

JCJC Faces Budget Cuts

By: Stacey Williams
News Editor



Many college vehicles are staying parked because of recent budget cuts at JCJC. Photo by Joseph Gibbons

The country has hit hard times. With economic stimulus packages being banded about, many once successful stores closing left and right, and jobs being lost daily, it is no wonder that colleges are suffering as well.

Mississippi community colleges, on average, get 60 percent of their funding from state and local sources. Therefore, when the state is facing hard times, so are the colleges.

JCJC has had to take many cuts this past year to deal with the affects of the ailing economy.

"We've suspended travel for this year, some expenditures relating to budget for commodities and equipment," said President Jesse Smith. "We have also reduced our marketing budget tremendously."

Because of the travel budget cuts, several student organizations, such as the Livestock Judging Team and the Philosophy Club, were unable to take trips that had been scheduled. Other trips have been significantly streamlined including the Concert Choir's spring break tour.

The \$17 million in new construction and renovations, and the plans for a new liberal

arts center, have also been put on hold.

The school is also working to make sure that all students' scholarships are being put to better use, after it was discovered that students were getting duplicated scholarship money.

"We will be streamlining better use of the scholarship monies," said Smith. "The scholarships will be more efficient in how the college will manage them."

Many jobs are also being re-evaluated on campus. The expected result is to reduce the overall number of employees.

"We have not replaced several positions that have been vacated just for naturalization," said Smith. "Next year, anyone that retires, we're not going to replace them. Some faculty will retire and come back part-time."

Many unpaid dues at the college were also a major

problem.

"We had the highest rate of uncollected tuition of students than ever before," said Smith. "So, unfortunately we had to tighten up. Students must pay their bills before they register unless there are extenuating circumstances."

Smith's goal for next year is to reduce overall budget expenditures. This year there has been a five percent cut.

"Our goal is to present to the board a budget ten percent leaner than last year," Smith said. "What we're trying to do, by these budget cuts, is to keep tuition as low as possible."

Mississippi recently received a \$5 billion budget to spend on education, among other things. A decision on how to use that money has not yet been reached.

"If the budget appropriated from state legislature is less than there will be more cuts to come," Smith said.

Blackwell

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I agree with you Ashley!

As most students know, Jim Kelly is usually hard at work on campus as vice president of academic affairs, but in his spare time, he is quite the Johnny Cash fan.

"My favorite song is 'Folsom Prison Blues' by Johnny Cash because my dad used to listen to that record when I was five years old and it reminds me of those times," Kelly said.

We were also curious to find as to why Mr. Kelly was so fond of Johnny Cash.

"Johnny's deep voice is the poetry of Americana, in my opinion," he said.

There are so many songs out

there to make us feel happy, sad, angry or all of these emotions at once.

These were just a few different people and their opinions.

My favorite song happens to be 'Hey Jude' by the Beatles. Every time I hear it, no matter how I feel or where I am at, it makes me feel like dancing!

However, don't worry; I won't make any of you endure my lack of coordination.

Names

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In April, "The Bachelor" Andrew Firestone and his wife Luana Bazilovic are having their

first also.

In March, "ER" star Parminder Nagra and her husband photographer James Stenson are expecting along with "Spiderman" star Toby Maguire and his wife Jennifer.

In June, "Gossip Girl's" Kelly Rutherford and her husband Daniel Giersch are expecting their

first child.

With so many celebrities expecting a child or creating crazy baby names, the baby boom is definitely a popular trend among them.

I don't know about you, but I wouldn't want my mommy and daddy to name me something like Fifi Trixibelle.

Grades

from page 7

for the notes you missed while you were sleeping off the night before.

4. Make good decisions. If you know you can go out and make yourself go home at a reasonable hour, then by all means, have a good time.

However, you should know what your limits are before you go anywhere.

5. Be responsible. When you go out, you should always have a designated driver.

If you do not drink, then offer to be the DD, you could save a friend's life.

Also, take turns with friends when choosing the DD. If you know you need to get up in the morning for class no matter what, then take one for the team.

When you do not drink, there is more of a chance you will just be tired the next day, not hung over.

Just remember, be a responsible adult and keep a clear head.

If you use these suggestions in the right way, you can have an eventful college career with good grades and a great future ahead of you!

Have a great time and happy outings!

JC holds first Mardi Gras ball

From Special Reports

On February 7, Jones County Junior College hosted its first Mardi Gras Ball in the C.L. Neil Student Center. The ball was a fundraiser for the Anna Knight Memorial Scholarship, established in 2008, to be awarded to a nursing or education major transferring to a senior college.

Several clubs sponsored the event, including the Multi-Cultural Student Association, the Non-Traditional Student Association, the Philosophy Club, the English Honor Society, and the Creative Writing Club. Club sponsors and student volunteers worked on decorating the banquet hall with Mardi Gras finery provided by faculty, staff, students and volunteers.

"It was a blast," MCSO club sponsor Tammy Townsend said. "I've never seen a group of students and faculty have more fun. It would be hard to say which group, students, faculty, or staff, had the best time. Our faculty and staff can dance!"

Sponsoring a Mardi Gras Ball was a first for most of the clubs.

"I was very nervous because this was the first event of this kind," MCSO co-sponsor Mrs. Rochelle Dahmer said. "I was very nervous because this was the first event of this kind. We didn't really know what to expect, but it exceeded our expectations."

Students definitely had a good time.

"I really enjoyed the dance," said Sandra Carpenter, NTSA president. "It was great to see administrators and faculty interact with students in a relaxed environment. This was a great way to have fun and raise money to help students."

Several generous donors provided food for the evening's festivities. Donors included Linda Howard, the Alice Cafe, Coca-Cola of Laurel, the Physical Therapy Clinic of Columbia and the sponsoring clubs.

"The first Mardi Gras Ball was an amazing success," Diane Williams, sponsor of the NTSO,



King and Queen of the Mardi Gras Ball, John Taylor and Alaina Clapp. Photo by Tammy Townsend.

said. "Students of all ages danced the night away for a good cause, student scholarships. Attendees had so much fun. We look forward to next year's ball."

Attendees elected Alaina Clapp and John Taylor as JCJC Mardi Gras king and queen for 2009. The special guest of honor was Florence Blaylock, Anna Knight's niece.

Anyone interested in contributing to the Anna Knight Scholarship may do so through the JCJC Foundation.

Henry

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Many may wonder why any person would go through this kind of stress. Henry admitted that she, too, sometimes loses focus and wonders why she is putting herself through this. Then, she refocuses on her priorities.

"I always look to the future and how my life will be so much better for earning my degree,"

Henry said. "I tell myself 'this too shall pass' and when I feel like giving up, I think about how it will be over soon enough."

This strong will and determination has brought her a long way already.

It is obvious that Henry has big plans for her future. Her love for inventing has helped her to choose an amazing, interesting career choice.

Henry said that this career path requires a curious, driven person who enjoys problem solving.

"You(must) have the desire to know the whens, wheres, hows, and whys of the world around you," she said.

Henry believes that another important characteristic needed is a good imagination. By exhibiting these characteristics, many can gather that in takes a special person to be an engineer. She said that her career choice is special to her because it suits her character and personality. After all, in Henry's words, "Engineering does make the world go round in a sense."

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