

THE SENTINEL

KENNESAW STATE UNIVERSITY

Entrepreneurs compete to make concepts a reality

Josh Pate
STAFF WRITER

In the early 90s, Joyce Bone could be found in KSU's library researching how to build a business plan. She would eventually succeed in launching a business that has been publicly traded in the NASDAQ.

Today, students are encouraged to build their own business plans for the Concept 2 Reality competition, which provides a \$1,000 prize for first place and \$500 for second, as well as feedback to all entries.

Bone graduated in 1991 with a BS in Communication and minor in Marketing. While getting her MBA in fall 2008, Bone entered the competition and developed a business plan that won second place. She has since used her award-winning business model to create MillionaireMoms, a resource for mothers running businesses and families. She attributes its success to the C2R.

"If you are trying to raise money for a company, you have to have a rock solid business plan," said Bone.

Charles Hofer, one of the top entrepreneurship professors in the country, created the C2R competition in 2007 in the spirit of his days as a professor at the University of Georgia.

Hofer said he, along with UGA grad students, competed in national and international



Charles Hofer

business competitions very successfully.

Hofer was disappointed when he did not win as many competitions with KSU students, but he said, "At the graduate level, most MBA students [at KSU] have a lot more real world experience."

Hofer said that about 50 percent or more students actually went on to create the small business they competed with.

"There were lots of good projects in the agrobiotech field [at UGA]," but there was a shortage of ideas for businesses at KSU, Hofer said.

"New business ideas come from people who are at the forefront of what they are doing," said Hofer.

When Hofer realized there was abundant real world potential at KSU, he created Concept 2 Reality to generate fresh new business ideas.

See CONCEPT Page 5



'GO HOME BIGOTS!' Preachers escorted from First Amendment Area

Lazarus Roth
STAFF WRITER

Members of the Southeast Open Air Preachers Association were escorted off campus by KSU Police on Aug. 29.

The group violated the rules of the Freedom of Assembly and Expression Policy, said Assistant Director of Student Life Ed Bonza.

"They had a child under 12 with them in the circle," Bonza said, referring to the caveat set in the rules that no persons under 12 may participate in an event or be within in the marked area.

They further violated the rules when a preacher was speaking and handing out literature outside of the circle, Bonza said.

The group is well known on campus for a bellicose and confrontational style that has not endeared them to most students.

"I hate them with a burning passion," said Jason Holmes, 26. "I am not a religious person, but I know plenty of religious people who will not tell you that you are going to hell for your lifestyle."

"I met up with a couple of people and we went up to them and started asking them questions," Holmes said. "For the first two minutes they seemed pretty cool. Then he started shouting, and then other people started shouting. Then the cops started showing up. There were about nine and they escorted them away."

Holmes noted that it was the first time he had ever seen that happen to the group.

Kevin Latta, 24, said the first thing he noticed was the signs as he walked past the area after class.

"One thing that really stood out was the 'you're going to hell' on the signs, or 'you're going to

burn," Latta said. "The mood of the students, they were pretty shocked by the people in the courtyard. The people in the courtyard picked out people. Two students said they were gay and the preachers said it was your fault, you are a horrible person, you are going to hell - that sort of stuff."

Before campus police arrived, Latta said the person standing next to him started shouting, "Go home bigots."

"I joined in with him and then more students as well," Latta said. "Next thing, campus security arrived and escorted them off campus."

The preachers are usually hostile to students and their message "just spawns a bunch of hate," said Grace DeCost, 21.

An angry protest was comprised of about 80 students, and the preachers had never left so quickly, DeCost said.

See PREACHERS Page 5

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Tiffani Reardon
STAFF WRITER

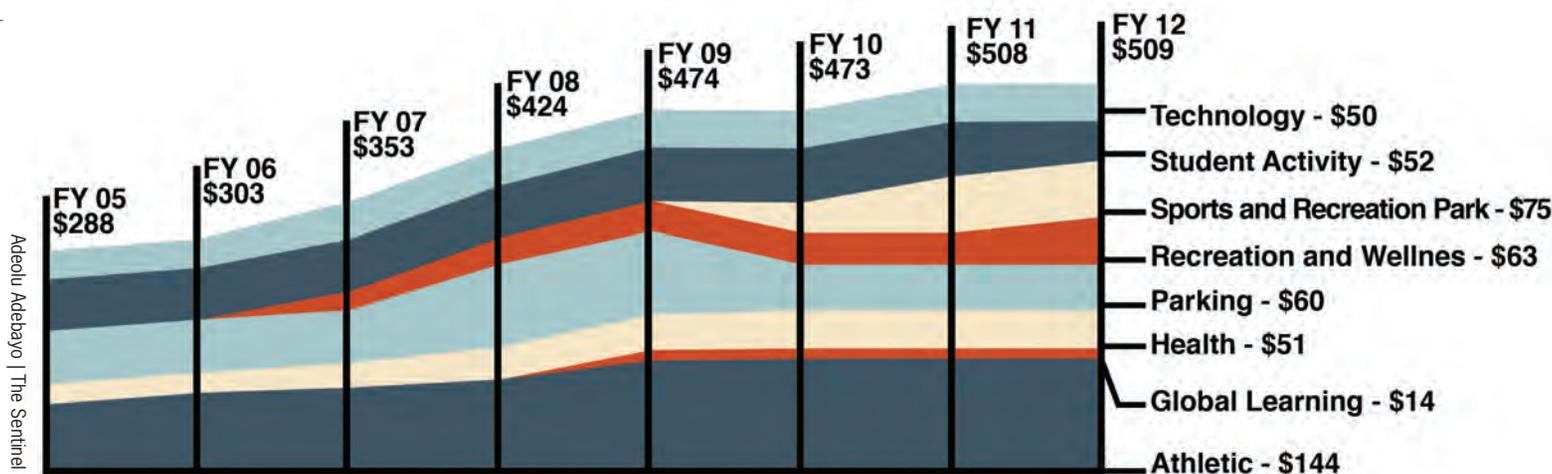
Students are paying more to attend KSU than ever before, despite the decrease in median income that came with the economic crisis.

This year's in-state undergraduate tuition for a student taking 15 credit hours is \$2,367 and fees are \$774. According to Dawn Gamadani, director of budget and planning, this is a \$1,206 change in tuition and a \$221 change in fees since fiscal year 2005. Full-time tuition for in-state graduate students is \$3,000 and has gone up by \$1,607 since FY 2005.

The out-of-state undergraduate tuition cost is \$8,355 and has gone up by \$3,710 since FY 2005. Out-of-state graduate students are paying \$10,836 this year for tuition, which has gone up by \$5,263 since FY 2005.

KSU students have paid fees for Athletics, Health, Parking, Student Activity and Technology since at least FY

“Although funding is fluctuating, it seems that tuition continues to rise whether funding is going up or down.”



2005. In FY 2007, a Recreation and Wellness fee was added to the mandatory fees list. In FY 2009, a Global Learning fee was added. In FY 2010, a Sports and Recreation and an increased parking fee were added to the list.

“As state allocations have been reduced, the University System has increased tuition rates,” Gamadani said.

For FY 2012, the education and general budget is supported 63 percent by tuition and fees and 37 percent by state appropriation, Gamadani said.

From FY 2006 to FY 2009, the funding from the Georgia Legislature went up dramatically by \$23 million. As the economy worsened, however, the funding went down by \$17.7 million from FY 2009 to now, FY 2012. Although funding is fluctuating, it seems that tuition continues to rise whether funding is going up or down.

“State appropriation, tuition and fees (excluding mandatory fees) support all areas including areas of instruction, student support services, administration, technology and technology support services, facility support services and utilities,” Gamadani said.

“Mandatory fees support specific student activity functions or services such as athletics, health center, student organizations, parking or recreation centers.”

When asked how fee and tuition increases affected him, student and father of four Wesley Sandefur said, “Well, an awful lot because I am old and do not have HOPE.”

“It does not really affect me because I do not pay for it,” Megan Rapp said. “I had the Pell Grant. But I guess since they cut the Pell Grant now, it does affect me a little in that way.”

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Student veterans reflect on college life and the world after 9/11

Alisen Redmond
NEWS EDITOR

Matt Gauvrau, 24, is a freshman at KSU. He served in the U.S. Marines and was deployed to Iraq for one year in 2008.

Richard Sisk, 25, is a junior studying sports management at KSU. He served in the U.S. Army and spent five months deployed to Afghanistan.

John Breckenridge, 40, is a senior studying political science at KSU. He spent 15 years in the U.S. Navy, Navy Reserves and Louisiana law enforcement. He was deployed with a submarine fleet in 1992 to 1996 during the Gulf Wars and in 2006 to 2007 to the Horn of Africa.

What do you think is most misunderstood about you as a student veteran?

It is not really that different. The veterans department here is very helpful. Transitioning is a bit of a change, but there is nothing people do not understand about me that I cannot cope with on my own.

-Matt Gauvrau

A lot of people think our benefits are free, but they are earned over a period of four to eight years. They think we are just looking for handouts, but we are not. We are just looking for a hand up. Our situation is different. We are used to an environment where there is a group of guys you can trust and relate to, then you are in a new place with people who never served. And then many of us have been out of school for six years or more. It is hard to transition.

- Richard Sisk

I have had good experiences here with professors and students who try to understand, but regardless of how much we try to relate, they cannot. It leads to a lot of frustration. They do not know and they do not understand because they have not been there – and it is not their fault. Post Traumatic Stress Disorder and depression are big problems a lot of student veterans face. The more depression, the worse the PTSD and the harder it is to maintain knowledge. It affects cognitive reasoning and makes it hard to retain information, especially if someone also has a traumatic brain injury. And what else have they been through? Some have had a rough life. Some people I know have had lives that are one disaster after another. Then they join the military and come home

with a TBI or PTSD which is not helping. People do not see their sacrifice. They cannot be there for their family. They cannot be there for their friends.

- John Breckenridge

How do you think the world has changed since 9/11?

Not for the better. I have mixed opinions about Iraq because of my experiences there. It is the equivalent of if a group of rogue Americans crashed planes into Dubai and the Emiratis invaded Canada and killed 100,000 people. It is an inconvenient truth, although it may not be a very popular opinion. Saddaam was horrible, but did we have the right to come and annihilate a country under the guise of democracy? They do not want us there. I was an engineer. We built roads, hospitals and schools. They tore it down and used the wires to make bombs.

- Matt Gauvrau

There was an initial feeling of patriotism. That was important, but here we are now and the Westboro Baptist people are saying that soldiers die because of “the sin of homosexuality.” It gives Christians a bad name. Holidays like Veterans Day, Memorial Day and the anniversary of 9/11 come around and people give you a pat on the back and say, “Thank you for your service,” but never “How can I help you?” – whether it is a physical disability, a mental disability or trouble with school. If people really want to do veterans and servicemen any justice, get involved – whether it is the Student Veterans Club at KSU, another organization or tutoring. Try to help with whatever causes the veterans you meet care about.

-Richard Sisk

It is easy to rally around a cause. It is easy to be patriotic. It is too easy to say I am sorry. But as far as the world, I do not see that the world has changed that much. There is still famine, there are still destitute countries and bad things and good things that happen. On a large scale, it has not changed anything. For people in poverty in Africa and the United States, nothing has changed to help them. People just say, “Thank you,” “Our country is so great,” “We feel sorry for people who got hurt in 9/11,” but there are not a lot of people who want to help. And people forget about law enforcement personnel who were affected as well. I did tours in both gulf wars and deployed to the horn of Africa in 2006 and 2007. Our biggest threat was international piracy instead of terrorism – well, it is terrorism but they want to live. They want the money.

- John Breckenridge

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POLICE BEAT

— Compiled by Christy Rogers

Public Peace Offense

On Aug. 26 at 2:14 p.m. an officer was dispatched to the Admission Office at Town Point Offices about a public peace offense. When the officer arrived he was met by the director of admissions, who informed him that a female student had been incoherently screaming and yelling at her. The student finally told the director that she was upset because “everyone in her class made passing grades except for her,” and because someone hacked into her computer and changed her password. The student then told the officer that she had recently been in a serious car accident and incurred a bad head injury, for which she was taking two Adderall a day. The director put the student in contact with Student Success Services to address her complaints.

Possible Alcohol Poisoning

An officer was dispatched to a KSU Place dorm building on Aug. 28 at 12:04 a.m. in reference to a student suffering from possible alcohol poisoning. When they arrived at the building, a female student met them and took them into her apartment where a second female was passed out on the floor. The officer noticed vomit around her mouth and, keeping the passed out student on her side, asked the first female how long the other student had been passed out. She estimated 20 to 30 minutes. She had found the girl unconscious outside of the apartment and helped

her inside, where she contacted the police. At this point, the passed out student awoke and became emotional and combative while drifting in and out of consciousness. An ambulance arrived to take the student to Kennestone Hospital for evaluation.

When “Backing it Up” Goes Horribly Wrong

An officer was dispatched to the Public Safety building on Aug. 30 at 10:50 a.m. A male student met the officer and told him that he was crossing the road in front of the Music building when a tan Toyota or Honda backed into him, knocking him to the ground. According to the male student, the car’s driver (an 18 to 19 year old female) was very upset, but since he wasn’t hurt, she left without exchanging any information with him. There were no other witnesses to the accident.

Hide and Seek

Two officers were dispatched to the University Village Suites on Aug. 31 at 11:13 p.m. in regards to a suspicious odor called in by an RA. The RA took them to the apartment, and the officers could smell burnt marijuana in the hallway. They knocked on the door of the suspected apartment, but no one answered. While they were knocking on the door, a male student approached them and stated that he lived there. The officers got permission from the male to enter the apartment, and the male agreed that he, too, could smell marijuana, but said he did not smoke marijuana. He then contacted his roommate at the officer’s request. While they waited for his roommate, the officers got permission to search the male student’s room, but they found no illegal items. Once the roommate arrived and was questioned,

he stated he had a non-student guest over earlier who had marijuana, but they did not smoke it in the apartment. He refused to reveal the name of his guest. A search of his room yielded no illegal items.

Suspicious Noises

Two officers were dispatched to the University Place apartments on Aug. 31 at 10:21 p.m. in reference to a possible snake in one of the apartments. When they met with the complainant, she stated that she had been unpacking boxes from storage and thought she heard a snake hissing from one of the boxes. The officers entered the apartment and searched it, but found no noise or presence of a snake.

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PREACHERS from Page 1

“No one was sad to see them go,” DeCost said. “Everyone was really happy that we accomplished that peacefully,” she said.

Rev. Zachary Brown, a member of SOAPA and their Communications Director who was there that Monday said that day “was about as wild as any other day.” Asked how he felt about being asked to leave, Brown said he “thought it was a slap in the face like we were criminals.”

“Anybody who wants to come up to me and talk to me can,” said Brown, who has been preaching at KSU for about eight years. “The only reason I raise my voice is because I can’t use amplification.”

Bonza said the group has never been asked to leave before.

“The university has an obligation to stay neutral,” Bonza said. “Ultimately you can vote with your feet.”

Groups like Brown’s have the right to assemble on campus even

if students do not approve of the message. In the 1972 Supreme Court case Healy v. James, the court said that “State colleges and universities are not enclaves immune from the sweep of the First Amendment.”

“[KSU] may only limit such groups with regard to reasonable time, manner and place (which is done through the permit process),” according to a KSU free speech handout. “And the University must, by federal and state law, remain content-neutral. Federal law requires content-neutral regulations that apply to all categories of speech, and there are also a few limitations (such as yelling fire in a crowded theatre).”

Free speech zones started appearing in the 1980s at college campuses. They were designed to be places where students could speak their minds, hold rallies or demonstrations and engage in unrestricted discourse. The restrictions placed on free speech zones are usually in consideration for teaching and for fear of

disruption to classes.

Bonza recognizes the perceived tolerance for SOAPA by the university, but notes the legal precedent for the continuation of these rallies.

“You pay to come here,” Bonza said. “It is your campus. You as a student can protest anything, without any restriction. We draw a line between KSU campus community and non-campus community.”

“[The preachers] are just there for the shock value and the publicity,” Holmes said. “If people just walked past them and did not engage them, they would go away.”

“It is a double-edged sword,” DeCost said. “It does not help the campus to have such a hateful group there.”

The group will be returning to campus Sept. 13, with a larger gathering of SOAPA scheduled for Oct. 11, 12 and 13. SOAPA’s Oct. 11 appearance will coincide with KSU’s National Coming Out Day celebration.

Correction

The story “Mobile banking application created in KSU’s MAD Lab” in the Aug. 30 issue contained a factual error. The Mobile Application Development lab is currently still in discussions with Microsoft and the completion of the Chastain Pointe facility cost KSU \$1.1 million over the past two years. It is the policy of The Sentinel to correct all errors of fact.

CONCEPT from Page 1

Every fall and spring the C2R invites current students, staff, faculty, alumni and community members of Kennesaw to submit a one-page business proposal. Semifinalists move on to a more in-depth, three-page executive summary and present their business ideas to the panel of judges in a Q&A session.

Through Fran Tarkenton and goSmallBiz.com, the competition is completely funded and sponsored by KSU Students in Free Enterprise.

Bone is a prime example of how the C2R competition positively shapes a small business and helps successfully launch any type of business.

There has been eight competitions, totaling eight first place winners and nine

second place winners with a tie last year, and Hoffer said, “Of the 17 first and second place winners, nine are your typical small business and started successfully.”

Previous finalists for the C2R include products and services such as special wipes for professional nurses, sensational soaps, smart phone apps and emergency alert systems.

Bone encourages “anyone with a business idea or dream of owning a business” to apply.

Hofer said the most important thing to remember in the competition is to explain “what your product is and who you are going to sell it to.”

Anyone interested in the fall 2011 C2R competition should enter the “Intent to complete form” and “Elevator Pitch” to KSUC2R@gmail.com by Oct. 14.

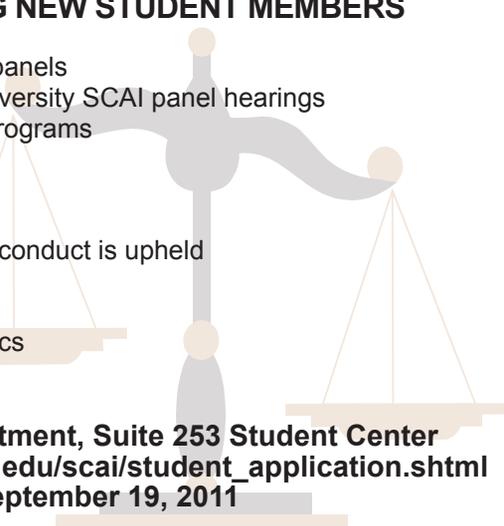
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THE SENTINEL FALL 2011

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Johnathan Litten

GUEST COLUMNIST

Sitting in the business building during a late night summer class I made a startling observation. During the 10 or 15 minutes preceding the beginning of class I surveyed the room and saw that nearly 90 percent of my classmates had their heads buried in their devices. For those of you who doubt the legitimacy of my numbers, I encourage you to implement your own experiment. Lift up your head, look around your room and you will observe an appalling lack of social interaction.

This discovery was disconcerting for several reasons. I couldn't help but think we were somehow missing the point. I will attempt to press forward while avoiding any didactic contentions about the hidden value or true meaning of "The College Experience." For those of you who are inclined to kick my soap box from underneath me and watch me tumble back to earth, trust me, I understand

It is painful to hear and the last thing any of us wants is to endure is one more sermon about the fledgling youth and the complete hopelessness we as a generation feel toward our nation and our nation toward us. I think each generation struggles with some form of social nihilism. In Fitzgerald's 1920s they had the highball, the 80's had cocaine and we have technology, specifically social media.

These may seem like reckless assumptions - sweeping generalizations, even - but if there is any chance that I may have touched some truth I think it is worth discussing. Sure, on your iPhone you may be able to comment on three different Facebook walls, but you might miss out on some interesting interaction with the person sitting right next to you, like hearing them laugh instead of reading "Ha Ha" on some device screen. Our ability to connect and relate and participate in one another's lives on whatever level, whether it be a passing smile or an intimate conversation over coffee is what makes us human beings. Perhaps I've failed in avoiding sentimentality and idealism. Forgive me - I am, after all, only human.

This is not meant to be a complete condemnation of technology or an apocalyptic prophecy about the rise of the machines. I believe technology has its place in modern society; my concern is more with, at the risk of sounding like a Buddhist monk,

a "middle way." Restore some balance, enjoy the benefits of high speed Internet, but do not miss out on authentic relationships with one another. The yardstick for your social relevance is not your number of FB friends but how many people you actually connected with, and I use the word "connect" in its classical sense.

While Leary may have had a more subversive intention, I have adapted his famous quotation that once mobilized a generation. I say, "Turn off, tune in and wake up!"

Jon is a sophomore who has not yet declared his major.

"...each generation struggles with some form of social nihilism; in Fitzgerald's 1920s they had the highball, the 80's had cocaine and we have technology, specifically social media."



KSU student crowned National American Miss Georgia

Christy Rogers
STAFF WRITER

Jennifer Mullins does not want to be seen as another Sandra Bullock, parroting world peace and making crystal glasses sing in conformity to most people's ideas of what beauty pageants are.

Mullins, born in Florida and raised in Lawrenceville, Ga., is a double major in dance and early childhood education. She has danced with the Sugarloaf Ballet for years.

But her latest accomplishment is winning of the National American Miss Georgia 2011.

Mullins has been appearing in pageants since she was 12 years old.

Don't start revving up those stereotyping engines quite yet, though. For Mullins, beauty pageants are much more than tiaras and dresses. This dedicated attitude snagged her the title of National American Miss Georgia 2011.

"Whether you think you can or you can't, you're right," Mullins said, explaining that the famous quote by Henry Ford is the mantra she lives and teaches by. "Your whole life is formed by the opportunities you take and the things you believe you can accomplish."

And accomplish, she has. The title of National American Miss Georgia 2011 is the culmination of several years of hard work.

Mullins has previously won gold, high gold and platinum awards for her performances in group and solo dances throughout the Atlanta area. She is also a dancer with a lead role in a full-length ballet with the Sugarloaf Ballet and vice president of the KSU Dance Company.

Though the prestigious title of National American Miss Georgia 2011 is her first title, Mullins has consistently done well throughout the years. She was the 3rd runner up in both her first pageant and another in 2007.

Mullins was also the National American Miss Talent winner in 2008 and 2009, and was named Miss Spirit, Miss Congeniality and 2nd runner up in the Miss Peachtree Ridge scholarship pageant at her high school in 2010.

The National American Miss pageant, which is held in Anaheim, Ca., awards \$1 million in cash, scholarships, and prizes to "recognize and assist the development of young women nationwide," says Mullins.

She was selected as one of those young women through her resume, photos, interviews and essays. Achieving the state title also gives her the opportunity to make appearances in her hometown and throughout Georgia.

For her first appearance, she will be riding in the Suwanee Day Parade on Sept. 17, in Suwanee, Ga. She will also be working with several different charities and participating in community service.

"I am so excited and blessed to get to represent my great state of Georgia, the people of my hometown and my peers here in Kennesaw," Mullins said. "It's so rewarding to know that I kept trying and my work finally paid off."

For Mullins, the title is an opportunity to show people that there is so much more to beauty pageants than dresses, talent shows and "world peace." For her, it is a mission of empowerment and inner strength.

"I wanted this title to show girls everywhere that they can do anything," Mullins said. "My platform is instilling confidence in young girls, and in children, and in people in general. I want them to have the right kind of confidence, the confidence to be themselves and do anything they put their mind to."



Miss Georgia

Storyfest: Bringing world-recognized storyteller and tales of travels



Photo courtesy of Kent Miles

Michael Thomas
STAFF WRITER

The KSU Tellers, KSU's storytelling troupe, will hold their first event of the semester, Storyfest, on Sept. 16 and 17 in the Bailey Performance Center.

Professional storyteller Laura Simms is slated to headline the event.

"She provides a unique experience," said

KSU Tellers Director Charles Parrott of Simms. "In a world that is increasingly mediated... she has that quality that is unmediated, close up, personal and physical."

Simms, a world-traveling storyteller who has been performing since 1968, makes her living performing on tour.

"My favorite parts of storytelling are the unexpected experiences during the performance... [and] how it feels to be

both the guide and the guided one with audiences," Simms said. "It is a very visceral performance whose power lies in what happens between the audience and the storyteller."

Simms' subject matter and inspirations made her an attractive choice for the Tellers and the Theater & Performance Studies Department, both sponsors of the event.

Drawing material from Simms' world traveling experiences ranging from The Bronx to Nepal to Haiti, she in many ways exemplifies KSU's commitment to global awareness, Parrott said.

Each night of Storyfest will start at 8 p.m. with a few words from Parrott, followed by a piece exhibited by one of the Tellers who will open for Simms.

Simms plans on performing a different story each night. She will show her "Finding Romania" piece the first night and her "Rejoice, Regardless" piece the second.

The two nights will also cover an array of storytelling styles, from personal narrative to traditional tales, said Simms.

"Students should go because it's something offered right here on campus that is typically hard to find... I'm excited to see her variety," said KSU Teller

Molly Gilmartin, a senior Theater and Performance Studies major.

A number of classes have requirements that involve this event.

Many TPS 1107 courses necessitate attendance to at least one of the nights and certain lower level performing arts students at KSU need to attend Simms' workshops for their classes.

Gilmartin said the event benefits the Tellers themselves especially, because class members attend dual workshops with Simms and get to spend other time with the accomplished artist, helping the students work toward their goal of building a flexible set of storytelling skills.

"We will learn from her... a lot of us strive to be independent performers and not just be that waitress that is also a performer," Gilmartin laughed, excited about her opportunity to spend one-on-one time with the performer.

The annual event is \$12 for students, \$15 for alumni and \$20 for non-students. The Tellers' spring class holds a counterpart event in the spring, aptly named "Spoken Word."

For more information on Simms and her performances and books, visit laurasimms.com.

What the frak is Dragon*Con?

Jessica Sides
CONTRIBUTING COLUMNIST

If you found yourself in downtown Atlanta over Labor Day weekend wondering why it seemed as if Halloween was being celebrated a month and a half early, you must not know about Dragon*Con.

Despite celebrating its 25th anniversary this year, the nation's largest Science Fiction convention still remains unknown to many native Atlanta citizens. The running joke is that Dragon*Con is Atlanta's "best kept secret," regardless of drawing in tens of thousands of attendees each year – and that number is growing. It seems KSU students are no strangers to the Convention, though, and many of them were happy to tell me about their experiences.

Students around campus tell me they'd like to attend but they aren't sure what Con is really about or can't find room in their schedules to fit in a Friday-Sunday convention downtown.

Unlike California's mammoth Comic-Con held in San Diego each year, Dragon*Con is anything and everything SciFi: comic books, anime, Star Wars, Star Trek, literature... the list goes on. Some of the more popular "fan tracks" are dedicated to specific fandoms, like Buffy the Vampire Slayer or JRR Tolkien's writing, or are more generalized genres like "American SciFi Classics" and "British SciFi Media."

"There's something for everyone," senior English major Taylor Rodgers points out.

Lilly Alcorn, a senior at KSU, presents Dragon*Con's educational benefits as well.

"Last spring I was in a literature class that required me to

find a popular culture reference to Edgar Allan Poe, and I found my subject at Dragon*Con!" she says about singer/songwriter Voltaire, famous for his folklore-based lyrics, and a regular guest of Con. "We hung out for a bit and talked about Rampo [a Japanese short-story writer influenced by Poe] a little."

Lilly's experience, it would prove, is why so many people attend Con; it's where you can find all of your interests, no matter how obscure or "nerdy," in one place, and often cross-referenced. Steampunk Storm Troopers, anyone?

"It's where you can let your freak flag fly, no matter your taste," said Rodgers, who has been attending Dragon*Con since 1995 and enjoys dressing up in a different costume each year. This year, though, Rodgers only stuck around for about an hour before leaving.

"It was way too crowded. I could not walk," said before lamenting, "I love Con, but I think I'm getting burnt out. I remember when it was just two hotels, now it's five."

Finding room for everyone has forced Dragon*Con to occupy not only the Marriot Marquis, Hyatt Regency and Hilton, but also the Sheraton and Westin Peachtree Plaza hotels.

"We had over 40,000 pre-regs this year," says Becca Curtis, a senior at KSU who has volunteered at the con for the last two years and attended five. "That's up 15 percent from last year, and well over a thousand bought tickets on-site."

"Pre-regs" refers to those who sign up to attend Dragon*Con online instead of buying their tickets at the Sheraton. While pre-regs are usually a good indication of any given year's potential attendance, it is estimated that this year's Con drew over 60,000 people worldwide. Why such a huge jump? Part of the reason, Curtis hypothesizes, is that Dragon*Con simply grows bigger every year (in 2002 the Con had a mere 20,000 attendees), but 2011 also marked a big milestone anniversary, not to mention some big name celebrities visiting to sign autographs and pose for photos with fans.

While not paid to attend Dragon*Con, celebrities are a

major contributing factor of attendance rates. Most charge to sign autographs and take pictures with fans and are in turn charged fees to run signing booths. Typical fare is anywhere from \$20-\$50 but bigger names will charge more. William Shatner (Captain Kirk for those of you who don't know) charged \$70 per autograph this year; Edward James Olmos (famous for *Battlestar Galactica*) charged \$60. Many celebrities also charge extra for photo ops. In its own way, Dragon*Con seems to be making contributions to the economy, generating cash flow in Atlanta.

What if meeting Carrie Fisher or Lou Ferrigno isn't your thing? Dragon*Con is, if only one thing, one big party. Five different hotels, all booked full well before Con each year, host huge parties every night of Con in the guest rooms and banquet halls alike. There are also dozens of costume contests, discussion panels, trivia and gaming tournaments, the annual Dragon*Con parade, art shows, writer's workshops – you name it, Dragon*Con's got it. Musical groups play live shows. Celebrities are often found hanging out with fans at hotel restaurants and bars – I once sent Paul McGillion a drink myself – or hosting their own parties and charity events.

"I go to hang out with my friends" was the most prevalent reason given when I questioned attendees, many of whom were there for their 4th or 5th year in a row, like Philosophy major Scott Stewart, who dressed up as Luke Skywalker this year. Many say Dragon*Con is one of the few times a year they get to see friends who live far away, and they meet up in Atlanta to spend the weekend together. Others tell me Con is where they met their friends; one married couple met at another Con a few years ago. Even before I knew it, I was making friends at Dragon*Con this year and swapped information with many of them so we could all share pictures on Facebook.

If you haven't attended Dragon*Con, I recommend you go next year, if you can, before it gets too big. It's truly a unique experience and there are many reasons people choose to go year after year.

STUDENT POLL

WHERE WERE YOU ON 9/11

AND HOW DO YOU THINK THE WORLD HAS CHANGED?

Compiled by Ian Rooks (Contributing Writer)

I was at school in the third grade. I thought it was just a crash. Then I found out what had happened. There are more safety regulations.

Brennon McGovern, 18, Freshman, History

1

I was in the third grade, and I knew something bad happened, I didn't know the situation. People are more paranoid and overly concerned with regulations.

Sam Mirales, 18, Freshman, Exercise Science

2

I was in Ghana, and I was on the Internet. I kept seeing reports on CNN. They closed the embassy in Ghana. It has been harder for people like me. It has also been more complicated to come here.

Natasha Laanyane, 23, Junior, Biology

3



3
not pictured



9
not pictured

I was in school. All I kept hearing on T.V. was "innocent people are dying." I stayed at school the whole day. Security has gotten better in our country, and the things that we should have been cautious about before are things that we are cautious about now.

Briana Gill, 18, Freshman, Undecided

4

I was at home. I was flipping through the channels and the news about the World Trade Center attacks. I was worried because I have family in New York. I think it humbled the country. I think it also made us lose our sense of invincibility. We were made to be aware of our rivals.

Nakia Daniels, 18 Freshman, Management Information Systems

5

I was in school. My mom was sitting on her bed. My aunt worked in the World Trade Center. She went on a bus that was going to go to the World Trade Center, but she got off and got on another bus. She missed the attacks by a couple of hours. We are more protective of our territory, respectful of other peoples' countries.

Alyssa Reuben, 18, Freshman, Nursing

6

I work at the hospital. I was at work; the TVs in the patients' rooms had the news of the attacks. It takes a lot longer to go to the airport, and the economics never really recovered.

Beth Masters, 52, Graduate Studies, Conflict Resolution

7

I was in London. In England, it was not really big. My uncle in the states had a meeting, but it got cancelled. It was crazy, and then I saw the second plane. We moved on and have gotten better.

Ross Gibb, 21, Sophomore, Undecided

8

I was a freshman in college at Morris Brown. I didn't really realize what had happened. I have classmates from New York. There was a lot of sympathy. There has been more security at airports and events. People are more frantic.

George Reeves, 29, Graduate Studies

9

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Sept. 25th

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IN THE
WORLD

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Abroadening your horizons

See (more of) the world with side trips while abroad

Christy Rogers
STAFF WRITER

One of the most exciting aspects of a study abroad trip is how available other countries are to you. In fact, many teachers promoting study abroad in the classroom will lure you in with promises of "We really don't care what you do or where you go on the weekend, as long as you're back in class by Monday morning!"

Especially in a tightly knitted continent like Europe, most countries are a short train ride away, so extended weekend travel seems like a mountain of cherries on top of your already enticing study abroad sundae. You can travel from France to Germany as easily as traveling from Georgia to Florida! London is as far away from Paris as Kennesaw is from Columbus! Oh, the wonders to behold outside your host country!

The option of visiting another country besides your host country isn't usually available to those doing May or August minimesters, since those trips are usually about two weeks in duration, but for those who can opt for longer study abroad trips, the exciting possibilities of exploring the entire European continent (or whatever continent you choose) can be a huge draw for your program. But before you start buying train tickets and planning your six-country excursion, you need to sit down and do some serious planning. Without careful consideration and research, you could end up paying hundreds of dollars beyond what you actually need when you need to be saving dollars wherever possible.

Here are my tips for deciding how to travel to other countries (if it even turns out to be a good idea) and how to save money while doing so.

Think About the Geography and Where You Want to Go.

After you've decided on a study abroad and gotten the travel bug lodged firmly in your mind, you should make a list of nearby countries/cities you want to visit.



Europe is pretty easy to travel. Like I said, everything is really close together, and most of the beautiful, historical, exciting places the majority of people want to see are within hours of each other. But what if your study abroad takes you to Japan? Sure, you're a lot closer to Korea and China than you've ever been before, and you may want to visit those countries, but is it feasible? What about India? Peru? It is imperative that you scour the web, rifle through travel books and ask for other travelers' opinions to determine if you will be able to travel to your other destinations with relative ease.

Are There Other Options in Your Host Country?

For me, as much as I would have loved to see London, Amsterdam, Berlin and Rome, the allure of France kept me in the country. My program offered optional excursions almost every weekend: to Chartres; Monet's home in Giverny; Fontainebleau, where Napoleon lived briefly; Vaux-le-Vicomte, another beautiful chateau; Versailles and a weekend long trip to Normandy and Brittany. These trips were relatively cheap (ranging in price from \$15 to \$360) and offered immersion in the country I have desired to see my whole life. If the country you're studying in is the one you've dreamed of seeing the most, you may want to consider any optional excursions the program offers, or planning short day trips within your country, instead of putting more money into traveling the continent.

Get your Toms on!



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Consider Travel Options

While it is relatively cheap to travel through different countries (at least in Europe; keep in mind I've only been across the pond once!), there are several different options and you need to research all of them before finalizing your choice. It may seem tedious, but if you aren't willing to do the research, I hope you're willing to shell out the hundreds of extra dollars an ill-planned trip will cost you. For instance, many students will crow the praises of cheap airline RyanAir. However, did you know that RyanAir doesn't always leave from main airports? For instance, students on my trip were advised not to fly RyanAir because the airport their flights leave from is actually outside of Paris and would make up the rest of the ticket price in actually getting to the airport. Also, many students paid \$250 for a rail pass, only to discover later that the \$250 was only a cover charge; they still had to pay ticket prices at the train stations! I didn't buy one, so I can't tell you exactly how that works, but I will tell you that you will only be doing yourself a favor if you examine closely if train, bus or plane will be your best mode of travel.

You also need to keep in mind that beyond the cost of getting there and back is the cost of finding somewhere to stay, feeding yourself, and buying souvenirs. Hostels are cheap options for students, and couch surfing has hit it big in Europe recently. I, personally, would go with the former option, but I know several people who have done couch surfing and now swear it is the best overnight option. Budget wisely!

Consider Your Studies.

There was at least one person on my study abroad who seemed to forget that the trip was, in fact, a study abroad. Much like the words "love," "fast food" and "PMS," the term "study abroad" is so often repeated that people often seem to lose sight of what it really entails. You will be taking classes. You will have homework, tests and finals. You will receive a grade that will affect your GPA. The choice is yours, however, as to whether that is a positive or negative effect. If you're taking junior or senior level classes, you may not want to plan an out-of-country trip every weekend that you're abroad. You need to leave time to study and do well in your classes. This may come off as a thundercloud hanging over your joyous time abroad, but I assure you that I had the time of

my life and came off with two A's in my classes, one of which was senior level. It is doable; you just have to plan your time wisely and not shirk your duties as a student.

Have a Plan. And a Map. And Maybe a Guidebook. Oh, and a Budget.

Maybe a more succinct title would be "Be Prepared," but I don't want to get Disney songs stuck in your head. To the point: you need to plan. I don't think you need a timetable and strict schedule to stick to, but you need to have a general idea of where you want to go and how to get there while saving the most money. A good guidebook like Fodor's or Lonely Planet will give you tips on saving money, and you really should never be in a foreign country without some sort of map. The last thing you want to do is spend your weekend wandering around Germany in a state of confusion and distress. You also need a general idea of how much money you'll be spending in the country. How much can you afford to spend on a hostel/hotel? How much are you willing to spend on food? How much does it cost to get into the various attractions and monuments you want to visit? What about souvenirs? Be proactive; plan all this stuff in advance.

Flash Your Student ID Card.

My trip gave me a Parisian student ID card that I could use to get discounts at certain attractions. I even got free admission to Notre Dame and the Arc de Triomphe. Even if your program doesn't offer a student ID card, I would recommend taking your KSU ID along, or applying for an International Student Identity Card (ISIC: website). You would be surprised at the money you can save just because you're under the age of 26, at least in Europe.

So there you have it. As long as you do your research, plan carefully and closely examine where your money is going, you are sure to have pleasant weekends abroad, regardless of whether that means traveling to other countries or not. Remember, you can always talk to your foreign language professors, the people at the study abroad office or the director of your trip to help you in your decision-making process. Hopefully with my tips and their expertise, you will make informed decisions and come home laden with pictures and touristy souvenirs from various countries around the globe!

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Pensive thoughts

“
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TOGA! TOGA!
”

.....
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PENSIVE THOUGHT
OF THE WEEK?**

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thought to
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“John Be-HOO-shi”

Horoscopes

Week of Sept 9-Sept 15, 2011

Aries: March 21-April 19

You're being pulled in two directions at once, thanks to a schizophrenic moon. You might be thinking about a former flame while, at the same time, you're pursuing a brand new flirtation. Give yourself time to sort it all out.

Taurus: April 20 - May 20

A passionate full moon is bringing hidden feelings to the surface. You could be tempted to make a confession to someone. Maybe you'll finally tell that cute neighbor or sexy coworker that you'd love to go out with him or her.

Gemini: May 21- June 21

It's important to deal with schedules, budgets, and lists this week. Saturn is reminding you that sometimes you have to work within certain restrictions. The health of your family and your romantic relationship depends on it.

Cancer: June 22- July 22

Don't be intimidated by technology, even if your cell phone, your GPS system, and your DVD player give out on you at once. Uranus is reminding you not to be so focused on toys and machines. Take a break and enjoy some private time with your honey.

Leo: July 23-Aug. 22

Mars is increasing your need for instant gratification. If your sweetheart has to work late, you'll demand that he or she call in sick to spend time with you. Or if your partner is tending to a friend or relative, you'll want your share of attention.

Virgo: Aug. 23-Sept. 22

You're enjoying your lover without worrying too much about tomorrow. A sensual moon has you focused on loving touch and intimate moments. You're trying not to project into the future or put definitions or restrictions on your romance.

Libra: Sept. 23- Oct. 23

An on again, off again relationship could pick up steam as Venus increases the sexual intensity. You'll be wondering if this person might even be a soulmate. It's probably too soon to tell for sure, but have fun investigating.

Sagittarius: Nov. 22- Dec. 21

A moon opposition has you making a list of your partner's flaws and failures. Meanwhile, you're feeling restless about your own achievements and wondering if you need to make a change. Evolution is happening, and it's good to ask some deep questions.

Capricorn: Dec. 22- Jan.19

Pay more attention to your intuition and emotions. The moon is encouraging you to get in touch with what you really feel instead of being "efficient" and "hard working" every moment of the day. You're allowed to want, to desire and to dream.

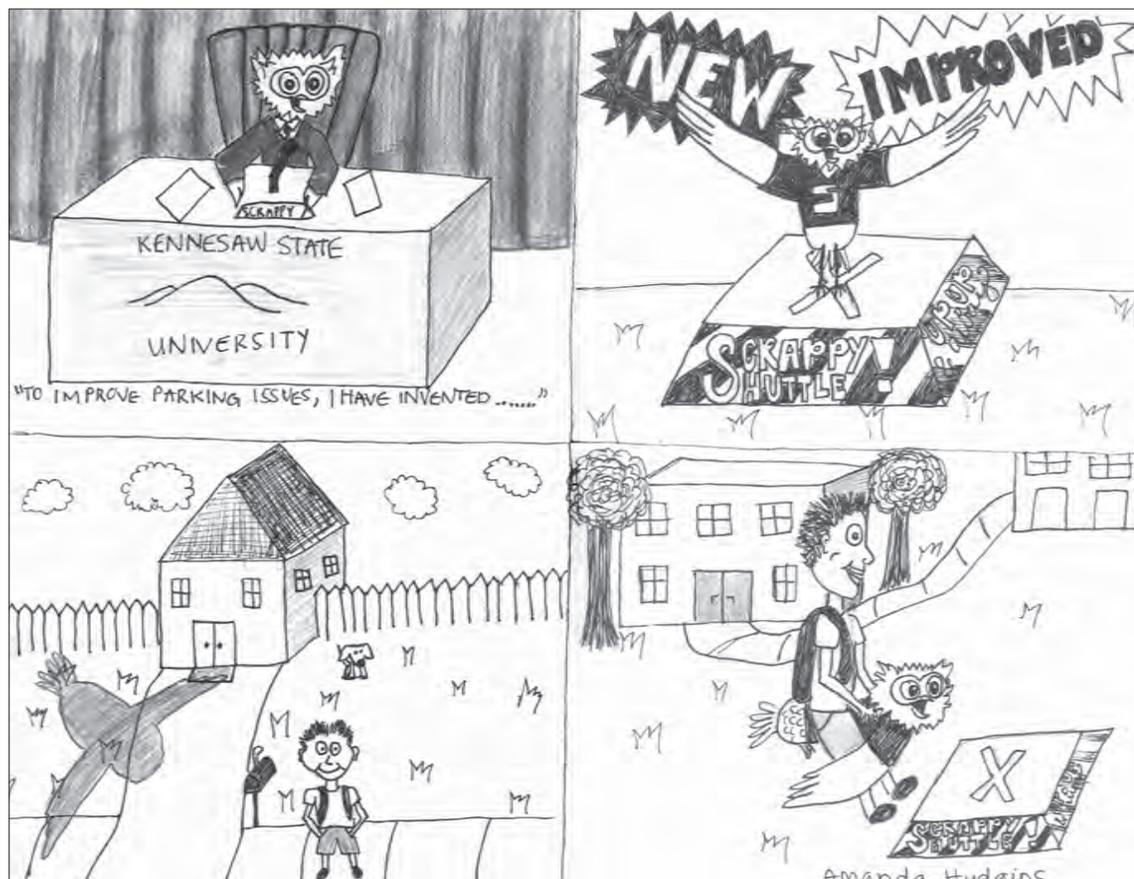
Aquarius: Jan. 20- Feb. 18

You could encounter someone whose force of personality and sense of humor astound you. The moon is stirring up powerful feelings of attraction to a new friend, colleague or neighbor. You could find yourself comparing this person to people you've dated in the past.

Pisces: Feb.19- March 20

Don't worry if you're in hermit mode. The moon is making you extra sensitive, and it's important for you to heal and find balance. You won't want to spend time with a lot of people. And you might want to avoid dating or intense interactions with a sweetheart for a bit.

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Scorpio: Oct. 24- Nov. 2

You could be under pressure to date someone other people want you to be with. Maybe your parents are playing matchmaker or your friends are trying to hook you up with a nice acquaintance. The moon says it's okay to check it out.

solution

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Owls drop two of three in 2011 Owls Invitational

Michael Foster
SPORTS EDITOR

The women's volleyball team continued to face some early season adversity, dropping two out of three matches in the 2011 Owls Classic, played last at the Convocation Center.

The Owls, who entered the season with very high expectations, have struggled out of the starting gate. Their record now stands at 4-6 after losses on Saturday to Troy and University of Alabama-Birmingham.

So far the team is yet to play a conference opponent, with their conference opener set for Sept. 23 against Belmont. The non-conference competition, which was expected to be a tough stretch, has not treated the Owls kindly.

Five of the six losses, including matches against UGA and North Carolina State, have been 3-0 defeats. The Owls are enduring an especially tough slide right now, having dropped four of their last five matches.

Starters Alyssa Lang and Baylee Strachan did not compete in the weekend's tournament.

"When we are winning, we are winning. And when we are losing, we are losing," said head coach Karen Weatherington.

The 2011 Owls Classic got off to a good start for the Owls on Friday night. KSU won an electric match in an overtime session, taking the match from Eastern Kentucky 3-2.

The second set in the match tied for the longest the Owls had so far this season, as the two teams battled to a 38-36 decision.

KSU just missed coming back in the third set to finish the contest, but came up short. The Colonels were able to hold off the Owls and eventually won the next two sets 25-22 and 25-20.

Senior Rachel Albright, who was playing the libero position for the first time in her career, came through with a mightily impressive 26 digs, which matched a career best. The performance from Albright was also just two digs away from breaking a school record.

The record performances have continued to come for the Owls, despite the sub-par record. During Saturday's match against Troy, Justine Young set a team record with 25 kills in a 3-2 loss.

Young, who transferred to KSU from Texas Tech, set the kills record in this season's opener against Charlotte.

The Owls would battle through struggles in a tough 3-0 loss to UAB, including set losses of 25-15 and 25-18. Holly Knight and Justine Young were named to the All-Tournament team for their stellar performances during the

weekend's action.

Young made it very clear that the team's early season battles were good for the team.

"It's good to learn from our mistakes earlier in the season so we can grow together and get the same mindset," said Young.

The Owls have one more non-conference tournament before they begin the conference stretch of their season.

KSU will be looking for their first road victory of the season on Sept. 16 when they will travel to Denton, Texas, to participate in the North Texas Volleyball Classic against Jackson State, Texas State and North Texas.

Weatherington and sophomore Sara Metroka both talked about how the non-conference matches have gone so far.

"At the beginning of the season every team is kind of up and down and building as a team," said Metroka. "We are playing good competition so that when we go into conference and tournament play we are ready for whatever will get thrown at us."

"To face the adversity early has been good for us," said Weatherington. "We've had some injuries and limitations, but that's exactly what you ask for in a championship team. Your young players have to step up and do big things."

Coach Weatherington saw some similarities between the non-conference opponents and the Atlantic Sun Conference teams, as well.

"I think the competition is about even," said Weatherington. "The A-Sun has taken a big jump in the last couple of years. This is probably going to be one of the better years. All of the teams are very competitive."

Aside from scheduled tournament play, KSU added a match against William & Mary, winning 3-1, and lost a match in Athens, 3-0, to UGA.

Despite a tough start, KSU is still expected to be one of the best teams in a competitive Atlantic Sun Conference.

Lipscomb, the reigning champions from last season, was the only A-Sun team to defeat the Owls last year.

"The A-Sun is really, really good this year," said Metroka. "I know Florida Gulf Coast and Belmont and ETSU barely lost to anybody, and Lipscomb is always good. We're playing



Photo courtesy of Melissa Davis

Justine Young goes for the kill against Eastern Kentucky on Friday at KSU.

tough teams but everyone else is too right now. I think the top six teams in our conference are all going to be neck and neck."

KSU will return home to face Georgia State on Sept. 20 to finish off the out-of-league schedule.

Men's golf opens season on top tier stage

Jim Wilkins
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

KSU's men's golf team started their season this weekend at the Carpet Capital Collegiate, a tournament in which they faced some of the best competition in the Southeast.

Of the 12 schools participating in Rocky Face, Ga., just north of Dalton, six were from the SEC and three from the ACC. KSU alone represented the Atlantic Sun Conference.

While the Owls competed hard, they were forced to settle with a 9th place finish, with an overall team score of 15 over par after the three rounds of tournament play.

Senior Matt Nagy recorded two rounds under par and was even for the tournament.

Nagy's score was good enough to tie for 17th

on the individual leaderboard out of the field of 60 players.

After the practice round on Thursday, Sept. 8, head coach Jay Moseley took the time to answer a few questions:

The Sentinel: You are coming off a phenomenally successful season. How optimistic are you for a repeat trip to the NCAA national tournament?

Jay Moseley: Well, the NCAA tournament is 8 months away so we have a long time before that. Our focus is on getting better each and every day and focusing on the present, not looking ahead of ourselves.

S: How many returning players from last season do you have on your team and how do you they compare to the new talent?

JM: I only lost one player to graduation from

last season so I have eight of nine guys returning. I expect our freshmen to have an immediate impact on the roster. My older guys know that everyone has to earn their playing time so everyone is motivated to get better.

S: What do look for in new recruits besides golfing skills?

JM: Ideally, I want well-rounded individuals who are talented golfers, athletic and maintain good grades. I also look for leadership characteristics because that usually equates to individuals who can handle the demands of balancing school, athletics and college life.

S: Your team is known to be successful academically as well. How do you maintain this trend?

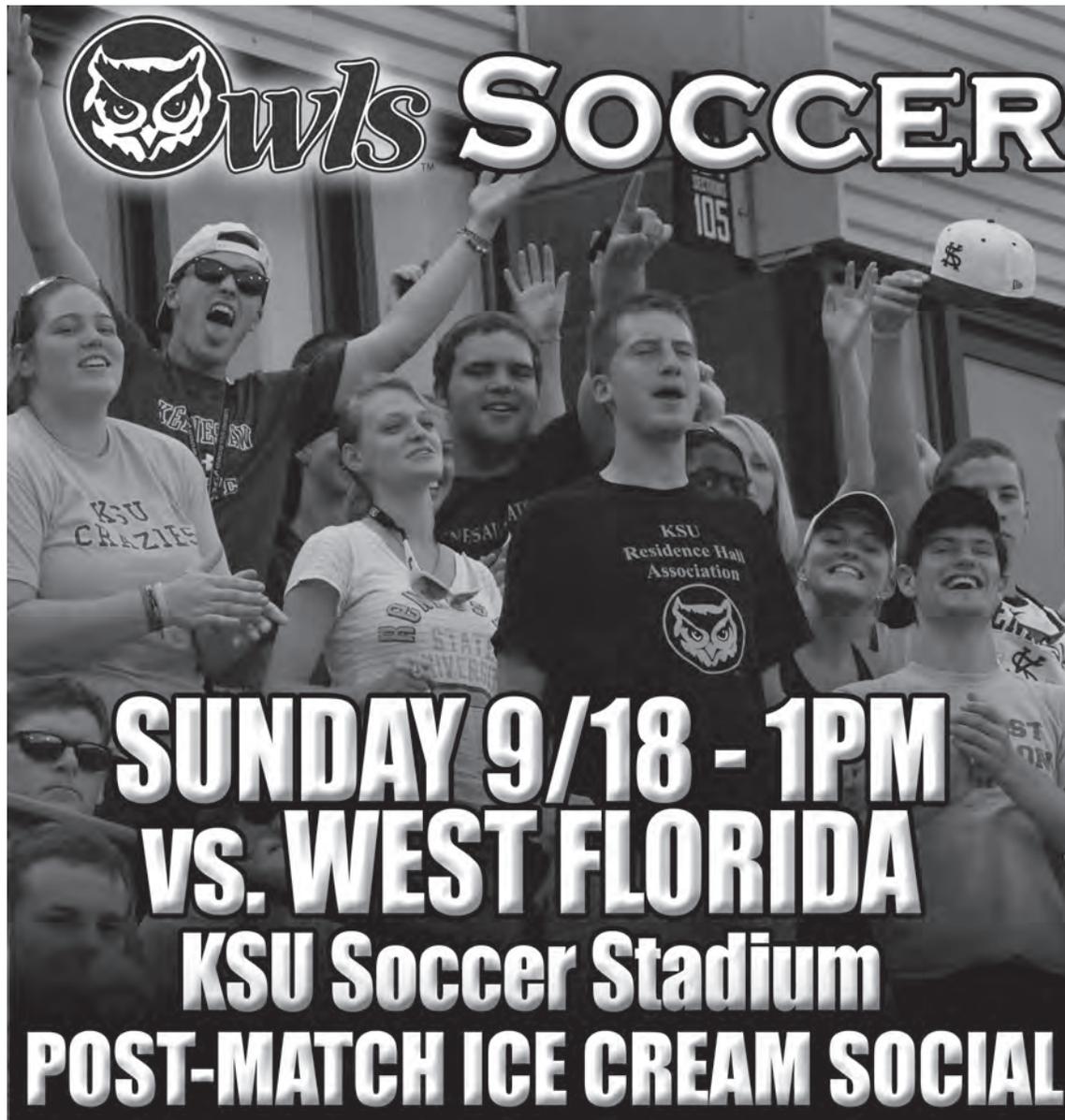
JM: I simply try to motivate the team to do their best in everything they do. They take pride

in their academic success and they want to have the highest GPA of any team on campus.

S: You personally have a history with Auburn, one of many teams with which you will be competing this weekend. Do you still know any coaches or players active there and are you worried about the competition?

JM: I know the coaches and most of the players at Auburn very well. I try not to worry about things; I just try to do my very best and be positive in doing so. Whether it's Auburn or anyone else, we are just going to go out and do our best. We believe in ourselves and know that we always have a chance to win if we play to our potential.

The Owls will continue their season on Sept. 25 when they travel to Burlington, Iowa, to play in the Golf Week Conference Challenge.



owls SOCCER

SUNDAY 9/18 - 1PM
VS. WEST FLORIDA
KSU Soccer Stadium
POST-MATCH ICE CREAM SOCIAL

Cross country teams face tough tests

Michael Foster
SPORTS EDITOR

The men's and women's cross country teams began their seasons in the past few weekends, experiencing up and down results.

The Owls men's team placed ninth at the Belmont Opener in Nashville, Tenn., on Sept 3, and second at the Auburn Invitational on Friday.

The women's team finished sixth and seventh at the same events.

The men's team, which enters 2011 with very high expectations and aspirations of claiming a conference title, had a very tough start out of the gate.

The men's team finished ninth out of 11 teams at the Belmont Opener, including falling behind conference foes Lipscomb and Belmont.

Belmont and Lipscomb were running on home turf, however, as both universities are located in Nashville, Tenn.

KSU finished with a line of 1:23:04:63, and 198 points. Junior Ryan Burruss placed twelfth as an individual.

The women's team, which placed sixth out of eight, was led by

Heather Morris, who finished with a line of 15:57:48.

Junior Nabil Hamid would come back strong and lead the charge the following weekend as the Owls redeemed themselves at the Auburn Invitational last Friday.

KSU's men's team placed second in the 6K run, trailing only Auburn, which hosted the event.

Hamid and Burress placed second and third, respectively.

"The men ran a very strong race tonight," head coach Stan Sims said in an interview. "Nabil and Ryan each ran great and Cole also had a very good race. I was pleased with our effort."

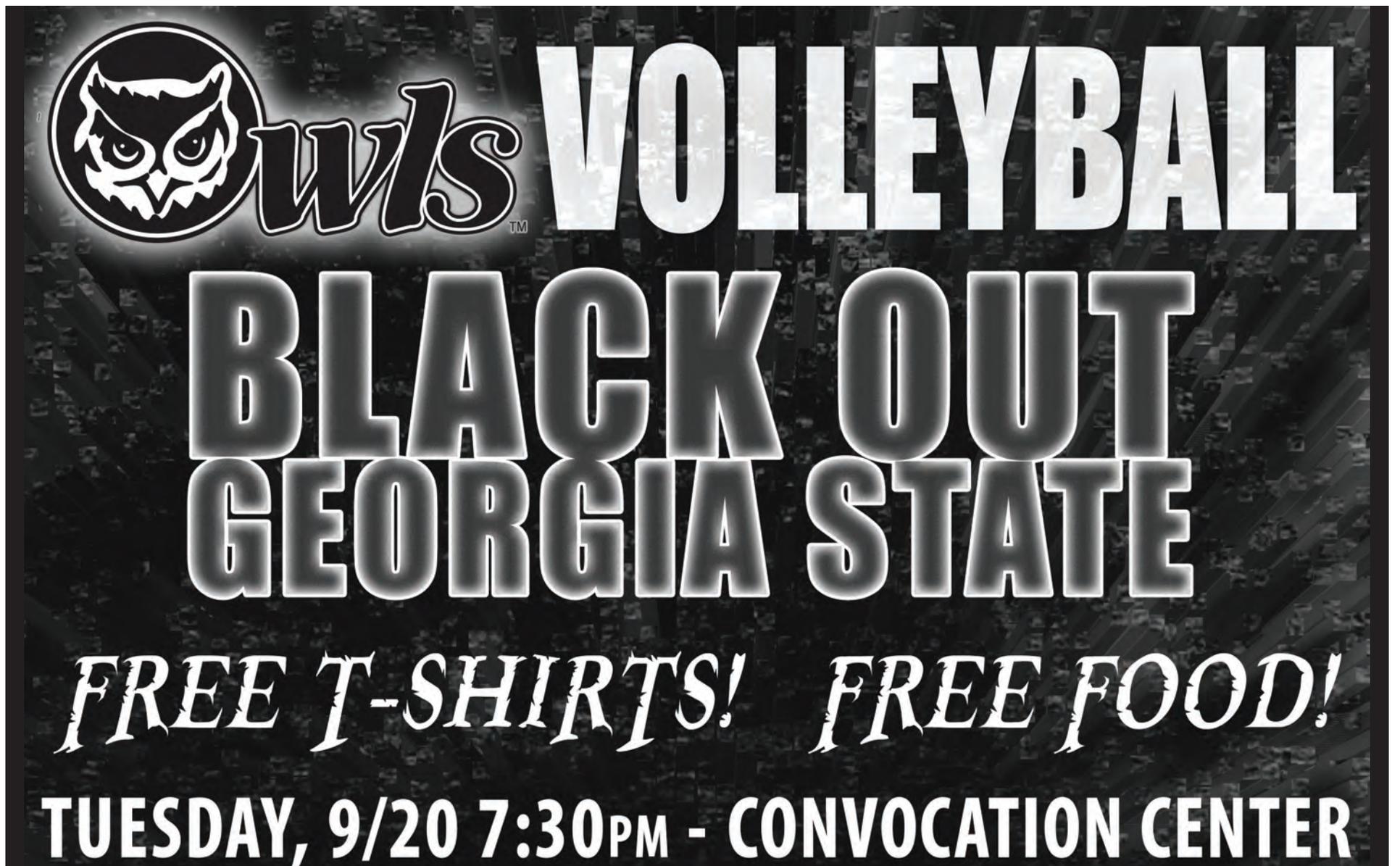
Cole Jakob, a sophomore, finished fifteenth.

The women's team competed in the 4k race in a field of 13 teams, placing seventh.

Morris was the standout for the women again, placing twentieth overall.

"Heather ran a great race and we without a doubt improved on our performance from last week," said Sims.

The Owls will be in action again on Sept. 17 when they visit Hampton, Ga., to run in the Georgia State Invite.



owls VOLLEYBALL

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TUESDAY, 9/20 7:30PM - CONVOCATION CENTER

Owls make heroes proud with win

Neha Ali
STAFF WRITER

The Kennesaw State women's soccer team defeated University of Alabama-Birmingham on Sunday 4-1 at home on Heroes Appreciation Day.

Although KSU came out of an eight-day layoff, The Owls (4-3 overall, 0-0 A-Sun) held on to overpower the Blazers (2-5 Overall, 0-0 C-USA) in their third match against each other. The win gives the Owls a 3-0 record against the Blazers.

After a lingering start to a scoreless game, senior forward Brittany Vining finally scored within the first 30 minutes. Vining was assisted by Jewelia Strickland who launched a free kick from midfield where Vining kicked the ball straight to the net.

Freshman Nicole Calder took the player of the game title.

"It's pretty exciting and pretty surprising," said Calder. "I guess I'm trying to make people back home proud."

When asked if what she hopes to accomplish for the rest of the season, Calder enthusiastically replied, "I hope to score a few more goals, get a few more assists and be a solid aggressive player."

She finished with the game's second and her first collegiate goal where she was assisted by Blanco. Calder headed off a corner kick and scored after a failed free kick attempt seconds before.

"Nicole did everything we asked her to," said Owls head coach Rob King. "She set the tone and provided some offense for us as well, so it was a great game for her."

Junior Sofia Blanco led the game with two assists,

and goalkeeper Melissa Hutto had seven saves to keep the Owls in the lead.

With less than four minutes remaining in the opening half, junior Liz Blackburn managed to put the Owls up by three at 41:45.

While the Owls took home the win, the Blazers still played aggressively. They managed to keep possession most of the second half. UAB's Kirsten Ebert snuck the ball passed Hutto in a corner kick attempt. Her header would be the only goal scored by the Blazers.

Even though KSU lacked consistency in keeping possession, they didn't stop playing persistent defense until the finale. Redshirt-freshman Katrina Frost had many attempts at the goal that were incomplete. Finally at 85:01, Frost found herself wide open where she hit the ball from outside the box into the left corner of the net.

The only thing working against the Owls at this point was the last 4:49 on the clock.

The Blazers still gave the Owls something to work for. The Owls had 17 shot attempts, but only made four.

"We knew it would be a tough one, but we've been working on some stuff," said King. "We tightened up defensively and added some offense in there as well."

Sunday's game marked the 10th anniversary of Sept. 11, 2001. Before the start of the game, local military, police and other officials were given a thankful tribute.

KSU will play University of West Florida Sept. 18 at 1 p.m. This will be their final non-conference game.



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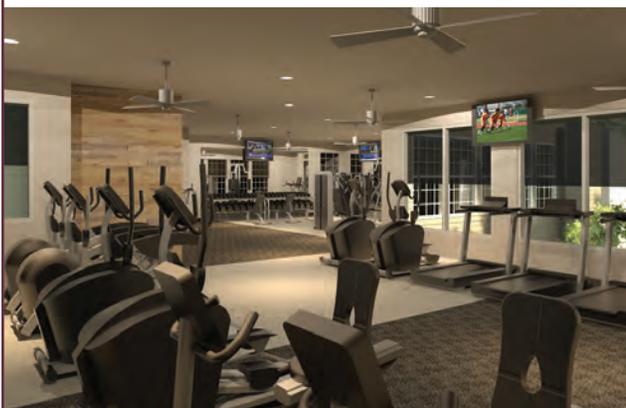
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