



# NEWS

**Homelessness continued from page 1.**

on campus.

"My thing is to bring awareness to the face of homelessness," Thompson said.

Students who came to participate in the sleep out checked in with the faculty hosting the event. Laila Smith, manager of the Center for Student Leadership operations and first year leadership, said students would be breathalyzed

before they could participate and explained that homeless people are usually breathalyzed before they can enter a shelter.

Once students were registered for the sleep out, they were given a real-life scenario, which required some to appear in a mock trial held in the Social Sciences Building. Freshman nursing major Kianna Taylor said her scenario said she had to go the mock trial for being in a fight.

**"IT'S IMPORTANT THAT YOU SHOW AFFECTION & YOU HELP THOSE IN NEED"**

"Honestly, students have been surprised about the faces of homelessness," said Dr. Lana Wachniak, a retired professor of sociology and criminal justice who was one of the founders of KSU's annual Homelessness Awareness Week. Dr. Wachniak said around 25 to 30 KSU students have come to the CARE Center this year to register as homeless and seek help. However, she believes there are more homeless students on campus who have yet to come forward.

Dr. Wachniak and her husband, former director of Human Resources at KSU, William Wallace, were also founders of the new 20/4/1 Homelessness Awareness Scholarship, which has been awarded to one student this semester, Angela Carr.

Wallace said it has taken three and a half years to fund the \$20,000 scholarship, and he has already helped fund another scholarship at Georgia Southern

University for single mothers.

"I've just always believed in the old [saying], 'To whom much is given, much is required,'" Wallace said. "So that's why we do this—it doesn't matter who gets credit. It's important that you show affection and you help those in need."

During the second and last night of the sleep out, Friday, Nov. 7, a vigil was held on campus in honor of six homeless people in Cobb County who had passed away in 2013 and 2014.

"[The vigil] is a way to remember them," said Karen Carter, Executive Director of the Cobb Community Collaborative, which works with many non-profit organizations. Carter said that, "quite often, that because they're in homelessness, there's no family locally," so a proper funeral is not provided for them.

The Cobb Community Collaborative counted 379 homeless people living in Cobb County January 2014.

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Students use their handprints for the learning community's class project.

Brea Boutwell | The Sentinel



Participants of the sleep out set up tents in front of the Social Science Building.

Matt Boggs | The Sentinel



Some painted murals, which were displayed inside and outside of the tent on the Campus Green.

Matt Boggs | The Sentinel

# PRAYER ON THE CAMPUS GREEN

James Sears Staff Writer

**A campus organization set up a tent on the Campus Green to host a 36-hour prayer and praise event Nov. 4 through Nov. 5.**

The event featured prayer and live music for visitors hosted by FOCUS, a Christian organization.

FOCUS consisted of two parts: FOCUS Pray and FOCUS United. Both parts were held on the Campus Green and in the Carmichael Student Center respectively. This semester marks the first time FOCUS Pray was held on the Campus Green.

Inside the tent was a small stage and chairs. Live music was performed by members of KSU's campus ministries and between sets, prayer topics such as "The Body of Christ," were covered by different ministries.

"It's literally an hour of worship and an hour of prayer nonstop," FOCUS coordinator Arvin Ross said. "A campus ministry's team will come in and worship for an hour and pray for an hour. Then another campus ministry team will come and it's a nonstop flow."

Visitors were also welcomed to pray on the stage. Future

mechanical engineering major Caleb Krohn was one such participant.

"FOCUS is an opportunity for a collective group of people to pray and, therefore, affect change," Krohn said.

FOCUS Pray went on for 36 hours and its portion ended Nov. 5 at 5 p.m. and at 7 p.m., FOCUS United continued the event indoors in the University Rooms. A buffet was provided by Moe's Southwest Grill to visitors.

Besides prayer and live music, both Pray and United had an area that let visitors write and display prayers. There was also a worship painting area where people could create paintings. The paintings were displayed throughout the FOCUS event. Sophomore drawing and painting major Cara Young spoke of painting as an active worship.

"Even before FOCUS, I'm inspired by everything around me," Young said. "Art is used as a vehicle of expression, worship and feelings of the time."

FOCUS is affiliated with Campus Renewal Ministries, an organization dedicated to

constructing missional societies on college campuses. Kris Gamble, one of the founders of FOCUS, said "FOCUS" stands for Family Of Christian University Students.

"FOCUS is an initiative to bring together the different campus ministries and Christians on campus," Gamble said.

Gamble said he came up with the idea for FOCUS during his freshman year in 2006. Gamble said he noticed that ministries seemed reluctant to acknowledge other ministries.

"I struggled to find out which ministries were on campus," Gamble said. "When I found one, the ministries were reluctant to tell me about other ministries on campus because they didn't know the pastor."

Gamble said he and the ministry leaders met to address the divide and the concept of FOCUS solidified.

The first FOCUS event was held in fall of 2011 and has been held once a semester since. FOCUS was previously held for only a few hours. Gamble said the fellowship felt it was not enough time for

worship and extended it to as long as 48 hours, but the time has since been reduced. Since FOCUS' inception, Gamble said it has grown from 6 ministries participating to 14 ministries participating.

Visitors praise FOCUS for promoting unity among Christians. Bobby Hinsdale, the chapter director of the student organization, Ratio Christi, said FOCUS provides unity without uniformity.

"I think FOCUS is particularly helpful for students that are searching for community," said Hinsdale. "It's a good way to see how the different Christian ministries on campus collaborate together to make Jesus known. And if students are looking for a ministry to call home, they are encouraged to get plugged into one."

Although FOCUS is mainly targeted towards a Christian demographic, Gamble said non-Christian religions were welcome to participate. "We've had atheists and we've had a Muslim; it is an all-is-welcome event," Gamble said.

## OWL EVENTS

Kaitlyn Lewis  
News Editor

**Don't miss any OWL Events!** Check back each week for a new calendar of KSU's upcoming events. Don't see your event? We want to know! Please send event information to [newseditor@ksusentinel.com](mailto:newseditor@ksusentinel.com)

Tuesday

11

- **Women and the STEAM fields lecture**  
3 p.m.-4:30 p.m.  
SPSU Student Center Ball Room
- **ALL ACCESS with Henssler Financial**  
4 p.m.-5 p.m.  
Burruss Building

Wednesday

12

- **Thriving During Change Workshop**  
9 a.m.- 12 p.m.  
KSU Center
- **Fall Farmer's Market**  
11 a.m.-5 p.m.  
Campus roads: Cobb Avenue
- **Swing Dance Lessons**  
5 p.m.-8 p.m.  
Student Center Conference Room

Thursday

13

- **Math Talk**  
12:30 p.m.-1:45 p.m.  
Statistics Building Room 109
- **SGA General Meeting**  
3:30 p.m.-5 p.m.  
Student Center: University Rooms

Friday

14

- **Presenting with Impact workshop**  
9 a.m.-12:30 p.m.  
KSU Center Room 176
- **Opera Performance**  
8 p.m.-10 p.m.  
Bailey Performance Center

# KSU RANKS HIGH IN MINORITY GRADUATES

Dayna Thompson Contributor

**Kennesaw State University has been ranked on "Diverse: Issues in Higher Education Magazine's" annual list of the top 100 degree-granting institutions for minority students for the fourth year in a row.**

The magazine's "Top 100 Undergraduate Degree Producers" list recognizes success among colleges and universities that award degrees to African-American, Hispanic, Asian and Native-American students.

It was said in a press release that more than 24,000 graduate and undergraduate students attend KSU and minority students account for almost 35 percent of the student population. African-American students represent 17 percent,

Hispanic students represent 7 percent and Asian students represent 4 percent. Four percent of students classify themselves as multiracial.

Dr. Jesse Benjamin, Coordinator of the African and African Diaspora Studies Program at KSU said the recognition is "great and well deserved."

When asked about the recent rankings, Dr. Ernesto Silva, Coordinator of The Latin American Studies Program at KSU said, "I am not surprised, since we are dedicated to helping minority students."

"Institutional support for the education of underrepresented groups is very important," Silva said. "KSU has a great team of dedicated professors and staff that work together with the

community to ensure students get the best education that can be had."

Dr. Yumin Ao, Lecturer of Chinese at KSU, agrees with Silva's statement regarding the success of minority students stating, "KSU offers a supportive learning environment and promotes [diversity] in ethnicity, gender, age and class," Ao said.

The "Top 100" issue collects data from the U.S. Department of Education for its annual analysis. The degree programs listed in the rankings are some of the most popular programs at KSU, and twelve KSU programs are ranked in the top 50 according to degrees by certain disciplines.

FOR A COMPLETE LISTING VISIT  
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## How KSU stacked up:

**NO. 8** For awarding education degrees to two or more races of minority students

**NO. 16** For awarding mathematics degrees to African-American students

**NO. 24** For awarding accounting degrees to African-American students

**NO. 27** For awarding English degrees to African-American students

**NO. 31** For awarding nursing degrees to two or more races of minority students

**NO. 33** For awarding education degrees to Asian-American students

**NO. 36** For awarding history degrees to two or more races of minority students

**NO. 37** For awarding communication journalism degrees to African-American students

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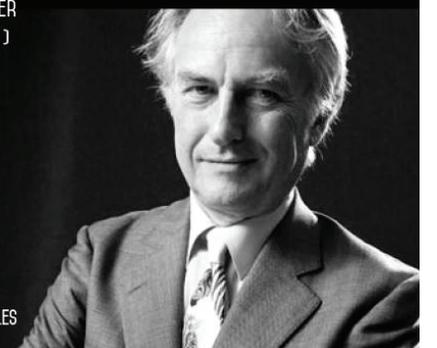
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## Q&A WITH

Dean of Student Success  
and Audience Members

EVENT TO BE FOLLOWED BY BOOK SIGNING AND SALES





Jessica Fisher Contributor

## WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE HOMELESS?

**On the night of Nov. 7th, tents set up in a rag tag fashion reminiscent of Occupy Camps of years past, were set up outside of the social science building.**

While observing the display in the Social Science Atrium, one student, who was taking part in the Sleep Out commented to me that they'd have to go home to get their sleeping bag, something they would not be able to do if they were actually homeless.

To hear students sit around and talk about Homelessness Awareness Week (HAW for short), the main topic of discussion was the effectiveness of the Sleep Out. Did it raise awareness? Was it in authentic since the people sleeping out in solidarity could technically go home if they wanted to or needed to?

Can those who are not homeless understand the severity of homelessness? What does it mean to be homeless? A public attorney presiding as 'judge' at Friday night's Moot Court emphatically stated that, "The poor and the homeless do not get a fair shake in the court or by the police."

Participants in HAW's Sleep Out not only could go home, but were also able to bring things from home; tents, sleeping bags, blankets, pillows, etc.

The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) reports that 58,000 students across the country are homeless.

The Campus Awareness, Resource & Empowerment (C.A.R.E.) Center is the department on campus that is responsible for organizing HAW each year. They partner with organizations such as Family Promise of Cobb County, Must

Ministries and The Center for Family Resources. All three organization are located in Cobb County and do work to help people who are homeless.

For all the organizations in Cobb County that stand to help homeless people in the area, there is one group these organizations may not be helping. If you are Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual or Transgender (LGBT), there is only one place in the state, in Atlanta to be exact, where you will be advised to go.

While the Walk Home event took place on the campus green, the Moot Court took place in the Social Science building and the Memorial Vigil & Service took place at the Legacy Gazebo, but there may be one HAW event, that even if seem, may not have been understood.

The GLBTIQ (Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender, Intersex and Questioning) Student Retention Services office partnered this year with the C.A.R.E. Center to present for the first time, the severe case of LGBT homelessness. GLBTIQ Student Retention Services Program Coordinator Jessica Duvall had this to say about the inaugural effort, "This year was the first year we were able to include an LGBTQ perspective into the events and now having done so the next step is to expand the conversations. But in order to do that, we need to first raise awareness to the fact that LGBTQ youth are disproportionately impacted by homelessness."

The display included 1,000 rainbow flags placed out on the Student Center Terrace. Each flag represented 14 homeless LGBT youth in the United States at any given time.

Duvall addressed how even our view of homelessness has

been molded into a stereotype that forces many people out of the frame:

"Too often, I feel, we have this image ingrained on us of an old man living in a box on the streets as the sole image of homelessness. While, unfortunately, this image is accurate of many people's experience, it also ignores a myriad of demographics that are disproportionately impacted by homelessness and the ways they cope."

The reality of homelessness is not static, nor one dimensional, "This static image ignores those who may be couch-surfing or living in their cars. It also ignores the number of homeless unattended youth as well as families that experience periods of homelessness."

Duvall noted that despite what happens off campus, if you are a student at KSU, you have resources and options, "In terms of accessing services, the KSU Care Center is an excellent resource for students in need. The C.A.R.E. Center can provide students with direct services and/or connect them with outside organizations as needed."

Duvall names Lost-n-Found Youth as the organization eluded to earlier where homeless LGBT youth (those 26 and younger) can go.

The C.A.R.E. Center is also raising funds for a HAW scholarship. According to the HAW website, the money raised for the scholarship goes towards helping students who are homeless, ... "achieve their educational goals and to provide resources such as scholarships, housing, meal plans, etc."



Owl Yak is a compilation of The Sentinel's favorite student comments from the anonymous Yik Yak app. Check each week to see if you made it (Just don't tell anyone!)

**"My GPA's funeral will be tomorrow at 9 a.m."**

**"It's like my morning classes occur during winter and my afternoon ones in the summer. Silly weather."**

**"Commons entrance lady, you brighten my day."**

**"Not sure if I'm sick or this classroom really is 90 degrees."**

**"This guy is using Wikipedia to teach this class ... My type of teacher."**

**"Guy in East Deck laying in his jeep playing Pokemon on his DS. Keep doing you kid."**

**"Georgia weather is why I have trust issues."**

**"To the dude walking around campus in a kilt, you do you."**



Ashli Howell Staff Writer

# FED'S LAST DANCE WITH MARY-JANE

**Republicans, who took control of the Senate this election cycle, aren't the only ones celebrating.** Marijuana smokers in Alaska, Oregon, and the District of Columbia are celebrating too. That's because they joined Washington and Colorado and passed measures to legalize the recreational use of marijuana. Now, marijuana use is only completely illegal in 23 states. That's right, over half of the states have legalized marijuana use in some form or decriminalized certain amounts of possession.

Over the past few years American's attitudes and opinions about marijuana use have been rapidly changing. According to the Pew Research Center, in 1969 only 12 percent of American's were in favor of legalizing marijuana. Just so everyone is clear, 1969 was the year that Woodstock attracted nearly 500,000 rock-n-roll fans for a "weekend in

the country" and 9 in 10 of those in attendance smoked marijuana. Today, according to the Pew Research Center, 52 percent of Americans are in favor of legalization and 76 percent of Americans oppose jail time for those convicted of minor possessions. Even more incredible, 7 in 10 Americans believe the legal substance, alcohol, is more harmful to a person's health than marijuana.

While I fully (and excitedly) support the legalization movement, what I find more important are the implications the legalization movement has on the War on Drugs. In 2012, according to FBI data, a person in America was arrested for possession of marijuana alone every 48 seconds and marijuana offenses accounted for nearly half of all drug arrests. With many violent crimes unsolved, according to FBI data only 40 percent of forcible rapes, 28 percent of robberies, 62.5 percent of murder cases, and 56

percent of aggravated assaults, it might be time to regulate America's most profitable and illicit cash crop and allocate the slim law enforcement resources to solving those crimes instead of going after petty possession of marijuana.

Harsh consequences accompany those caught up in the justice system for mere possession of the drug. For college students charged with possession or sale of a controlled substance, it leads to loss of financial aid for one year for the first offense, two years for the second, and indefinite loss of financial aid for the third offense. Under the Higher Education Act (HEA) provisions, over 200,000 college students lose financial aid eligibility due to drug related offenses. It is important to note that there are no such financial aid penalties under the HEA for students convicted of higher crimes like robbery, rape, or murder. I don't know about you, but that seems

ridiculous to me.

Marijuana is still illegal under federal law; state law cannot change that. However, the rapidly changing American opinion about the legalization of marijuana in Colorado, Washington, Alaska, Oregon, and the District Columbia will put, according to Illya Somin of the Washington Post, "further pressure on the federal government to cut back on its own War on Drugs, and possibly repeal the federal law criminalizing the sale and distribution of marijuana."

Georgia may need marijuana law reform more than any other state. We have some of the harshest marijuana laws in the nation and, according to an ACLU study; the laws are disproportionately affecting African-Americans. According to the study, Whites and Blacks use marijuana and virtually identical rates, but Blacks are nearly four times as likely to be arrested for marijuana

possession. There have been efforts to legalize a form of medical marijuana for certain medical conditions, like cancer, in the State of Georgia. While the bill, named Haliiegh's Hope Act, had almost unanimous support in both state chambers, the bill later died due to a political standoff. With only three in 10 Republicans supporting the legalization of marijuana, according to the Pew Research Center, Georgia will not likely have any form of marijuana possession legalized or decriminalized in the near future. With almost 22 percent of college students taking it up, perhaps, if ballot initiatives like the ones in Alaska and Oregon were added to our own ballot, voter turnout for college-aged students in Georgia, about 10 percent, wouldn't be one of the lowest in the nation.

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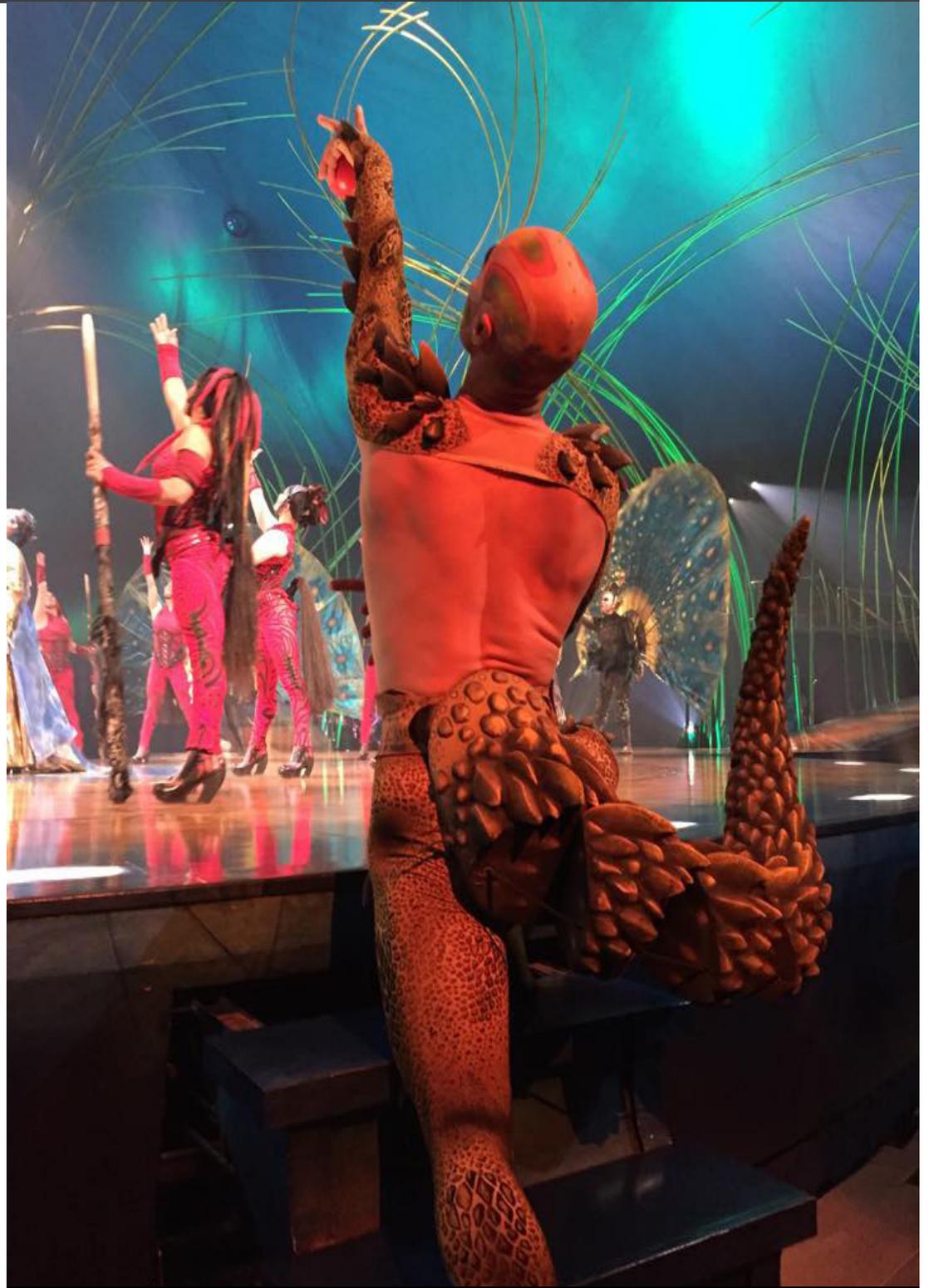
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# CIRQUE DU SOLEIL AMALUNA



In true Cirque Du Soleil form, there were a variety of outlandish costumes.

Courtesy of Scott Bagwill



Many of the set pieces of the show focused on the theme of rebirth.

Scott Bagwill Contributor

**Cirque Du Soleil is known for its amazing productions that captivate audiences all around the world.** Every couple of years Cirque comes out with a new production, and one of the newest ones is Amaluna, currently playing at Atlantic Station through the end of the month.

Amaluna is a show that invites the audience to a mysterious island governed by Goddesses and guided by the cycles of the moon. Their queen,

Prospera, directs her daughter's coming-of-age ceremony in a rite that honors femininity, renewal, rebirth and balance, which marks the passing of these insights and values from one generation to the next. In the wake of a storm caused by Prospera, a group of young men lands on the island, triggering an epic, emotional story of love between Prospera's daughter and a brave young suitor. But theirs is a love that will be put to the test. The couple must face

numerous demanding trials and overcome daunting setbacks before they can achieve mutual trust, faith and harmony. The show is also loosely based on "The Tempest," a Shakespeare play about tragedy, comedy and romance.

This is the first production by Cirque that features a primarily female cast. The show has a 70 percent female cast and 30 percent male.

When asked what she thought of the cast being

mainly female Erica Johnson, 42, of Woodstock said, "It empowers women, it allows young girls to think that no matter what is in their way they can do whatever they set their hearts to."

The show will captivate you and take you on an adventure of mystery and enchantment. The acts they have in the show are absolutely spellbinding. Where it is the silk artists or the water bowl acrobat, you will find something that you will enjoy. So take a leap of faith and

go see Amaluna.

The show runs through Sunday, Nov. 30. With shows Tuesday through Sunday each week under the Grand Chapiteau at Atlantic Station. Ticket prices start at just \$35 with student discounts on select shows. To purchase tickets go to [www.cirquedusoleil.com](http://www.cirquedusoleil.com) or the box office at Atlantic Station.

# ADOPTION MONTH:

## adoptees share their stories

Anna Streetman Staff Writer

**In celebration of Adoption Awareness Month and to help bring awareness to the issue, The Sentinel interviewed other adopted Kennesaw State students who were open to share their stories**

**on adoption.** Everyone's story is different, and everyone's story is special.

Stephanie, a 20-year-old

nursing student, and her biological sister lived with their biological mother until Stephanie was 12. The biological father left when she was young, and she would only see him about once a year. Stephanie was put into the foster care system in March 2008, but lived with a family friend before she and her sister

were put into the system. Stephanie's biological mother knew she could no longer take care of her daughters, which is why they lived with a family friend. She was adopted from foster care when she was 14.

Stephanie describes the day she went into the foster care system as one of the toughest days of her life.

"From going to everything you know: your family, your friends, everything, to someone at court saying your mother's parental rights are terminated," Stephanie said. "It was heartbreaking. I was so scared. I had heard stories about kids who go into foster care, and they weren't good. Even though my life wasn't great before foster care, and abuse was present, I was still terrified."

The first day she went into her new foster home, Stephanie said she "lost it" and cried on her bed for hours. Her sister was younger and wasn't entirely sure what was going on. Stephanie said there was no abuse.

"Living there was not horrible, but I definitely did not want to stay there,"

Stephanie said. She communicated with the family friend she has formerly lived with on Myspace.com, expressing her desire to return to them.

"They were all I knew, aside from my biological mother," Stephanie said.

One day, the mother in the foster house decided she was done with them, for

Stephanie's sister had been acting out a lot. She and her sister left and they went to a new family, a young couple in their mid-twenties. They stayed there for nine months and Stephanie said she "loved being there." Although she liked them, the couple was only 10-15 years older than she was. The small difference in age made it hard for Stephanie to really think of them as "mom and dad." Things

fell through with this couple and she moved in with the family that eventually adopted her.

Unfortunately, despite the efforts of the foster care system to keep them together,

Stephanie's younger sister did not stay with her. Her younger sister did not get along well with the other younger sister of the household. Stephanie's sister was very mean to the girl. Because they needed to protect their own first, Stephanie's sister was moved to another family. She still talks to her younger sister every now and then, but sometimes finds it difficult.

"She cannot let go of the past and I feel like it drags me down. Therefore, I only talk to her every now and then," Stephanie said. Stephanie also has an older sister, but she moved out when she was 16.

Months passed with this family and everything was fine, so the family decided to adopt her. She was 14 and finally out of the foster care system.

When asked if she would ever want to see her biological family again, Stephanie said she has mixed feelings.

"I have moved on with my life after being adopted. I decided I would probably never want to speak to my biological family," she said. "However, there are many times I want to. But I am afraid as to how it would turn out. Opening a door like that is a huge step,"

Stephanie said being adopted has definitely made her feel different. There's the most basic difference, which



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is how she looks compared to the rest of the family. The family that adopted her has two blue-eyed, blonde-haired girls. Stephanie is half Mexican, with a different skin tone, dark brown hair, and brown eyes.

"Whenever we met people, they would never believe my sisters and I were sisters," Stephanie said. "But, we kind of make it funny, so it's not that bad."

Then there's the deeper difference, which involved going into a home that one doesn't know anything about. Stephanie's parents have always told her they would not treat her any differently.

"If you have ever been adopted you can see and feel a difference even if they don't mean to," Stephanie said. "One reason I may feel that way more so than other is because I was adopted at an older age, while many people are not."

Stephanie has nothing but positives to say of her adoptive parents. "They are great. They

took me in as one of their own, and have treated me very well. They are always so helpful and supportive," Stephanie said.

Jessica, a journalism major, also has a story to tell. Her mother and biological father split when she was young. Shortly after the split, her mother met the man who would become her adoptive father. Her mother married her adoptive father when Jessica was seven. After her mother married her now adoptive father, they called her biological father to get custody over her.

"I was always hyper aware that the man I called dad wasn't my biological father,"

Jessica said. "I always felt like I kind of owed him something. It didn't help that the dynamic was almost instantly and almost always persistently emotionally and mentally abusive. And his and my mom's relationship was not great. She divorced him when I was 14."

Her biological father died when she was in sixth grade.

Jessica never got the chance to know him or his family, which has always felt "weird" for her. "My adoptive dad always instilled in me knowing and remembering my family history. But now I feel like I've kind of lost it, because my closest immediate tie to my biological parental history is dead," Jessica said.

The last adoption story is my own. I was adopted at birth in a traditional closed adoption. Once I turned 18, I would be able to try and find my birth parents if I wanted to with the help of lawyers. I have an older sister who was also adopted in a closed adoption process. We are not biologically related.

I knew little about my birth parents. My birth mom's name was Joanna. My birth father's name was Bruce. She was going back to school and he was a carpenter. She was tall and he was medium height, had a stocky build and really curly hair. She had left me a

Paddington Bear as a gift that sat in my room for a long time. It never interested me until one special day shortly after I turned 21.

My mom sat me down one day, saying she had something to tell me about my birth parents and that it "wasn't easy for [her] to say." My mind jumped to crazy conclusions, like I'm not really adopted, they wanted to meet me, they died, etc.

But what she told me was even more unexpected. "I have pictures of them," she said. And of course, I immediately said "where?" and wanted to see them right away. I thought back to all the times I needed my mom with questions about their appearance, trying to put pictures of them together in my head. She told me to think about it for a few weeks and if I still wanted to, she would show me.

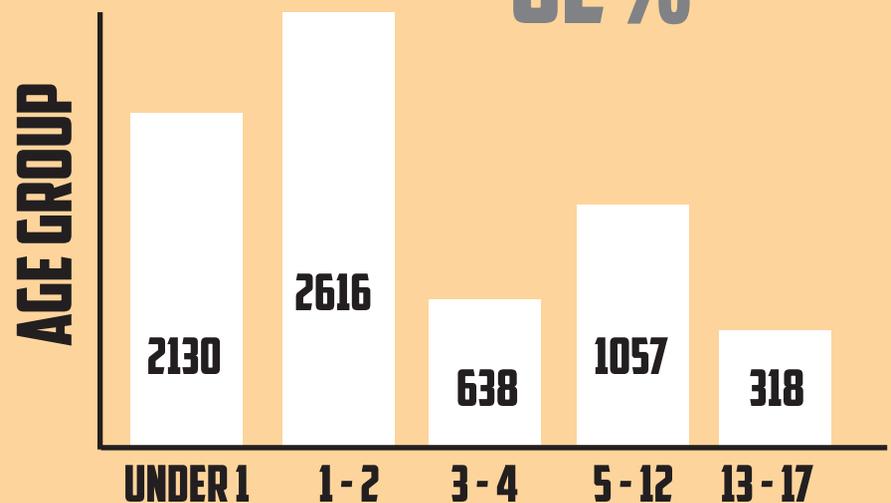
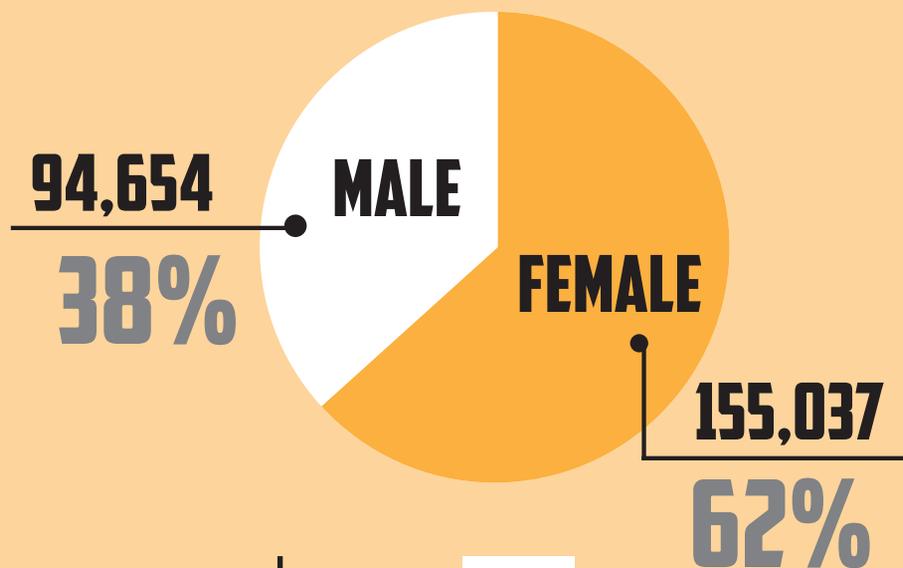
I waited a month and I still wanted to see the pictures. So

one night, I decided to look - I couldn't keep my eyes away. I had her dimples. I had his nose. I had her hair. They're both sitting in the drawer in my room at home, hidden away. I'm not allowed to tell my sister I have any pictures, because my mom doesn't have any pictures of her biological parents.

It used to be that I had to decide whether or not I wanted to know them. Now it's deciding when I want to. I always told myself that if I were to ever meet them, I wanted to be in a good place. I wanted to be grown up, well adjusted, employed in a stable career, etc. So now I am keeping that promise to myself; I am graduating college and getting a job before I meet them.

There's a stigma behind adoption. It's something that is considered strange or abnormal by a lot of people. But adoption is not taboo at all and it's time to end the stigma. Every child deserves a loving home.

# GEORGIA ADOPTION STATISTICS



# INTERSTELLAR

# REVIEW



Anne Hathaway and Matthew McConaughey are Earth's last hope as Dr. Brand and Cooper.

Courtesy of MCT Campus

Devon Zawko Staff Writer

After months of shrouding its plot in secrecy, "Interstellar" debuted in theaters Nov. 7. But did all the buildup and mystery live up

to the hype? Unequivocally, yes. Directed by Christopher Nolan and starring Matthew McConaughey, "Interstellar" is the movie of the year.

"Interstellar" isn't for the weak-minded. Those who put in the effort to understand the complicated physics and relativity jargon will be

rewarded with a compelling and exciting movie experience led by amazing special effects and explosions. Anyone unimpressed with "Gravity" should not compare these two movies simply because they are both set in space. "Interstellar" is an adventure film. The astronauts do not simply float in space but explore other planets and other space dimensions. For those who become weary of endless space scenes, there is a lot still going on back on Earth as humans deal with a dying planet. The film goes back and forth between the brave astronauts in space and their loved ones back home. Interstellar is definitely a movie that should be experienced in an IMAX theater to really capture the film's beauty.

In the movie, Cooper, played by McConaughey, names his daughter after Murphy's Law. Not because whatever bad can happen will happen, but because anything that can happen will happen. For example, an incredibly well known actor can make an unexpected and underwhelming cameo as Doctor Mann halfway through the film. With the already star-studded cast including McConaughey, Anne Hathaway and Jessica Chastain, the surprise appearance of the actor portraying Doctor Mann made it difficult to see the characters as they were, as opposed to a

screen of Hollywood starlets. It was a comical entrance to say the least and the movie is fantastic without needing any more star power.

Hathaway and McConaughey did a great job at keeping the audience's attention through a three hour, intellectually, scientifically and emotionally driven movie. Hathaway, unlike what many critics have said, did a great job playing the role of Doctor Brand. While many are not used to the typically quirky and romantic actress in a serious role, Hathaway transitioned quite well into a stern and meticulous scientist. Her character's impromptu speech on love and following one's heart was awkward and I believe is more a result of the writing than her performance.

In fact, the only thing that overshadowed the actors' performances was Hans Zimmer's score and quite literally. Zimmer's music played for almost the complete duration of the film, often times so loud as to muffle what the characters were saying.

Interstellar is definitely out of this world but also realistic enough to keep you thinking about the film and its plot long after the credits. If you're interested in preparing for the end of the world, turn off whatever zombie flick you're watching and go see "Interstellar."

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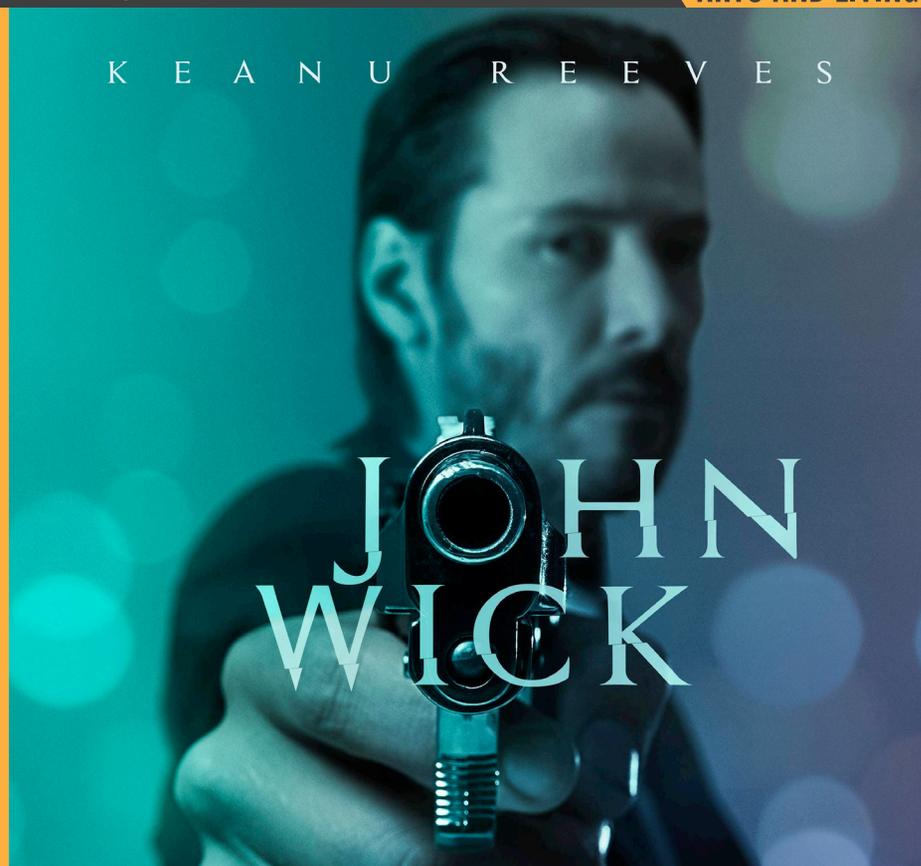


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# JOHN WICK REVIEW



Keanu Reeves plays the grounded and relatable tetular character of John Wick.

Courtesy of LionsGate

Kevin Enners Staff Writer

**Ex-hit man John Wick rekindles his lethal skill set to track down a group of gangsters that took everything from him.** Flexing his muscles, Keanu Reeves hits hard in this fast-paced thriller.

Wick comes across as an ordinary man; broken and all alone in the wake of his wife's death. Vulnerable and lost without her, Wick muddles around his empty home – a metaphor for his now vacant heart. There's not much action here because, in this case, the filmmakers allow time for people to get to know John Wick. This is not your typical beginning to an action movie and makes the movie more interesting as Reeves is able to connect to the audience. This also makes the film stand out because, even though movies similar to Wick have tried this bonding tactic, many actors put their ego first. This is a truly unique quality Keanu Reeves conveys. Reeves' emotional testimony is clear without uttering a word.

The filmmakers brilliantly interweave a sense of realism when there is a knock at the door that carries through the quiet house. Wick shuffles to the door and finds a puppy – a posthumous gift from his wife. The dog quickly finds a place in Wick's heart, giving Wick a potentially happier future. But the gateway to a brighter

life is abruptly slammed shut when the son of a Russian gangster, played by Alfie Allen, breaks into Wick's home, steals John's 69 Mustang and kills his dog. Unaware of Wick's past, the muggers flee the premises accomplishing an easy robbery – or so they think. The movie then turns into an explosive, well-choreographed montage of fight scenes that will intrigue the most hard-nose critic. Besides skillfully precise choreography, these sequences rely heavily on the actors' dexterity, balance and athleticism. As Peter Debruge, Chief International Film Critic said, "Reeves' lithe physicality enables extended sequences in which he moves athletically through an environment full of adversaries, shooting, stabbing or otherwise immobilizing them one at a time."

At first glance, the film seems to be another Hollywood rip-off with a lot of cheap thrills and a fast, loose plot but as the movie progresses, the story line develops into a well-written, twisted plot. It has compelling actors breathing life into intense action scenes. This is essential to good movies, which compensate for the predictable gimmicks. In order to grab the attention of critics, a movie must have something unique; some quality that distinguishes itself. I think the ace in the hole for Wick was the dog, Daisy.

The canine package from Wick's dead wife was a symbol of love, comfort and "better days to come"; it gave the audience

hope. The scene in which the Russian gangster, Losef, kills Daisy symbolized the end of those days and the beginning of

a war of revenge.

John Wick is a top-gear thrill-ride with not much dialogue but a ton of action. Buckle-up!

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# PUZZLES

## THEME: BALL GAMES

### ACROSS

1. Similar to but smaller than giraffe
6. OB-GYN test
9. Cry like a baby
13. Howard Hughes was one, among other things
14. Biochemistry abbr.
15. Luau greeting
16. Maker of premium electric vehicles
17. It's hot in some people?
18. Sega hedgehog
19. \*Tennis return
21. \*Game of goals
23. Yang's opposite
24. Michelin product
25. Fluffy accessory
28. \*Batting \_\_\_\_
30. A group or set of 9 or IX
35. Tolkien creatures
37. "Sixteen \_\_\_\_," song
39. Allegro or lento
40. Paper holder
41. Deserving of respect?
43. Orange peel, e.g.
44. New York's \_\_\_\_ Island
46. German female title

47. Small amount of residue
48. Like "Odyssey"
50. Doctrines
52. Sigma Alpha Epsilon
53. \*Mark left by hit by pitch
55. Degree type, pl.
57. \*Court contest
60. \*Kevin Durant's target
63. Battle royal
64. Rock in a drink
66. Equestrian's attire
68. Torn down
69. Scheduled to arrive
70. Make amends
71. Iditarod ride
72. Always, in verse
73. A gossip, Yiddish

### DOWN

1. Make a choice
2. Capital of Ukraine
3. "The Sun \_\_\_\_ Rises"
4. Tom Sawyer's aunt
5. Right-leaning character
6. Elizabeth Gilbert's "Eat, \_\_\_\_, Love"
7. Tropical American cuckoo
8. Zoroastrian
9. Coalition
10. First-class
11. Blender sound
12. Varnish ingredient
15. \*Legal blocked shot, when basketball is on its \_\_\_\_
20. Related on the mother's side
22. Miner's bounty
24. Found on a vine
25. \*Ball game of Italian origin
26. Lowest deck
27. Raspberry drupelets
29. \*Happy Gilmore's game
31. Dork
32. Middle Eastern V.I.P.'s
33. Sleeper's woe
34. \*Avoid the ball
36. Design detail
38. Sinbad's seven
42. Cuban dance
45. Showed a sign of sleepiness
49. Oahu greeting gift
51. Move sideways
54. Digression
56. Winter glider

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57. Blue hue
58. "If all \_\_\_\_ fails ..."
59. Versus want?
60. \*Drunk at the old
- ballgame
61. Very dark black
62. Windshield option
63. \_\_\_\_ Robinson
65. \*Pool tool
67. "High" drink

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# NEW-LOOK OWLS READY TO SHAKE UP A-SUN

## Men's basketball 2014-15 preview

Chris Raimondi Sports Editor

**Kennesaw State's men's basketball team will begin its first full season under head coach Jimmy Lallathin Friday Nov. 14 against Syracuse.**

Lallathin, who was promoted after serving as interim head coach since Jan. 2 earlier this year, has stressed tempo and toughness during the offseason in efforts to rebound after coming off the program's fourth straight season with less than 10 wins.

The Owls have nine returning players, three transfers, two true freshmen and one redshirt freshman. The new-look team brings a fast-paced offense this season with a smaller and more athletic roster in comparison to previous teams.

"Our pace is what's going to be different," Lallathin said. "Instead of us having to matchup with double bigs, they (other teams) are going to have to matchup with a smaller lineup. But one sub and we can completely change our look."

Key roster additions include transfer Damien Wilson and true freshmen Nick Masterson and Justin Diecker. Wilson transferred from Memphis University after he was granted a hardship waiver by the NCAA. The 6-foot-7 guard will see time playing the four position in the starting lineup, but the label is a misrepresentation, according to Lallathin.

"I could see Damien Wilson bringing up the ball up the floor just as much as you could see him running and finishing at the rim," Lallathin said. "Our numbers defensively are more important than they are offensively. It's not about 'you're a four, now that means you're a power forward.' No. We're going

to let our players make plays."

Freshmen Masterson and Diecker have earned respect in the locker room over the summer with their hard-nosed play. "Nick Masterson and Justin Diecker are two of the toughest guys on this roster," Lallathin said.

Diecker has practiced with the team after having hernia surgery and a hyperextended elbow, and Masterson is in contention for a starting position. Both freshmen will add much needed depth to the roster.

Junior center and Ivory Coast-native Willy Kouassi returns as the tallest player on roster at 6-foot-10, but he added nearly 15 pounds of muscle during the offseason, according to Lallathin. Kouassi enters his second season with the Owls after transferring from Auburn with his countryman Bernard Morena, who begins his sophomore campaign this season.

Kouassi stands as the only true center on the Owls' roster and hopes his new frame will translate to more rebounds after failing to place in the top-20 rebounders in the A-Sun last season.

Veteran guard Delbert Love returns for his senior season, but he will see time in a different role with the added depth. Love finished as KSU's leading scorer and 18th in the A-Sun in scoring, averaging 12.6 points a game last season. However, Love is not expected to be the Owls' leading scorer this season.

"He's going to run a little more point [guard] for us this season," Lallathin said. "He's not going to score the way he did

last year, but he's going to be a better player than he was last year. What I hope to see is a more balanced group. He might not score as much, but his numbers will be higher, in terms of his percentages."

Lallathin referenced the rosters' depth helping shouldering the load on offense and allowing the team's guards in Love and Yonel Brown to spread the ball. "Playing under Coach L I've been more comfortable and playing to my strengths," Brown said.

Junior forwards Orlando Coleman and Nigel Pruitt were named team captains, along with Love and Brown, and expect to build on last year's performance which saw both players finish second and third, respectively, in scoring for the team behind Love. "I've just been trying to better myself for the team really," Coleman said. "I want to win. I feel like if I grind and work hard, I can give us a chance to win."

Lallathin also brought in new faces on his coaching staff this offseason. His first hires include associate head coach David Rivers, assistant coaches Paul O'Connor and Jon Cremins and graduate assistant Drew McGhee who was injured last year in an exhibition game and was forced to sit out his final year of eligibility.

With McGhee just one year removed from being a player, he offers a new perspective to the coaching staff to bring cohesiveness between coaches and players off the court. "He keeps me in the know," Lallathin said. "In the terms of 'this is what the players are thinking.'"

The Owls were picked to finish sixth out of eight teams



**Yonel Brown, junior, was named a team captain this offseason**

Matt Boggs | The Sentinel

in the in the preseason coaches' poll for the Atlantic Sun Conference. However, the A-Sun now has just eight teams with the departure of last season's conference champions Mercer, as well as East Tennessee State, moving to the Southern Conference. Five of last year's top-10 A-Sun scorers and eight of last year's top-10 rebounders have graduated or transferred

from the conference, leaving the door open for new stars to rise.

KSU travels to Syracuse to play the Orange in the Carrier Dome at 7 p.m. Friday Nov. 14 and return to Kennesaw Nov. 26 for the home opener against Samford at 2 p.m.

## BOTH SIDES OF SNOWDEN

Julien Benjamin Staff Writer



Nic Snowden played quarterback in high school, but he now plays defensive back for the Owls.

Courtesy of KSUOwls.com

**Kennesaw State football player Nic Snowden won two Georgia Independent School Association state championships at Loganville Christian Academy as a quarterback.** He amassed over 2,500 all-purpose yards and 32 total touchdowns over those two seasons. Snowden, however, doesn't play quarterback for the Owls. He is now learning to bat-down passes instead of throw them, as a defensive back.

He amassed over 2,500 all-purpose yards and 32 total touchdowns over those two seasons. Snowden, however, doesn't play quarterback for the Owls. He is now learning to bat-down passes instead of throw them, as a defensive back.

"It's been different and challenging," Snowden said. Despite his success as a quarterback, Snowden was not recruited for the position at KSU. He admits to feeling disappointed at the time. "I mean, yeah, obviously," Snowden said. "But I just looked at it as an opportunity to get to play [college football]. If someone would give me the opportunity, no matter what position, I was open to play."

He has quickly adjusted to his new job on the other side of the ball. "I came in not foreign to defense," Snowden said. "I played a little DB on the side in high school." Despite this, the transition to a defender has not

come without a learning curve for Snowden. "Biggest change has been learning technique, the ins and outs of cornerback, and how they wanted [me] to do it."

Snowden had a variety of colleges who were pursuing him out of high school, including some Ivy League schools, and Division III member Berry College. But he ultimately chose KSU, feeling that it was the best fit for him and his family. "Me and my coach came up here, started talking to coach [Bohannon], and that's how things got going from here," Snowden said.

With football games just under a year away, Snowden feels confident in his ability to compete. "The biggest area of improvement for me is just trying to work on the little things they teach us to do," Snowden said. "It's been a process, and I'm not perfect at it at all." He credits defensive back coach Chris Bland for his improvement. "Coach Bland cares for us, and he's teaching us right."

While games that count are still off in the future, the scrimmage that was played

just last month has Snowden excited. "The scrimmage was fun. We got a lot of good reps, and the audience got a feel of what the vibe is going to be like," Snowden said.

Looking towards the future, the student body will have to be involved and enthusiastic about the team, and Snowden feels that they are ready. "I know the student body doesn't really know the team that well, hasn't seen the team in action, but they're definitely very much excited. I'm definitely excited. It's going to be a long process, it has been so far," Snowden said.

"Being patient, realizing that it's going to take time, and when we get there, it's all going to be worth it," Snowden said of staying motivated. "This is a blessing and an opportunity to lay the foundation for the next 50 years of Kennesaw State football."

**"NO MATTER WHAT POSITION, I WAS OPEN TO PLAY."**

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With Veteran's day among us, The Sentinel interviewed two of Kennesaw State's women's basketball team's toughest players. Senior Guards Kristina Wells and Bria Young are not only seniors, but the two have also been a part of the women's basketball program their whole careers. Below, they highlight a few steps along the way of their journey.

Taylor Blackmon Staff Writer

## BRIA YOUNG SENIOR - #15

# SENIORS BATTLE-TESTED

## KRISTINA WELLS SENIOR - #10

**Q** Toughest battles on and off the court?

**A**

Keeping my confidence high. If I have an off game or an off day shooting just really telling myself the next game I got it. Off the court has just been juggling school with basketball. We travel a lot in season. I'm an exercise science major so my classes are hard. I have a lot of homework, and I have to study a lot.

**Q** Most powerful weapon?

**A**

My three point shot. When I'm ready and my release is quick, when I get my mind on it, and when I get my feet set it's like clockwork.

**Q** Expectations for yourself and teammates and team as a whole?

**A**

For myself I think I plan on having a really good year and completely accepting my role on the team. I definitely want to win. I think we will win. Fitting myself in the puzzle in whatever way I fit. We haven't had winning season before, and I think this is going to be our year.

**Q** Toughest battles on and off the court?

**A**

On the court, knowing your teammates well and making sure you're always talking. Some days you have bad days, and you still have to be the one to speak up and pick everybody's energy up, even when your energy is down. Off the court, it's like Bria said. It is school, traveling, and being gone so much. Missing school is the hardest part.

**Q** Most powerful weapon?

**A**

One dribble right then go to the left and get all the way to the basket. When I go 100% I can't be stopped at that move.

**Q** Expectations for yourself and teammates and team as a whole?

**A**

For myself, it's giving it all I have. Just going out and playing my best and every single game like it's my last because well it is my last, but just doing everything I'm supposed to do. For the team: win. Everybody wants to win. We have a whole different team. This is the best team I've had for four years so I think we're able to bring home a ring.



Matt Boggs | The Sentinel

With an impressive 108-52 blowout against the Emory Lady Eagles, the Lady Owls were well prepared for Saturday's game. Junior college transfer, Karly Frye, ran the point guard position. Not only did she spread the floor and get the team into an offense, she also contributed 11 points and 4 assists. As a whole, the Lady Owls looked like a completely different team out on the court compared to last season.



## Soccer Falls in Conference Championship Game

Danielle Gray, redshirt-sophomore, fights off FGCU's Tabby Tindell in the A-Sun championship game.

Courtesy of KSUOwls.com

# GOLDEN RUN COMES UP SHORT

Chris Raimondi Sports Editor

**The Kennesaw State soccer team's hopes of pulling off the upset over Florida Gulf Coast University in the Atlantic Sun Conference championship fell short on Sunday with a 3-1 defeat in rainy Fort Myers, Florida.**

"Always tough to lose a game like that," KSU head coach Rob King said. "We have been playing well coming into the game. I don't think it was our best performance, but we fought very hard."

The Owls had a tough time slowing down A-Sun leading scorer Tabby Tindell all game as she scored two goals and one assist to go along with nine shots and four on goal for the Eagles. Less than 18 minutes into the first period, Tindell found the back of the net after racing past the Owls' defense and finding a through ball played by Shannen Wacker.

Tindell notched her second goal of the game 20 minutes later by chipping KSU goal keeper Olivia Sturdivant to extend the Eagles' lead to 2-0. The Owls only managed to take three shots in the first half and went into halftime down by two.

Coming out for the second half the Owls play improved along with the weather. KSU took four shots in the second half and Sturdivant put together a player-of-the-match effort with two big saves to keep the contest close.

Maggie Gaughan cut the deficit in half with a goal in the 72nd minute with the assist coming from Iyani Hughes off of a cross. The Owls searched for an equalizer but had no luck in finding the back of the net a second time. Tindell, instead, would collect her one assist of the match after Wacker finished an easy opportunity in the box

in the 83rd minute.

The Eagles won the game and moved on to the NCAA tournament. KSU took home somewhat of a silver lining as Hughes, Gaughan and Danielle Gray were named to the A-Sun championship team.

The Owls entered the tournament with some momentum, winning their final game of the season just to make the tournament, but were still considered a huge underdog as the six seed. KSU knocked off a three seeded Jacksonville squad in the first round by a score of 5-0 and followed that performance with a double overtime 1-0 win over Lipscomb in the semifinals.

"It was really great to finally prove what kind of team we actually are," Gray said. "We haven't been playing our best throughout the entire season. We came in as a six seed, so we were the last team to make it, but I think we proved to everybody that we belong in this tournament and there was a reason that we were in the finals."

Four seniors who played a major role in the Owls' run to the championship leave the team in Julia Nelson, Alma Gardarsdottir, Nicole Calder and Hughes.

"Our seniors have been fantastic," King said. "Great leadership on and off the field. They've been a very good class to have."

King indicated at the team's future and what effect the championship run could have on his young roster.

"The future looks very promising for this group," King said. "Sixteen of 20 (on KSU) are freshmen and sophomores. They understand college soccer now. Being here, they have seen the best teams."

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