

BOYS TO MEN EMPOWERMENT SEMINAR

The JSU Wellness-Anniston Boys to Men program in partnership with University Housing and Residence Life and Career Services hosted the Boys to Men Empowerment Seminar on March 29, 2011. The seminar was held on the eleventh floor of the Houston Cole Library.

The foundational pillars of the Boys to Men program are Leadership, Citizenship, Character, Education and Faith. The Empowerment Seminar incorporated these foundational pillars as well as career education through the plenary of guest speakers that presented. The focus of the Empowerment Seminar was career awareness, personal development, internships, summer employment, and part time job opportunities.

Guest presenters included Mr. Terrence Williamson, Diplomat in Residence, U.S. Department of State, Mr. Fred Mays, CEO, Making a Difference, Inc., Mr. Norm Mueller, Engineer, IEM, Mr. Matthew Wade, Chief Deputy Sheriff, Calhoun County Sheriff Department, Mr. Mike Mitchell, Alabama 810 Chief Operator and News Director and Engineer, AM 810, and Mr. Mark Webber, Human Resource Director, Elbit Systems.

The seminar was attended by JSU freshman participants of the Boys to Men program and participants from Anniston High school.

“This event offered a wealth of education, information, and inspiration for those in attendance. It was also a great collaboration of services and resources by all participating departments. Not only was this a successful event but our goal is that events such as these

will not only have an immediate impact through opportunities that are offered, but that it will also inspire the continued process of education and self discovery that will ultimately lead to the path of success,” said Fred Smith, Director of JSU Wellness-Anniston.

“Through the Empowerment Seminar and a collaboration of our services we were able to provide education to the students about personal responsibility, appreciation of individual differences and similarities, the vital role of communicating effectively, developing citizenship, and directly networking with employers; which are all essential skills for successful employment,” stated Ms. Becca Turner, Director of Career Services.

“It was a great pleasure to be a part of such an essential student development program. The Boys to Men’s Empowerment Seminar provided an opportunity for our young men to enhance their resumes, interviewing skills, and network with potential employers. From my perspective, the Empowerment Seminar was a success due to the participation from the mentees, mentors, and speakers. Most importantly, the mentees who participated in the seminar represented JSU and the Boys to Men program extremely well, thus indicating that we should continue to provide similar



Mr. Terrence Williamson, Diplomat in Residence, US State Department

programs in the future. I value these types of programs because they are vital to the development outside of the classroom for our students. In addition, I would like to especially thank Ms. Becca Turner and Mr. Fred Smith for their part in making the program a success” said Mr. Kevin Hoult, Director of University Housing and Residence Life.

The Boys to Men program would like to thank all mentors that attended and participated in the event: Mr. James Powe, Mr. Vinson Houston, Mr. Matthew Russell, Mr. Johnny Byrd, Mr. Michael Walker, Mr. Marcus Shepherd, Mr. David Zeigler, Mr. Amado Ortiz, Mr. Tyrone Smiley, Mr. Matthew Wade, Mr. Fred Smith, and Mr. Kevin Hoult.

92J'S PHAROAH, MR. BILLY RAMSEY

BY MIKE STEDHAM

For the last two years, Mr. Billy Ramsey's been cooking up a successful recipe for the campus radio station as program director of 92J, WLJS. Even though his time in that job will end this spring, Mr. Ramsey says he's not done with college radio or with broadcasting.

Although his two-year degree was in computer science, Mr. Ramsey went to the Culinary Arts Academy and worked for five years as head chef at the Silver Lakes Golf Course. He also spent time as a regional trainer for the Lone Star Steakhouse chain.

That all changed on January 28, 2007, when Mr. Ramsey was involved in a serious car accident. It left him unable to stand for more than thirty minutes at a time, so his career in the kitchen was done.

Mr. Ramsey got involved with 92J, WLJS on a whim. Shortly after he started taking classes at JSU, Mr. Ramsey was asked to bring a public service announcement to 92J from the Baptist Campus Ministries (BCM), where he was a volunteer. When he came to the station, Mr. Ramsey met Donnie Wells, who was the afternoon announcer.

"I asked him if he would read the BCM announcement over the air; he asked me if I would read it as a representative of the BCM," Mr. Ramsey said. "After we got off the air, Donnie said that you have got to be a broadcasting major." At the time I was actually an undecided major. He said, 'Dude, if you're not broadcasting, you're a fool.'"

Mr. Ramsey admits that he's "never been afraid of a microphone," and he had done some voice-over work in the past. At Wells' urging, Mr. Ramsey



Mr. BILLY RAMSEY, PROGRAM DIRECTOR JSU's 92J

switched his major and started volunteering at the station.

In spring 2009, he applied for the job of program director. The student who holds the position of program director is responsible for organizing the staff and volunteers of the station.

Mr. Ramsey's job application was much more detailed than those prepared by most students seeking part-time employment. He prepared a slick magazine-style document outlining what he called his "RPM Program" for building WLJS. "The RPM stood for remotes, patrons, and motivation," Mr. Ramsey said. "We needed live remotes from the tailgating section during football games, we needed to build our patrons by getting our name out there among local businesses, and we needed motivation to bring in more volunteers."

Today if you look around the radio station you will see that Mr. Ramsey has been successful in all three areas. The "Cocky Cart" sits by the door to the station, a symbol of the remote broadcasts that have become a staple of home football games each fall. Not only do DJs and others from the station ride around giving out free pizza and other prizes, but Cocky

himself sits in the front seat during parades and other events.

The list of the station's patrons has grown substantially. The emphasis has been on local businesses that help the station in exchange for non-commercial announcements about their services.

In the area of on-air volunteers, Mr. Ramsey has made his biggest contribution to the station. At last count, 92J had seventy-one student volunteers who are responsible for thirty specialty shows and ten rotation shifts each week.

To find time for all of those people to be on the air, the station had to add two hours of student programming each weekday and cut the length of each air shift from three hours to two hours.

With more volunteers has come even more diversity of programming. College radio is famous for its eclectic nature, and 92J has always offered a wide variety of shows. But the number of different types of music – Latin, metal, country, Broadway, hip-hop, soul, R&B, classic rock, singer-songwriters, alternative – is larger now than any other time in the station's thirty-five year history. That is part of Mr. Ramsey's legacy to the station.

As he prepares to leave the job, Mr. Ramsey's plans are still being developed. He's considering graduate school, and he knows there are commercial radio stations looking for people with the skills he honed at 92J. As they say in the radio business, stay tuned. You'll be hearing more from Billy Ramsey.



TEACH FOR AMERICA: MS. WHITNEY WIGLEY

Upon completing her work at JSU in April of this year Ms. Whitney Wigley will be beginning her teaching career in Mississippi. "I have already been hired with a program called Teach for America," she says.

Teach for America places teachers in high need areas. The teacher must give a two year commitment to get the position. The goal of Teach for America is to eliminate the achievement gap for all students nationwide. Ms. Wigley heard about the program from a friend and decided that it would be a worthwhile experience. Last year she began the extensive process of applying. Teach for America had over 40,000 applicants and only 5,000 were placed with jobs. Ms. Wigley feels extremely grateful for this opportunity.

"I know that it will be an extremely challenging experience but also a very rewarding one," said Ms. Wigley.

Ms. Whitney Wigley is a senior in the CEPS majoring in Elementary Education. She is from Fort Payne, Alabama and attended Northeast Alabama Community College before attending JSU. Ms. Whitney says

that she has wanted to become a teacher from the age of five and she never once swayed from her future profession.

"I have a desire for working with students and a passion for seeing kids learn. I am a Christian and I believe that God has gifted me with the ability to work with kids. I know that each child has potential and each child can learn and it is my job as their teacher to teach them and allow them multiple opportunities to grow into an amazing individual," said Ms. Wigley.

She is in her last semester at JSU. Currently she is student teaching at Wills Valley Elementary School in a first grade classroom with an extremely diverse group of learners. She says that this semester has been one of the most rewarding experiences of her life and that she is so thankful for this opportunity each and every day. To Ms. Wigley teaching at Wills Valley has been wonderful and challenging all at the same time.

"I believe that JSU has prepared me so well for this opportunity. I remember sitting in a meeting on the first day of in-service this year

and thinking about how thankful I was that I was prepared and knew exactly what the teachers were talking about throughout the meeting. I have been extremely blessed with some of the most phenomenal professors any student would have ever had the experience of sitting under. JSU has some of the most caring teachers that I have had the experience of working with. I believe that all of the practicums that a student completes throughout the program are another asset to our college. Overall, JSU's College of Education has been wonderful and I would not take back my experience there and I am so thankful that I was allowed the opportunity to study in the program," said Ms. Wigley

"After I complete the Teach for America program I plan on moving closer to home and teaching. I am planning on attaining my master's from JSU in either elementary education or media specialist. A dream job for me would be to be a professor in the College of Education and to make a difference in future teachers' lives the way that my professors have been in my life."

CEPS PROVIDED: MISS JSU AND THE MISS JSU RUNNER-UP

Ms. Whitney Curtis was crowned Miss JSU at the 29th annual Miss JSU pageant, held in Leone Cole Auditorium. Ms. Curtis is from Talladega, Alabama. Ms. Curtis is a senior majoring in music education.

Her community service platform promotes "Keeping the Arts Alive" and the Children's Miracle Network. She will spend



LEFT: MS. ELIZABETH MILAM, FIRST RUNNER UP AND MS. WHITNEY CURTIS, MS. JSU 2011

her year as Miss JSU as an ambassador for the university as she prepares to compete in the 2011 Miss Alabama pageant June 8-11, 2011, at Samford University in Birmingham, Alabama.

First runner-up was Ms. Elizabeth Milam. Ms. Milam is a sophomore majoring in recreation leadership. She is from Trussville, Alabama.

JUST WHAT THE DOCTOR ORDERED... READING!

"THE MORE THAT YOU READ, THE MORE THINGS YOU WILL KNOW. THE MORE THAT YOU LEARN THE MORE PLACES YOU'LL GO." -DR. SEUSS

In celebration of Read Across America week and Dr. Seuss' birthday, JSU's Student Council for Exceptional Children (SCEC) recently encouraged university education majors to go out into local area schools to read to students. JSU's future educators read to students of all "shapes and sizes, ages and abilities."

We had representatives participating from all programs in the College of Education, and the turn-out was phenomenal! One teacher from a local school commented she found the interest level from JSU's students was extraordinary. The local schools that hosted JSU's future educators were impressed by the quality of enthusiasm and excitement exhibited by our students. SCEC would like to expand this service in the future by getting JSU's education students involved in our community.

Make sure to check out our SCEC sponsored softball tournament on our website at <http://www.orgsites.com/al/jsuscec/>.



TV SERVICES PROVIDES A PROFESSIONAL VIDEO EDITOR TO THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATION

Mr. Bobby Mikel, production assistant for JSU's Television Services, recently assisted Dr. J. Patrick McGrail, Assistant Professor of Communication, in a workshop on video editing for the Communication Department.

The workshop, which is a partnership between the Communication Department and Television Services, is conducted once every semester for students.

Mr. Mikel has been working with the Final Cut Pro video editing software for over five years and provides a basic video editing foundation for the students. He is also the administrator over the four editing suites the students use for their projects. Mr. Mikel is a 2007 graduate of Jacksonville State University.



DR. PATRICK MCGRAIL, MR. BOBBY MIKEL AND A COMMUNICATION STUDENT

PRINT SYSTEM CHANGES

Printing in one of the computer laboratories in Ramona Wood Hall (RWH) has changed. The Uniprint system that released print jobs in these laboratories has changed the way that students pay for printing. In the old system students put money on their student ID or a Guest Card using the cash to card machines located in 210 RWH or other sites on campus.

The new system requires students to put money into a print account using a debit, credit or prepaid bank card. To load money the student goes to <http://jsu.managemyid.com> and puts money into an account associated with their student ID card.

Printing in the labs is the same. You print a file, use the Pharos client to identify the print job, then go to the release station and swipe the JSU ID and release the print job.

Printing in Ramona Wood Hall is associated with the Instructional Services Unit (ISU) located on the first floor on the east end. The Unit provides the printer and supplies for the 105, 210, 309, and the MacBook Mobile laboratories. The ISU also manages the two copiers located in 210 and 101 RWH. The copiers use coins to release the copying jobs. Plans are to eventually place these on the JSU print system sometime in the future. The 104 computer laboratory is still on the old print system. The laboratory has nine Macintosh computers. While plans are in place to convert this to the new system clients for Macintosh are not yet available. At this time there are no plans to print through the MacBook Mobile Laboratory or the JSU-WAN2 wireless system. If you have printing problems in Ramona Wood Laboratories please see the student worker on duty. If you still need help, please see Ms. Penny Lane in 102 Ramona Wood Hall and she will find someone to help you.

If you have money on your card from the old print system please see



TOP: 105 RAMONA WOOD HALL, MIDDLE: 210 RAMONA WOOD HALL, BOTTOM, 309 RAMONA WOOD HALL

Mr. Joe Whitmore in room 301 in the Theron Montgomery Building (TMB). If your ID card is not swiping correctly you may need a new card. You may get a free replacement card

by taking the old ID to the ID Center in TMB.

For a complete explanation of printing at JSU please visit <http://www.jsu.edu/dit/acns/uniprint/>.

JACKKNIVES ARE AFTER LITTLE NIPPER, AN XTRANORMAL EVENT

BY CHRIS WADDLE
AYERS CHAIR OF COMMUNICATION

Congress threatens to slice and dice a source for classroom inspiration. Without taking sides in the Washington debate to cut the federal budget, I fear for public radio and TV. National Public Radio throbs at Jacksonville State University – and not just as our news source and entertainment via WLJS-FM, the campus station. Radio is a living classroom for Communication Department students who staff it. Besides, NPR inspires professor and learner alike as a journalism model. The Ayers Lecture last month by the network's Jackie Northam, NPR's national security correspondent, drove the campus excitement level up to a frequency not seen since football season. We had journalism students thinking aloud, well, gee, maybe they'd like to report from overseas some day too.

Talk about NPR's direct boost to our education effort!

The journalist confirmed the bean-counting attack on her network is real. It's likely to diminish news broadcasts carried by small stations where resources are limited as at WLJS. The money that would be cut is a big enough number to hamper public broadcasting. But the sum is so small as a part of the national budget, you'd be dividing a drop of water five ways before the remnant got lost in the

bottom of the huge Treasury bucket. So why do it?

A campus station such as ours in an educationally thirsty region stands to suffer from any drought of resources. I start every news class with part drill, part gamesmanship called, "What's in the News?" Our commuting students snatch many of the items right out of the air.

And Nipper – as I fondly call NPR – gives me great information and creative ideas while I'm driving to campus – ideas such as Xtranormal. That's a cool, new online software that transforms a script I write into a movie with sets, actors and movement. Since it's uploadable to YouTube, Xtranormal is a copy-and-paste insert into my classroom lectures via Prezi and saved for later access.

When I want to get across an abstract idea such as the nature of news, I write the dialogue and type it into the program — so intuitive that even a journalism professor can master it.

Sometimes you can't video an idea. But you can compose a ready-made image, give it your ideas in your own words and make it move in Xtranormal. The effect is a little like a ventriloquist at work — a cartoon figure saying what the professor would say. But there's automatically more staying power in undergraduate minds.

The harnessing of college humor is a model for active teaching in a blended learning environment. Frankly, I like any learning tool that captures wavering student concentration, bouncing up against the fifteen minute limit on attention spans.

I'd never have known about Xtranormal if it weren't for Nipper. What will NPR alert me to next, if it has the money?

So, yeah, I think it would be extraordinarily un-cool to diminish public broadcasting. It would be extra-normal, you could say.



MR. CHRIS WADDLE, AYERS CHAIR OF COMMUNICATION AND COCKEY, JSU'S OFFICIAL PURVEYOR OF SCHOOL SPIRIT AND CHARM

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PHONE

256.782.5445

SPECIAL THANKS TO: DR. ROBEN TAYLOR, MR. FRED SMITH, MR. MIKE STEDHAM, AND MR. CHRIS WADDLE

THE CEPS PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE: MS. ROBBIE BOGGS, MS. ABBY FLEETWOOD, DR. DONNA HERRING, DR. DANA INGALSBE, MR. KEITH THOMAS, MR. MIKE STEDHAM, MR. FRED SMITH, DR. SHEILA ANNE WEBB, DR. DEBRA WEINGARTH, AND MR. MIKE ZENANKO

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EDITOR: MR. MIKE ZENANKO