Cindy Boudreaux Restores 40 Years of Ballerina Tradition

Cindy Boudreaux puts the finishing touch on JSU Head Ballerina, Leslie Gossett’s uniform.

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Class of ’53 Reunion
Don Salls Honored
Hal Hayes New Book Now Available
Fuller Named Athletic Director
Athletic Hall of Fame
Tim and Terri Abel

Jacksonville seamstress recently restored more than 40 years of Ballerina fashion tradition by creating new outfits that are replicas of a 1966 original. Cindy Garrett Boudreaux spent four months making the 35 uniforms that consist of skirt and vest. They will be worn at all home games and the Homecoming halftime show.

The self-taught seamstress said it was the largest project she has ever attempted. It required 85 yards of red corduroy and 60 yards of white trigger cloth.

“My initial reaction to making the uniforms from scratch was, ‘Thirty-five of anything — no way!’ My husband, Charles, said it was crazy to take on such a load.

“I turned my dining room into a workroom, created a pattern from an old uniform, and got to work. I found that it takes about four hours to make one uniform. So, I set a goal of making one a day, and I worked on days when I had time.

“I had to cut and sew each uniform one at a time. With so many different sizes, it would have been confusing to cut them all out at once. As a result, my dining room table stayed covered with fabric and pattern pieces for months.”

Ballerina two or three times: first to take measurements, then do the fittings, and finally to check the finished product or make adjustments.

“I did this only to help the Ballerinas — I do not sew for the public,” she said. “Learning to sew was a necessity at one time. And I also used to do all of the color guard and band uniforms for my son’s high school band.”

Mr. and Mrs. Boudreaux moved to Jacksonville about five years ago. Mrs. Boudreaux had marched in the Talladega High School band as a youngster and had attended JSU for about two years, where she fell in love with the Southerners. She was a student at JSU from 1972 to 1974 and lived at the International House two years.

“In the summer of 1999, I went to the band office to buy tickets for Spirit, the drum and bugle corps. I was introduced to the band director, Ken Bodiford, and found out that there were a lot of kids having trouble with their uniforms — even the largest uniforms did not fit them, especially the jackets.

“So Ken ordered the material to match the uniforms, and I took the jackets home and made insets in the back of them. I did this for about 12 uniforms and did other alterations as well. I also altered uniforms for the girl’s basketball team, all on a voluntary basis.

“The volunteer work is what led the Southerners to ask if I’d help with the Ballerina project. At first I didn’t see how I could do it, but I am a very organized person — I set myself a schedule and stuck with it.”

“They brought me a uniform from the 1960’s and said, ‘This is what we want to do.’ The skirt is a double full circle, but it is not gathered onto a waistband — it has to fit to a waistband. The problem was to design something that full that would fit.”

Mrs. Boudreaux began looking for a solution: how to best duplicate that particular design. The outfit is unusual in that the extra fullness the skirt’s double circle creates allows greater freedom of movement when the Ballerinas do their famous kick routines.

A fan of JSU drama productions, Mrs. Boudreaux turned to JSU Designer/Costumer Freddy Clements for a little advice. Clements showed Mrs. Boudreaux the trick behind a circular ‘Ginger Rogers’ style skirt he made several years ago.

The Ballerinas originally nicknamed the uniform “the Santa outfit.” Mrs. Boudreaux made the outfits to last — she predicts they can hold up well for five years or longer.

– BY AL HARRIS

Looking for upcoming alumni events?
Visit our website for detailed listing of upcoming events.
www.jsu.edu/alumni
And the Winners are...

**ALUMNUS OF THE YEAR: Millard Vernon Young, Jr. ’57 Piedmont, AL**

Mr. Young began his career in the petroleum industry in 1969. Past President of Young Oil, Inc. he currently serves as its Chief Executive Officer. Young Oil operates Grub Mart convenience stores and has a wholesale division that supplies petroleum products to various businesses in Alabama. He and his company have supported JSU in many ways, including sponsoring the JSU computerized sign at Pete Mathews Coliseum, sponsoring golf tournaments each year to benefit the golf team, assisting in chartering buses for fans to attend JSU away football games, serving as a corporate sponsor for JSU athletics and encouraging other businesses to help provide scholarships to JSU. He has established a JSU scholarship fund in memory of his own parents. Mr. Young has held antique automobile shows at his home, raising money to benefit the JSU International House. Mr. Young is currently a member of the JSU Foundation Board and was a charter member of the JSU Honorary Coaches Club, now known as the Gamecock Club. In 1972, his family built the Gamecock Motel here in Jacksonville. He and his wife, Ann, have four children and eight grandchildren.

**ALUMNA OF THE YEAR: Ann Rainey Hastings ’81 Newman, GA**

Mrs. Hastings has dedicated her life and nursing career to helping the underprivileged in Georgia. A nurse practitioner with a nonprofit organization that has 3 clinics in rural West Georgia, Franklin Primary Care Clinic, she treats as many as 60 or more people a day. The clinic offers the people of Heard County and surrounding areas quality, low-cost medical care. No patient is turned away due to inability to pay. She is also a co-founder of a Women’s Violence Group in Heard County, Georgia, which led to the establishment of the first women’s shelter in the county. Mrs. Hastings was chosen the 1998 Georgia Nursing Association Nurse of the Year for District 7 and competed for State Nurse of the Year. She served as a clinical instructor at JSU from 1987 through 1992 and was a registered nurse at Regional Medical Center from 1981 to 1986. She also holds a Master of Science Degree in Nursing from UAB. Mrs. Hastings met and married her husband, Allen, while at JSU and they have a seventeen year old son, Trent.

**YOUNG ALUMNUS OF THE YEAR: Don C. Killingsworth, Jr. ’99/’01 Jacksonville, AL**

Mr. Killingsworth is the Coordinator of Academic Advisement at JSU. He advises academically-challenged students, coordinates advisement for the University, offers workshops in advising for faculty and staff, and selects, recruits and trains faculty mentors for Summer Orientation. Prior to this, he was an associate consultant with American College Testing in Atlanta. While at JSU, he served as a peer counselor/coordinator; Controller of the Student Government Association; President of the Student Government Association; Freshman Forum Advisor, and graduate assistant in the Office of Student Activities. He has been honored with the William J. Brennan National Order of Omega Fellowship, appears in Who's Who Among American Colleges and Universities, received an Orientation Leadership Award, served on the Higher Education Partnership Board of Directors and was also a STARS Coordinator with the Higher Education Partnership.

**MILITARY ALUMNUS OF THE YEAR: Colonel Luke S. Green ’78 Huntsville, AL**

Colonel Green recently relocated to Ft. Sam Houston, TX, where he is assigned as the G3 of the 5th US Army. Prior to this assignment, he was the Garrison Commander at Ft. Lewis, WA. He began his career at Ft Bragg, NC in 1978 with the 504th Parachute Infantry Regiment. He has served in various command and general staff positions both stateside and overseas. Col. Green is a graduate of the Infantry Officer Basic and Advanced Courses, Airborne, Ranger, Jumpmaster and Air Assault Courses. He is also a graduate of the Command and General Staff College at Ft. Leavenworth, KS, and the Air War College, Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama. His awards and decorations include the Meritorious Service Medal (with 9 oak leaf clusters), the Army Commendation Medal (with 2 oak leaf clusters), the Humanitarian Service Medal, the Overseas Service Ribbon, the Master Parachutist Badge, Ranger Tab, Air Assault, and the Expert Infantry Badge. Colonel Green and his wife, Pat, have five children.

**OUTSTANDING FACULTY MEMBER: Kenneth G. Bodiford ’88 Jacksonville, AL**

An Assistant Professor in the music department, Mr. Bodiford is also Director of Bands for JSU. He began his career as a band director in Hampton, Virginia, where the band grew from 75 to 250 members under his leadership and was designated a Virginia Honor Band by the state governor. He became band director at JSU in 1994. The Marching Southerners have grown from 144 members to current numbers in excess of 300. He is also responsible for The Chamber Winds, Wind Ensemble, and Symphonic Bands at JSU. Recently the Wind Ensemble was asked to perform at the prestigious Bands of America Southeastern Regional in Atlanta. During his tenure, he has initiated many new events and programs such as the "Drums Across America" Drum Corps competition which brings thousands of spectators to Jacksonville each summer, a summer camp program that brings over 10,000 high school students onto the campus each summer, the annual Wind Ensemble Concerto program, and has vastly expanded the Southerners Honors Band program. Most recently, Mr. Bodiford has assumed the position of Executive Director of the JSU Spirit Drum and Bugle Corps, formerly Spirit of Atlanta. The group tours the nation and competes during the summer months in Drum Corps International competitions.

Award winners will be recognized during halftime of the Homecoming game on Saturday, October 25th, 2003.
WELCOME TO THE
JUNGLE
HOMECOMING 2003

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 23

J-DAY Activities
Karaoke in the Cafe
Calhoun County Picnic
   Alumni House, 6 p.m.
Homecoming Pep Rally/Bonfire, 8 p.m.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 24

ROTC Banquet, 6 p.m., Gamecock Center
Class of 1953 Reunion, 6:30 p.m., 11th floor of Library
60's Group Reunion, McClellan Lodge (12:30 – until, dinner at 5:30 p.m.)

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 25

Class of 1953 Breakfast, 9 a.m., 11th floor Library
Gray Echelon Reunion/Rehearsal, 11:30 a.m., Mason Hall
Alumni House open from 10:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Campus Bookstore open from noon - 7 p.m., Theron Montgomery Building
President’s Reception, 12:30 – 2 p.m., President’s Home
General Alumni Membership Meeting, 2:30 -3:30 p.m., Theron Montgomery Building
Parade, 3:30 p.m.
Alumni Picnic, 4:30 - 6 p.m., Gamecock Field
Pre-Game, 6:30 p.m., Gray Echelon Performance
Kickoff, 7 p.m.
Halftime Activities
   Alumni of the Year Awards
   Homecoming Queen and Her Court
   Marching Southerners and Ballerinas
Post Game Activities
   Full performance of the Southerners and Ballerinas immediately following the game.
"My husband, Jimmy Wilson, and I are both graduates of JSU. We were married students and lived off campus yet close enough to walk to the Homecoming parade and the game. We have fond memories of different members of our family coming for a visit every Homecoming weekend. We looked forward to that weekend, and I always prepared a special meal for the family on Homecoming day. Many years have passed, and all four of our sons have graduated from JSU. We still live in Jacksonville and still walk to the parade and games and yes, I still prepare a special meal for our family on that day. Since then, I have retired from teaching at JSU and now I look forward to seeing former students as they return to campus for this very special day. We can usually be found near the Post Office, with our children and grandchildren enjoying the parade with us."

- Barbara T. Wilson ’67

“Let’s take a look back; Homecoming memories

Let’s take a look back;

Homecoming memories

It was 1965 and JSU had scheduled Delta State for Homecoming. They were ranked #1 in the country at the time and during the week as the football team began to prepare, Coach Blevins continued to talk about the Jolly Green Giants coming to town. (Delta State’s colors are green and white). At the time, I think that JSU had won somewhere in the neighborhood of 25 or 26 straight Homecoming games and it looked like the streak would come to an end. It’s late in the 4th quarter and we are leading by two points, 10 – 8. With only a few seconds in the game, they line up to attempt a field goal of about 30 yards that would win the game and spell defeat for us. The snap is perfect, the hold is just right, the kick is off going straight through the uprights, and then it suddenly fades to the right and is no good. Till this day, I have no idea how in the world that ball did not go through the goal posts. We continued to win every Homecoming during the years that I attended, but without all of us pulling that ball to the right, Delta State would have stayed #1 and we would have faced a very difficult Monday afternoon practice from Coach Blevins and his staff. Down with the Jolly Green Giants and GO GAMECOCKS!!”

- Barclay C. Fisher ’71

““It was a sophomore at JSU in 1949 and still vividly remember how I learned I was the new Homecoming Queen. My sister, Jackie Cobb, (who had already graduated from JSU and was working as secretary to Dean Wood at the time), called me out of a class to give me the results of the Homecoming Queen election. She whispered, “YOU WON!” What an exciting time! It didn’t occur to me that I should tell my date for the game that he would be escorting the Homecoming Queen and to wear a suit and tie, (the standard for those days). When he arrived in town that weekend, he was quite surprised and luckily, he was dressed properly for his role. We had a great time! The weekend was magical, the parade down Pelham Road, the decorating of the dorms and campus, the pep rally, my armful of white mums with red and white ribbons -this has always been one of my most memorable college experiences. GO GAMECOCKS!!”

- Bonnie Cobb Skinner ’51

““My fondest memory is being Alumna of the Year in the same year that Randy Owen was Alumnus of the year. The picture still hangs in my office in the Attorney General’s Office. Also, my Alpha Xi Delta Sisters presented a dozen roses to me.”

- Carol Jean Smith ’70

“We haven’t missed a JSU Homecoming in 23 years! Go Gamecocks!”

- Allen and Ann (’81) Hastings
“My fondest Homecoming memory is that I met my husband, Robbie R. Stephenson (class of 1980) at the Copper Penny disco after the Homecoming game in 1980. Neither of us had a date and we danced and chatted and started dating. We were married two years later. We’ve been married for 21 years.”

-Jill (Morrow) Stephenson ’82

“My memories of Homecoming at JSU are very special to me. Of course, my freshman year (1969) was the biggest in my mind, because it was new. I remember the activities the week of Homecoming the most; helping with floats and decorations, voting for the queen, watching the signs go up in the dorm windows, bonfire pep rallies, parades, and the big game. Being a member of the Marching Southerners just made it all the more exciting. It continues to be fun to reunite with the former Marching Southerners, “The Gray Echelon”, and play for the pre-game festivities each year. I must admit that having the opportunity to participate and watch our children go through JSU has given me a deeper appreciation of our beloved University. Since Shenley, my wife, and I met at JSU, I can hardly think of homecoming without focusing on the special bonds of family we share. We never guessed that years later Tony (’97), Gena (’00) and Allison (current Junior) would attend. Each of us has developed strong bonds of love and friendship which is connected through JSU. So you see, Homecoming at JSU is truly a special ‘Homecoming’ for the Inglis family. Our memories continue to grow! A few years back, one of the Homecoming themes was “We Are Family.” Thanks to all the people who continue to make Jacksonville State University a place to call home.”

-Gene Inglis ’73

“My name is Irene Tak-Yuk Wong. It would take me pages to put down all of my memories of JSU! I enjoyed all the kind, brilliant and dedicated professors there. I would struggle with my studies because of the language barrier. The professors were all very patient and understanding with me. I remember enjoying the sweet music of the JSU band, especially during Homecoming week. I really wish I could go back to JSU and live there forever!”

-Irene Wong ’97/99

“The best memories of JSU for me take place at the Baptist Campus Ministry building. During the day, there would be an ongoing Spades game that would not stop until we were all ‘kicked out’ and the building was closed for the night. If someone had to go to class, there was always someone to take his/her place. Great friends were made there. Our campus minister at that time, Bob, became a leader and confidant. I know many students miss him now.”

-Laura (Minnix) Cauley ’90

“I was marching in the Homecoming parade (as a ballerina). As we circled the square, we were supposed to keep marching straight ahead (toward Hardee’s). The flag bearers leading the parade turned right and kept marching. They finally realized nobody was behind them! Even though we were marching, we all had to laugh at that!!”

-Elizabeth Keller ’60
Former Southerners and Ballerinas for pregame activities at 6:30 p.m.

It's that time of year again for all graduates and Ballerinas to reunite and strut your stuff!!! Make your reservations at rotc@jsucc.jsu.edu

Class of 53

President
William Forrest Killough, Jr.

Vice President
Roy E. Smith

Secretary
Nancy Blackburn

Treasurer
Noemi Ballart

SGA Representatives
Vivian Ward, James T. Smith, Joan Hamby, Forrest Killough

Senior Class Favorites
Jimmy Little, Judy Hawk, Gerald Cooper, Dot Raley

60’s Reunion

Changing Location

This year the annual 60’s reunion will be at the Ft. McClellan Lodge on Friday, October 24th from 12:30 p.m. until.......the evening meal will be at 5:30 p.m. If you haven’t received notice from the alumni office about the event, contact us now so we can include you in on the fun!

This is DEFINITELY one that you don’t want to miss! All graduates and friends from the 1960’s are invited.

Contact the alumni office to make your reservations or Duck Connell at 256.820.3364 for any questions.

Make your reservations at rotc@jsucc.jsu.edu

Coach Don Salls Honored

Former Jacksonville State head football coach Don Salls is one of two recipients of the University of Alabama National Alumni Association’s (NAA) Paul W. Bryant Alumni-Athlete Award.

Salls joins Harry Gilmer in receiving the award. The criteria for selection of the award given to a former Alabama athlete include character, contribution to society, professional achievement or success and service to humanity.

Dr. Donald Salls played football for the Tide’s 1941 National Championship squad. Despite being undersized even for those times, Salls was able to make the Alabama first team at fullback and linebacker.

Salls graduated with a degree in physical education from UA in 1942, and earned a graduate degree in the same field in 1946. After leaving the University he was offered the opportunity to become the head football coach at Jacksonville State University with the ranking of an associate professor. He accepted the position and over a 22-year career led the Gamecocks to 7 conference titles. He was the winningest coach in JSU football history.

Salls, who was awarded the title of professor emeritus at JSU, is a member of the JSU Athletic Hall of Fame, The Alabama Sports Hall of Fame and The Westchester County (New York) Hall of Fame.

In 1962, Salls pioneered a national program of isometric exercises, which has been featured in The Reader’s Digest, national newspapers and on national television programs. He has served as president of three corporations in conjunction with this business, and authored “Live and Love To Be 100,” in 1995.

Past recipients of the Bryant Award include John Croyle, Jerry Duncan, Charlie Boswell, Fred Sington, Lee Roy Jordan, Hoyt “Wu” Winslett, Bart Starr, Wendell Hudson and Ozzie Newsome.
Former head football coach for the Gamecocks, Jim Fuller, is excited about accepting the position of athletic director for Jacksonville State University.

Jim Fuller has been named Jacksonville State University’s fourth full-time athletic director, as announced by University President Dr. Bill Meehan.

Fuller, a former head football coach for the Gamecocks and assistant coach at the University of Alabama, officially began his duties August 4th. “I am very pleased that Jim was able to return to JSU,” said Meehan. “We have fond memories of his time here and I am glad that he will be back in our community. He has very strong support from his references at the University of Alabama and from our Gamecock fans.

Fuller, a native of Birmingham, began coaching football at his alma mater of Fairfield High School before moving on to Jacksonville State in 1970. He was an assistant coach for the Gamecocks from 1970-73 and again from 1975-76. He was an assistant coach for Bear Bryant from 1964-67. “I’m looking forward to working with all of our student-athletes. I believe that I can help, but what that encompasses is spending a great deal of time with all of our sports and being around them as much as I can. I look forward to that.”

Fuller compiled a 48-20 record and led JSU to the Division II Playoffs six of seven years, and captured four Gulf South Conference Championships. For his accomplishments, he was named Gulf South Conference Coach-of-the-Year three times and Regional Coach-of-the-Year twice.

In 1983, he was hired at Alabama by Ray Perkins and remained there for 15 years.

After retiring from the coaching scene in 1997, Fuller dabbled in sales and the restaurant business. In 2003 he decided he wanted to get back to the athletic world in some capacity.

“I want myself and our staff to make a positive difference in the lives of all of our student athletes until they graduate,” said Fuller. “I am sure there were other candidates for the athletic director’s job, who might have better qualifications than I have, but none wanted the job more than I. It is important for people to want to be where they are employed and I really want to be at JSU.”

Fuller replaces Tom Seitz, who left JSU to head the USA Water Polo Association.

The 2003 Jacksonville State University Athletic Hall of Fame induction will be on Friday, November 14th and the honorees will be recognized during the November 15th football game vs. Eastern Illinois. Kickoff is at 4 p.m.
Twenty-four years after meeting at JSU as students, Tim & Terri Abel are still making music. Many of us in Jacksonville know this couple, as they have performed together many times on campus and at area churches.

“I heard her sing before I heard her speak,” recalls Tim Abel of his first encounter with Terri Edwards in 1978.

Tim and Terri's relationship began when Bayne Dobbins, long-time A Cappella Choir director, seated them next to each other in choir. According to Terri, “We give Mr. Dobbins some credit for our relationship, which began over 24 years ago, but maybe we owe him more than partial credit due to the fact that I chose to attend JSU only after being awarded an A Cappella Choir scholarship my first semester.”

Tim and Terri graduated from JSU with music degrees in 1982 and then married and traveled throughout the southeast presenting concerts for churches, youth retreats and Christian coffeehouses. In 1987, they moved to Nashville where Tim wrote for the Christian music publishing company Star Song.

“Music played an extensive role in the early days of our relationship and continues to play an integral part in our lives today - both professionally and personally,” explains Terri. Other than collaborating with Tim on music projects, Terri’s responsibilities include home educating their four children - two girls and two boys. Terri predicts that a musical quartet is, more than likely, in the making.

The Abel family currently resides in Pell City, where Tim is Minister of Music at Victory Christian Center. Although Tim attended JSU on a trombone scholarship with the jazz ensemble, he has since put the trombone aside and spends most of his time at keyboard - both piano and computer.

Tim added a computer programming degree to his academic repertoire along the way and subsequently earned a master’s degree from JSU in 1996. He says he can still make a trombone sound if he needs one; however, now he uses a computer, music software and sound modules.

Over the years, Tim has written, sequenced, produced, arranged and recorded many projects using technology current with the times — from 45-rpm records in the early 80’s to today’s digital recordings on compact disc.

Tim and Terri’s latest project entitled Be Still and Know was recorded and manufactured using the latest technologies, but its message is eternal with lyrics based on the timeless truths of scriptures from the Bible. Tim states, “The purpose of this project is to encourage us to ‘be still.’ Sometimes it’s the hardest thing to do — to stop running, striving, working, worrying . . . and just be still. The Lord has invited us into His presence, His peace, His secret place. It’s a place where we can be still and know . . . He is God.”

For information on obtaining a copy of their latest release, you may contact Tim and Terri Abel at P.O. Box 1884, Pell City, Alabama, 35125, (205) 814-5508, or via email at table@usa.net.