 4 to 5 p.m., the Jacksonville Public Library will be hosting an event titled Halloween Fun on the Farm. The activities that will be included in the event are stories, games, crafts, prizes, snacks and a costume contest. There is no need to purchase tickets. The information calls for free fun, so just show up on that Thursday and do your best to win the costume contest.

On October 26 the seventh annual Neewollah on Noble Fall Festival will be taking place in downtown Anniston from 1 to 4 p.m. The event will include fun activities such as a kids zone, horse carriage rides, a pumpkin decorating contest, train rides and live music. Along with the endless activities there will be 20 food booths for everyone to try out. The best thing about this event is that there is no admission cost. Make sure to check this one out.

Haunted Houses are a huge part of the Halloween season, so make sure you check out the closest haunted house to Jacksonville called The Territorium located in Oxford. The attractions include not only the Territorium itself, but actual rides such as the Big Eli Ferris Wheel and the Haunted Castle Dark Ride. This haunted destination is only open on the following days: October 10, 12, 17, 19, 24 and 31. It's open from 7 until 10 p.m. on weekdays and 7 p.m. to 12 a.m. on weekends.

I definitely recommend taking the time to visit this haunted site because of the great prices for the tickets. Most haunted houses cost an arm and a leg it seems, but this place has low prices for all the struggling college students. Visitors have the choice of getting tickets for each attraction on its own, getting a combo ticket (both haunted attractions) or purchasing what they call a terror ticket (all three attractions). Just to ride the ferris wheel costs \$5, the haunted castle dark ride costs \$7, the territorium portion costs \$13, the combo ticket costs \$17 and the terror ticket costs \$20. Great deals, right?

These events are sure to be filled with fun and exciting times, so take advantage of the fall festivities and make some great memories.



Arts & Entertainment

HOT TAKE

Relaxing video games to try out when stressed

Miranda Prescott

A&E Correspondent

With midterms coming up very quickly, students such as myself are finding an immense amount of pressure building up on our backs with the workloads we are facing. We as students are struggling to find ways to cope with this stress on the basis that anything and everything is due at the exact same time, and the deadline is only a few days away.

Here is where I come in. I want to introduce some things that keep my stress levels lower than normal and that genuinely help me relax. These are video games. Yes, that seems a little unconventional. Most video games tend to stress players out by not being able to beat a hard level, or not being able to complete a task.

I, however, have found games that have no set agenda and can be used to help relax and destress my mind by doing mindless activities inside these games. Here are my top three games that help me achieve ultimate relaxation.

Stardew Valley

Stardew Valley is an indie game that is available on Steam, the Nintendo store for the Switch, and app stores for Apple and Android. This game has goals you can complete on your own that require objects obtained from farming, fishing, and mining, or you can take another route and sell out to the villains of the game: mega corporation JojaMart. The characters you get introduced to have their own aspirations and goals, as well as things that can be given as gifts to them that they will re-

ally love. The score for this game is also rather peaceful and calming to listen to, providing optimal relaxation while playing the game. It is also less than 20 dollars and often goes on sale, so it is a decent investment for yourself that your wallet will appreciate.

Animal Crossing

Animal Crossing has been around longer than most of us have been alive. It has relatively the same concepts for each title: you are the only human amongst a village of animal-humanoid characters set out on a mission to improve the area you all call home. Each of these animals have their own characteristics that set them apart. However, that also makes players have favorites that are a must have in their town, and others that they never want to see in a million years. Again, no set agenda here. You can work at your own pace to make your town beautiful in its own way.

Cross Stitch World

This is a free mobile game that acts as a virtual coloring book. It uses squares of yarn to finish complex images. Yes, they may take a while to finish each one, but the satisfaction you feel after spending eight hours on one image to finally complete it makes the game very rewarding in the long run. Plus, there are countless images in the game, and it allows you to create your own as well.

If you need to relax after spending hours upon hours of studying for midterms, then these are the games you need to try. Are the conventional, typical games that most people usually play? No, but that's what makes them unique. They don't fit the molds that are set out today. In fact, they create their own.



Photo courtesy of newegg.com



Photo courtesy of animal-crossing.com

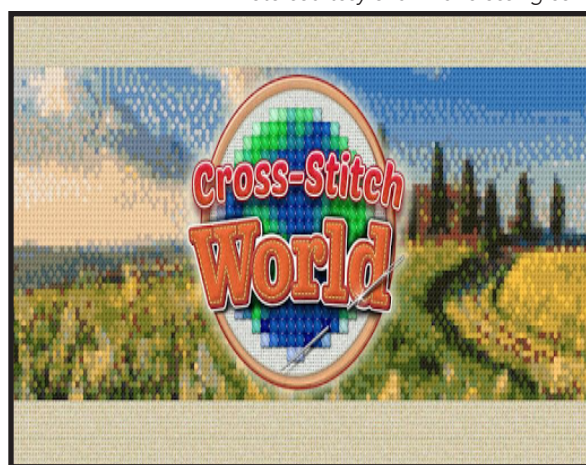


Photo courtesy of Google Play

MOVIE REVIEW



Photo courtesy of Slashfilm.com

"Star Wars: The Force Awakens"... the best movie ever?

James King

A&E Correspondent

Star Wars: The Force Awakens is the best Star Wars movie that has ever come out of the franchise. I know that may sound like an exaggeration, but after catching up with the franchise so far, it has become my favorite entry in the franchise.

That isn't to say the movie doesn't have problems, all movies do. Though, it completely makes sense why this movie became one of the highest grossing movies of all time. I feel that this movie really captures what makes Star Wars unique and lasting - the "what" that makes generation after generation keep coming back to the franchise.

The story takes bits and pieces from the entire franchise and stitches together into a Frankenstein's monster of a

movie, and I mean that in the best possible way. I tend to disagree with most fan assessments that the movie is just a retelling of the first movie, as I feel it steals from a lot more than just the first movie.

There are elements that are taken from earlier movies for sure, like Rey's humble beginnings mirroring Luke's, Poe's flight skills mirroring Han Solo's, and Kylo Ryn's turn to the dark side feeling weirdly similar to a certain sith lord's, they all have their own flavor mix.

The movie does a great job of remixing and adding elements to the characters and their canon, so the movie doesn't become a simple reread of the earlier Star Wars movies. It feels familiar, but changes up enough elements to keep it fresh and keeps it from becoming overly predictable.

What I like best about this movie though is the visuals. That's always been a selling point for me in these movies and this one is no exception. The junkyard desert of Jakku was amazing to watch with the huge star destroyers in the background, as characters travelled their way past them, was complemented by the sense of scale as Rey climbed through them.

The sense of scale was really amped up for this movie and you can feel that in a lot of the ship and building designs. Even some of the alien designs play with your sense of scale as some are very huge and muscular while others are barely there. I have never seen the world of Star Wars so beautifully realized until now.

The acting is much better than many of the previous instalments. While some characters do come off a little flat in places you can really tell what certain characters are feel-

ing just from the looks on their faces and even from the body language. It really helps to sell the mythos and the world as our new heroes meet the old ones with shock and awe. It's especially effective in earlier scenes where one of the characters has to emote using only his body language. You could really feel his fear and anguish, which made his lighter and happier scenes hit that much harder.

This is easily my favorite Star Wars movie, by a large margin. The Force Awakens represents the pinnacle of the franchise to me. It's not only a good Star Wars movie, not only a good sci-fi movie, but put simply, it's a great movie. It has built on the foundations before it and made something better. While the other movies have people's nostalgia to help prop them up in people's mind, this movie doesn't need that crutch.

It is the beginning of a bright, but different Star Wars.



Sports

FOOTBALL



Courtesy of Jacksonville State Athletics

Jax State victorious over Tennessee State

Garrett Sanders

Sports Correspondant

The Jacksonville State University football team has faced adversity throughout this season and Saturday, Oct. 5 at Burgess-Snow Field against the Tennessee State Tigers, it was no different. If there was anything evident about this team, it is they always have a slow start overall as a unit. With a team like Tennessee State, that had the chance to be costly.

Tennessee State is known to be a team that can score on any given position they're in on offense. The first quarter of the game showed why. On the opening drive of the game, the Gamecocks could not stop the Tiger's explosive attack. That ultimately resulted in seven points in favor of the Tigers.

For JSU, they needed to not find themselves slacking early. However, the offense ended up stalling. This ended up in disaster for the Gamecocks as far as their game plan was concerned.

Tennessee State attacked the Gamecock defense with big chunks of yardage, play after play. Just like that, the Gamecocks found themselves behind by two scores early on in the first quarter.

Down 17-0 early in the game, the Gamecocks have been in this predicament before. A good team always finds a way to overcome adversity when things don't go their way at first. For the Gamecocks, this would be the ultimate test to find out what their integrity as a team was.

That's when JSU, as a team, started to figure out what their identity defined them as. The offense went back to the drawing board and adjusted accordingly. A solid drive by the Gamecocks ended up in a 36-yard field goal for kicker Bryant Wallace. This would be a career-long for Wallace.

In the second quarter, the Gamecocks once again stalled on offense. This gave a golden opportunity for the Tigers to attempt to make it a 21-point game at the start of the second quarter. The Tigers offense once again found themselves in scoring position, but facing a challenging obstacle, the Gamecocks found a way to stop the bleeding by forcing the Tigers to settle for three, bringing the score to a 17-3 with TSU in the lead.

The Gamecocks then seized another chance to have a scoring opportunity when Traco Williams recovered a fumble deep in Tennessee State territory. That is when Zerrick Cooper and Josh Pearson went to work and did their thing.

Cooper snapped the ball, dropped back, and found Pearson on the slant for the touchdown. This made the game intriguing and exciting for the energized crowd.

However, the momentum for the Gamecocks did not last long. Tennessee State once again found a way to drive down the field and put some points on the board. Yet, once again, the stingy defense for JSU found a way to bend but not break in the red zone. The Tigers would once again have to settle for three.

When JSU found a way to stop the Tigers in the red zone, that's when the offense struck back. Zerrick Cooper found different ways to spread the ball around his receivers and give others a chance to shine.

From the 42-yard line, Cooper snapped the ball and executed a perfect play-action pass down and found an unfamiliar target. Without hesitation, Cooper zipped the ball vertically down the field.

Running a perfect route and making a superb effort to catch the ball was receiver KJ Stepherson. This touchdown would make the second of Stepherson's career as a Gamecock. The touch-

down cut the lead for the Gamecocks to three and would end the first half with a score of 20-17.

Tennessee State would find its way in the red zone again midway in the third quarter but only saw three points once again. The mojo for the Gamecocks was to bend but not break. That showed throughout the rest of the game. It was up to the Gamecock offense to do their part.

Despite having trailed behind for most of the game, the Gamecocks found a way to make this game in their favor. A long drive set JSU in the red zone, and Zerrick Cooper found his favorite target. Josh Pearson executed a perfect slant route, and Pearson ripped the ball into Pearson's chest for an 8-yard touchdown. This would give JSU the lead, and they would not turn back.

Michael Matthews finished off the Tigers by capping a 10-yard touchdown run, putting an end to the game with a score of 31-23. But the moral of the story in that drive at the end of the game was Matthews's ability to carry the ball and run out the clock.

JSU ultimately faced adversity throughout the game, but with grit and determination, they came out winners. For Head Coach John Grass, the importance of getting better each week is crucial.

"It was great to get this win. We made a lot of mistakes, but we got better as the game went on, and we did things to win the game. I can guarantee you Tennessee State was the best 1-4 team in the country. They were so explosive offensively that it probably took us three drives into the game to catch up with their speed. I think we got better tonight. We have to continue to do that and keep getting better," said Grass.

JSU will travel to Eastern Illinois this week, Oct. 12. Fans can catch the game on ESPN+ or tune in to 91.9 WLJS at 12 p.m. to cheer on the Gamecocks.

FOOTBALL

Tight end Trae Barry out for the season

Josie Howell

Sports Editor

In Jacksonville State's loss against Austin Peay on Sept. 28, junior tight-end Trae Barry suffered from a knee injury that eventually put him on crutches for the remainder of the game. Barry then sat out in last Saturday's win against Tennessee State. After having an MRI done, it was determined that he would have to sit out for the rest of the season.

Barry has been an integral part of the Gamecocks football program since his freshman year in 2017 and his absence could potentially cause a setback for the gamecocks for the remainder of the season.

As a true freshman, Barry started in three of the 11 games he appeared in as tight end. He was deemed a Freshman All-American by both Phil Steele and HERO Sports and was named All-Ohio Valley Conference Second Team on offense. Barry also caught 10 passes for 243 yards and recorded three touchdowns in his freshman year.

Barry made his first touchdown reception against Liberty on Sept. 23, 2017 at Burgess-Snow Field. This 80-yard touchdown catch was the seventh-longest catch in JSU history and the second-longest touchdown catch by a freshman.

In his Sophomore year, Barry made six starts in

his 12 appearances in 2018. He caught 32 passes for 503 yards and recorded a touchdown for the Gamecocks. His touchdown reception was a 44-yard catch and run against Eastern Illinois. This touchdown was his longest reception of the year that resulted in a 49-22 win over the Panthers.

Barry was able to record his highest receiving yards in the 2018 game against Kennesaw State where he caught five passes for 115 yards. He also had multiple catches in seven of the 12 games that he appeared. Barry was eventually named All-Ohio Valley Conference First Team on offense and the HERO Sports Sophomore All-American Team in 2018.

In the current 2019-2020 season, Trae Barry has only continued to show out on the field. In just five matchups of the season, Barry has already recorded 330 yards and a touchdown for the Gamecocks. He was able to beat his career high in receiving yards in Jax State's second game of the season against the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga, bringing in a whopping 151 yards.

Despite Barry's absence, Head Coach John Grass is confident that the team will still be able to do well in this Saturday's game against Eastern Illinois.

"[Eastern Illinois] hasn't won a game, but they have been in every game this season," said



Courtesy of Jacksonville State Athletics

Grass. "They are a well-coached team and they are adjusting to a new coach and new system and all that takes a part of where they are at as a football team. They are very capable of beating you if you play like we played at Austin Peay. We will stay the same as far as physical practices. It is more about attention to detail and the physicality part of the practice. We will practice the same way we did last week and you have to win the line of scrimmage."

The Gamecocks will travel to Charleston, Illinois this Saturday, Oct. 12, and will take on the Eastern Illinois University Panthers at 12 p.m.



Sports

FOOTBALL



Courtesy of University of Alabama Athletics

Hot take: The top 5 of college football

Garrett Sanders

Sports Correspondant

The AP Poll comes out every week in college football during the regular season. While it may not mean anything as far as who is in the college football playoffs, it does give us an indication of how well a team is looked at.

As we edge closer to the end of the season, there are plenty of people who debate on who should be the top five going into the postseason. For many teams, this is not relevant. However, to the elite teams of college football, this is very crucial to how they play out their season.

If a team wins consistently each week, then they will be rewarded with a high ranking. But if they play a sloppy game or have any flaws for that given week, then they could be looking at being dropped in the polls.

While the AP Poll does not always have an accurate picture of who should be ranked where they belong, they do bring up debate and controversy from fans and sports analysts everywhere.

As for me, I feel that the deserving top five teams in college football for the current week are different than how the teams are represented in the

polls.

First, we have number five. There are a lot of options here, but the one team that stands out to me as a top five team is a Big Ten team, the Ohio State Buckeyes.

This team is very consistent at winning and could have an argument to be the most complete team in all of College Football. The Buckeyes are a team that has continually dominated week in and week out. They are the epitome of college football. As long as the Buckeyes keep winning dominantly, they should remain in this poll.

Number four coming into this week is yet another Big Ten team. This is a team that no one thought would be in this position where they are now. They smack you in the mouth by running the ball down your throat and playing hardcore defense week in and week out.

What team could this possibly be? The Wisconsin Badgers. The Badgers keep impressing not only fans everywhere, but sports analysts as well. They very well could play a significant role in the college football committee, leaving out a well-deserving team by placing the Badgers over them. If Wisconsin continues at this rate, they should be locked in for the playoffs.

Coming in at number three is going to surprise almost anyone reading this article. This team is in the SEC and has not had very impressive wins on their schedule. However, the talent level on this team is better than you think: the Florida Gators

The Gators are the number three team in my book. How in the world can I put this team above powerhouses such as Clemson, Georgia and Oklahoma? While each of those teams are deserving of a Top five spot, the difference between these other teams and Florida is their resume.

Florida has beaten a top 10 team and has the stats to prove themselves worthy of this spot. The Playoff Committee will keep this in mind for Florida moving forward.

Number two is a team that we are all familiar with. They have a tradition of winning national championships year in and year out, but they have taken dominance to a whole new level in the past decade.

The Alabama Crimson Tide are the second-best team in the country. With a Heisman trophy worthy candidate at quarterback and a loaded receiving core, this team is unstoppable. Did I mention they have the best coach in the country? This is,

without a doubt, a team that can win a National Championship if they keep their team chemistry alive.

Finally, we have our last and best team in the country. This is a team that has been in the shadows of other teams in the SEC for years but has finally figured it out. They are, without a doubt, the most complete team in college football as of right now.

Point, blank and straightforward, the LSU Tigers are the best team in all of College Football. They have an elite coaching staff, an elite offense that puts up points every week and a defensive unit that is young and inexperienced, yet only getting better.

The Tigers, in the eyes of the playoff committee, should have the best resume in college football. They have beaten a top 10 team on the road and have dominated every team they have played. This team will be tested, but they will not be denied.

The top five teams in college football can be listed in so many ways. However, this is the best solution that I have come up within the current week of college football. Many will disagree, but many will also applaud this poll. That's what college football is about.

VOLLEYBALL

Jax State takes win from Morehead State

Josie Howell

Sports Editor

This past Sunday, Oct. 6, the Gamecocks hosted OVC-leader Morehead State at home in the Pete Mathews Coliseum. Jacksonville State came into this game with a 9-7 overall record, while Morehead State would come into the game with 12-4 overall record.

This matchup would be JSU's first five-match of the season and even though the numbers did not show in their favor, the Gamecocks would not let that stop them from bringing home a win.

In the first two sets, the Gamecocks found themselves down 0-2 but they proceeded to take the win for sets two and three, forcing the game into the deciding fifth set.

After falling behind early on in the set with 8-3, the Gamecocks had three back-to-back kills from Kaylee Frear, Lexie Libs and Sadie Anderson. Another big kill from Frear evened the score at 11-11. The Gamecocks then officially took their first lead at in the set with a kill from junior Kaylie Milton, bringing the score 13-12.

Jacksonville State was able to take home the win with a nail-biting score of 19-17. Overall, the match featured 35 ties and 15

lead changes with the first set having 12 ties alone.

The Gamecocks saw amazing performances from their already talented team. Milton beat her own career-high in this game with 20 successful hits in one game. Her last record was in last season's matchup against UT Martin with a total of 19 kills.

Lena Kindermann also beat her own record with 25 kills for the game and was able to bring in an incredible 26 points total against the Eagles. Anderson, who had 13 kills, and Frear, who had 10 kills, also racked in double-digit kills for the Gamecocks. Frear also broke her record of blocks in a matchup with six against the Eagles. She now holds a career high of 398 blocks total.

Lexie Libs lead the team in this match with 57 assists that lead JSU's offense for a total of 75 kills and brought in a team-high of 12 digs for the Gamecocks. Libbs' was also later named Ohio Valley Conference setter of the week for the second week in a row and for the fourth time this season.

Libs currently ranks 14th in Division I volleyball with 646 assists, and 15th with 11.14 assists-per-set. In her second, she's assisted on 1,935 kills. She is hoping to be-



Courtesy of JSU

come the 11th Gamecock with 2,000 career assists.

The Gamecocks will travel to Nashville, TN to play the Tennessee State Tigers on Oct. 11 at 6 p.m. They will then go on to take on the Belmont Bruins on Oct. 12 at 2 p.m.