

# GEM

OF THE HILLS

SPRING 2016

## ELI JENKINS AND SHELBY KING

JSU EXCELS ON THE FIELD & IN THE CLASSROOM





**DEAR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS,**

Since I came on board as 12th president of Jacksonville State University in July 2015, the first lady and I have had the pleasure of meeting so many great people like you who care deeply about JSU. Many of you ask the same question: How can I help JSU reach its potential?

It is clear that you are invested in the future of your alma mater and we defi-

nately need your support! I have identified three areas of focus, and alumni involvement is crucial for all three: enrollment, student success and philanthropy. Here's how you can help:

**Enrollment:** I have initiated a new program called "Alumni Boots on the Ground," through which alumni chapters, their members and other alumni in the area will help us identify and recruit qualified students. We already have alumni chapters that have taken the lead and successfully recruit excellent students to JSU on a regular basis. We will use their example and develop training and materials to help any and all alumni who want to help us recruit students. We hope to get this program rolled out early in 2016.

**Student Success:** We are matching JSU students with alumni mentors in their field through the new JSU alumni mentoring program. Alumni mentors will periodically contact their assigned student to see how they are doing and to help them make informed decisions on preparation for their future career. This effort should enhance student retention, progression,

graduation and placement into jobs and provide a bond between Gamecock alumni and students. Please sign up at [www.jsu.edu/mentoring](http://www.jsu.edu/mentoring).

**Philanthropy:** JSU cannot be successful in the future by relying solely on state support and tuition dollars to fund its budget. Donations from alumni, friends and organizations, in addition to grant support from a variety of agencies, will be critical to the university's future of excellence. To contribute, please go to [www.jsu.edu/giving](http://www.jsu.edu/giving).

Thank you for your continued support of Jacksonville State University. Together, we can bring JSU to even greater levels of excellence.

Go Gamecocks!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John M. Beehler". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

John M. Beehler, Ph.D., CPA  
President



**GREETINGS GAMECOCKS!**

There are so many exciting things coming up this year, as 2016 marks several milestones for some of our alumni groups and we can't wait to have everyone back on campus this fall.

Our International House Program will celebrate its 70th anniversary this year and we hope that all of our International Alumni can join us over Homecoming Weekend, Oct. 28-30, for our IHP alumni reunion on campus. Our Marching Southerners mark their 60th anniversary this year as well and we hope even more of our alumni will join us for the annual Southerners Reunion, Nov. 18-19.

I am blessed to be able to serve as your director of alumni relations - I have the best job in the world! Thank you for

sharing your JSU experience with me and allowing us to be a part of your lives. We always want to hear from you. Let us know about all the amazing things that are happening in your life and we will keep you updated on all the amazing things happening with your alma mater.

Thank you for all you do to promote JSU. I hope to hear from you soon!

Go Gamecocks! Blow Southerners!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kaci Ogle". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kaci Ogle '95/'04  
Director of Alumni Relations

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# Nursing a Culture of Compassion.....

BY HEATHER GREENE



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As a new mother at age 19, Christie Shelton struggled with fear and self-doubt when her infant daughter, Savannah, suffered from several illnesses that kept the family visiting health care facilities. Her life changed one day at a local hospital when a kind nursing student from JSU, who was completing her pediatric rotation, took time to educate the young mother. She introduced Shelton to her JSU nursing professor and they treated Savannah like an individual, not another name to check off the patient list.

“After I had that experience, I knew I wanted to be a nurse,” Shelton said. “Their kindness, caring and compassion lit a fire in me. I had experienced so many situations where, as a young mom, I was not treated well. I realized that I could make a difference for others walking the same path and that JSU was where I should begin that journey.”

Today, 27-year-old Savannah is an intensive care nurse in Georgia and Shelton is dean of the JSU College of Nursing. They are just two of the countless people across the globe whose lives have been touched by JSU Nursing.

Shelton – who earned a B.S.N. and M.S.N. from JSU and a Ph.D. from the University of Alabama in Birmingham – became dean of her alma mater in 2013. She is passionate about training the next generation of nurses and has hit the ground running at full speed in her new role at JSU. Her leadership is bringing out

the best in her colleagues and several exciting new developments are taking place, including:

#### **The Simulation Lab**

Practice makes perfect, and perfected health care skills are what Shelton hopes to be the by-product of the new 3,600-square-foot JSU Simulation Center, which opened in January at Brookstone Physician Building beside Jacksonville Medical Center.

Shelton said the lab helps students learn to critically think through situations that are time sensitive and could have devastating consequences if poor decisions were made in a real-life scenario.

Katie Robinson, a JSU graduate and instructor in the nursing department, is serving as the simulation lab coordinator. She was recently selected as one of 20 professionals from across the U.S. to participate in the National League for Nursing’s Leadership Development Program for Simulation Educators. This one-year program will allow her to continue to advance as a simulation instructor.

“It has truly been an amazing journey seeing so many people come together in support of this project,” said Robinson. “I feel like a simple thank you would be an understatement as compared to the magnitude of impact this will have on student learning.”

#### **White Coat Ceremony**

In addition to being the first class with a simulation lab, JSU’s 2015-2016 nursing students also had the opportunity to take part in the first-ever White Coat Ceremony in September 2015. The Arnold P. Gold Foundation and the American Association of Colleges of Nursing selected JSU among 60 schools of nursing to receive a grant to host its first White Coat Ceremony. Although White Coat Ceremonies have been held by medical schools for more than 20 years, this is the first coordinated effort to offer similar events at nursing schools. The goal is to promote humanistic, patient-centered care among future generations of registered nurses.

Dr. Betsy Gulledge, associate dean and assistant professor, has been spearheading the ceremony at JSU. She said there has been a push in the medical community to incorporate the White Coat Ceremony into nursing schools, which allows incoming students to feel more ownership and take pride in their future profession.

“It was a very sentimental ceremony to them, and I feel like it highlighted the professional aspect of nursing,” Shelton said. “It really was a transition into a professional program.”

Gulledge added, “You could see the pride on their faces.”

The feedback from students and parents was so positive that the college decided to continue the program, and the second White Coat ceremony took place on January 28. It will now be held for every incoming class of nursing students.

### Respiratory Therapy

JSU students also have the opportunity to pursue a brand new degree that will be the only program of its kind offered by a university in North Alabama. Recently, the Alabama Commission on Higher Education cleared the way for JSU to begin offering a new Bachelor of Science degree in respiratory therapy through the College of Nursing. While the program is expected to fully launch in Spring 2017, students can already declare respiratory therapy as a major.

In much the same way that JSU offers a transitional program for R.N. to B.S.N. students, Shelton explained that the next step for the respiratory therapy program is to work on a transition for students who hold associate degrees in the field already.

### Looking Ahead

Recently, the master's in community health degree at JSU has also had a new addition: two new concentrations to choose from. Students pursuing a master's in community health can now choose a concentration in either nursing education or emergency management.

Under the leadership of Dr. Rebecca Peinhardt, professor and director of graduate nursing programs, the college is currently in the process of submitting a proposal to the Alabama Commission on Higher Education to receive a B.S.N to D.N.P (Doctorate of Nurse Practice) program with tracks for family nurse practitioner and adult gerontology acute care nurse practitioner. A recent survey showed that 330 out of 370 current or graduated nursing majors at JSU would like to come back for this degree if JSU gains this program.

Aware of the fierce competition to get into JSU's nursing program, the college has just paved the way for anyone holding a bachelor's degree, the required science courses and a 3.4 GPA or higher to earn a seat in the nursing program. The new Deans' Scholars Program for Early Acceptance gives qualified high school students the chance to participate in the college's activities. Those who successfully complete the program, go on to enroll at JSU as freshmen and major in nursing are automatically guaranteed a seat in the program.

### The Nursing Family

JSU's College of Nursing offers a cutting-edge nursing experience to rival any major university, but with a small-town feel that knits a true sense of family among those in the college. Shelton discussed how students from other universities are shocked to learn that JSU instructors know their students by name and even more surprised to know that JSU nursing students often have their instructor's cell phone numbers to stay connected and ask emergency study questions.

Shelton explained that the theme this year for the faculty and staff in the College of Nursing is "Relational Connections." Their slogan is "connect with your students because when you connect, you have influence with your students." This is the experience that JSU nursing students have come to love and expect - and why they make lifelong connections with their faculty mentors. 🤝





## College of Nursing Reaccredited Through 2025

The JSU College of Nursing has been reaccredited through 2025 by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education, a national accrediting agency recognized by the U.S. Secretary of Education that ensures the quality and integrity of nursing programs across the country.

Both JSU's baccalaureate and the master's degree programs were determined to have met all accreditation standards following an on-site visit in March. A voluntary, self-regulatory process, accreditation supports and encourages continuing self-assessment, growth and improvement by nursing programs.

"We are very pleased with the outcome of our visit," said Christie Shelton, dean of the JSU College of Nursing. "Preparing for the once-in-ten-year site visit was quite an undertaking and many of us were novice in regards to that experience. However, we collaborated together, sought expert advice, and worked diligently to prepare and showcase the evidence of our quality nursing programs. These efforts paid off with a verbal report indicating all standards were met in March, followed by this official notification, recently received."





# Eli Jenkins

JSU's LUCKY #7

BY KATIE CLINE

Fans know him as Jacksonville State University's starting quarterback, a first team All-American, the 2015 Ohio Valley Conference Offensive Player of the Year and the FCS Quarterback of the Year. But Eli Jenkins is more than just a great college football player.

Growing up in Birmingham, Ala. – just down the road from Legion Field – he has known two things his entire life: church and football. His father, Rev. Reginald Jenkins, served as the pastor of the family's church where Eli, his sister Brittany and their mother, Aundria, regularly attended.

"Growing up, we never struggled, even though we didn't have a lot of money," Jenkins said. "My dad and my mom always found a way to get stuff done. And my dad was always there. I could talk to him about anything. He always supported me. If I wanted to play football, he supported me. Whatever I wanted to do, he supported me."

Young Eli started playing football when he was four years old, idolizing players like Michael Vick and, later on, Cam Newton. His first position, though, was not as quarterback but rather, as a defensive end.

"I can't remember, really," Jenkins laughed, "but I think I was pretty good. And then I guess they saw I was kind of fast, and the next year I moved to running back. And then I started playing quarterback at seven years old, and I've been playing quarterback ever since."

His days of peewee football far behind him, the JSU junior is now arguably the best quarterback in the state of Alabama and has helped carry the Gamecocks through a record-breaking season including a national title game. Jenkins said it wouldn't have been possible without some very special people: the fans.

"They put a lot of energy into us," he said. "Just to have them there, we want to do real good things for them. They support us, and we love them for that."

So how does a top-ranked quarterback get ready to play in front of 20,000 or more fans each week? Jenkins has his own pre-game rituals.

"After we go through the Cock Walk, I walk down to the other end zone and I touch both pylons," Jenkins said. And he always listens to Future's "Mad Luv" and Doe B's "Turn Up" before every game.


The junior has another year of eligibility left in college play and, following the FCS National Championship on Jan. 9, he confirmed that he will be staying at JSU for his senior year. The exercise science major is committed to leading his team back to the national championship in 2017, after which he plans to graduate from JSU and hopefully play football for even bigger crowds.

"If you play college football, you definitely want the chance to keep playing," Jenkins said. "So if I get the blessing to keep playing [professionally] I definitely want to do that."

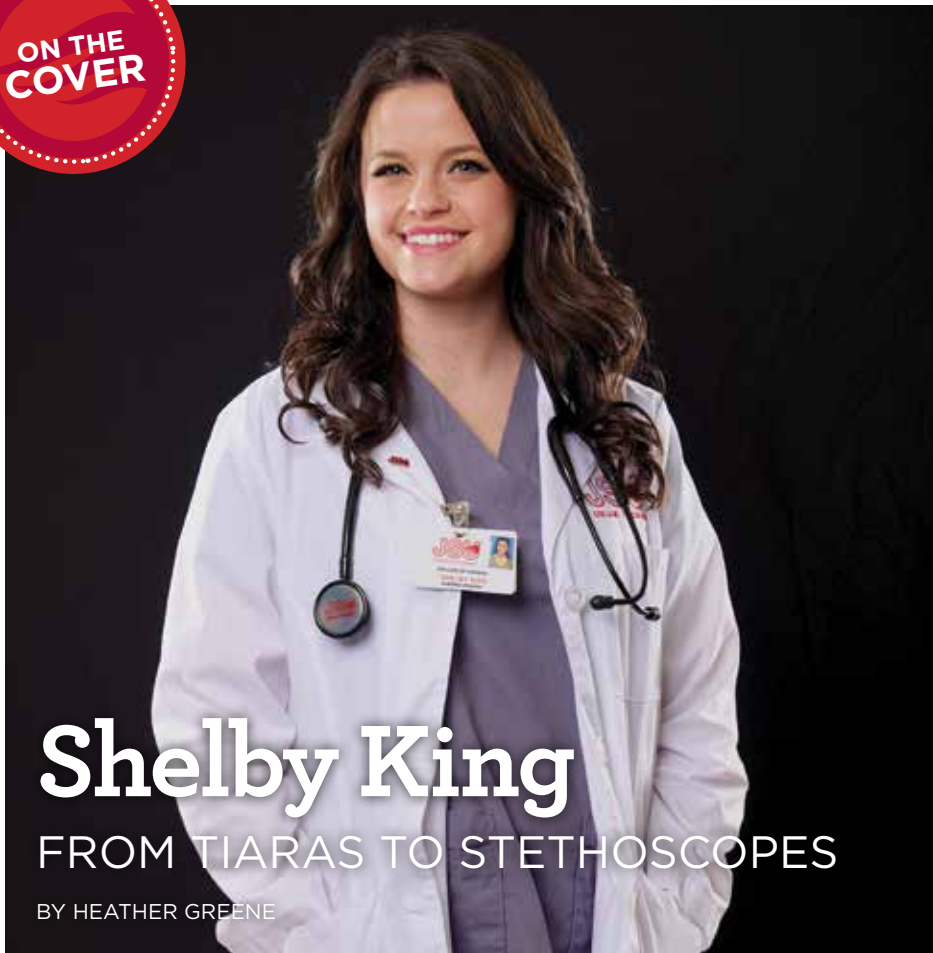
Until then, though, Jenkins is working to finish his degree and parent his two-year-old son, Kaydon.

"I don't think I want to start him playing football until he's a little older," Jenkins said, when asked if Kaydon would be following in his father's footsteps anytime soon. "I'm going to take a basketball, a soccer ball and a football and put them in front of him, and whichever one he picks up, that's what we'll focus on. And if he doesn't want to play sports at all, that's fine with me."

With so much to be proud of and even more to look forward to, the words of JSU head football coach John Grass ring truer than ever: "It's a special time to be a Gamecock."

And with players like Eli Jenkins, it really is. 





# Shelby King

## FROM TIARAS TO STETHOSCOPES

BY HEATHER GREENE

Shelby Faith King is just one face of the numerous students who are known by name by the faculty and staff of JSU's College of Nursing. Growing up with a mom who was a labor and delivery nurse at St. Vincent's Hospital in Birmingham, King had soundly decided her career before entering college.

When asked why she selected JSU, King always responds with "JSU chose me!" During her senior year at Oak Mountain High School, King heard of the financial aid options at JSU, and a campus tour of the "Friendliest Campus in the South" made her college decision "a done deal."

King's "whirlwind" transition from the high traffic-filled route of Hwy. 280 to the slow-paced Pelham Road proved to be quite "pleasant." Regarding JSU and the surrounding area, King stated, "It's the best of both worlds. I think it's the perfect size."

Like many nursing students, King loves the close-knit community in JSU

nursing. When she had to have an emergency root canal and her mom was unavailable at work, King called one of her instructors to ask what she should do. In fact, she calls the nursing faculty her "second family" and loves the fact that the faculty consider the students "their family as well."

"It's more than a blessing," King stated. "Two of my friends are in nursing school in larger schools, and I don't think that they have had the privilege of getting just the slightest taste of hospitality and genuine care that they [JSU nursing instructors] have for their students."

In the chaos of college life, King often finds solace when the nursing instructors openly share their own fears, failures, and real life stories, which humanizes the instructors to her. "You want your nurse to be a human when you go into the hospital, and so that's what they are. They're nurses before they're teachers," said King.

King had the opportunity to be a part of the first-ever White Coat Ceremony

at JSU this fall. "It was very, very prestigious...and very symbolic," she said. During the ceremony, she was struck by the phrase, "Nursing is the most noble profession." King said one might not think that giving baths to someone in a nursing home is a very "noble" task at first, but affirms that when she contemplates how she is helping someone else, she finds even the most menial tasks "noble" in the nursing world.

In Fall 2015, King was voted JSU's Homecoming Queen; her slogan was, quite appropriately, "King for Queen." She is also a member of Alpha Omicron Pi and Phi Eta Sigma, served as a student senator, and enjoys volunteering any chance she gets.

When she is not studying, King enjoys knitting, running and hiking. If she ever has time to watch television, she likes to select educational programs such as documentaries and also enjoys reading fiction and medical topics. Her parents are Sandy and Randy King. She has two sisters and a brother, and greatly values family time. Her younger sister has now caught the Gamecock bug and has been infected with a love for JSU from King's own passion for the university.

In the summer, King, a GO! Leader, can be found walking freshmen students around JSU's campus and explaining why she loves her university so much. JSU is proud of King and all the other outstanding students in the College of Nursing. 



# How About Those Gamecocks?

JSU Football Records Best Season in 22 Years

**W**HEN AUBURN TIGER FANS CAME OUT TO THEIR FIRST HOME GAME OF THE SEASON ON SEPT. 12, THEY EXPECTED TO CATCH A GLIMPSE OF THE UNIVERSITY'S NEW \$13.9 MILLION SCOREBOARD – NOT TO SEE THE JSU GAMECOCKS SCORE THE FIRST TOUCHDOWN RECORDED ON IT. THE NEAR UPSET BY JAX STATE IN OVERTIME, NOW KNOWN AS THE “SCARE AT JORDAN-HARE,” WAS JUST A SIGN OF THINGS TO COME. THE GAMECOCKS WENT ON TO HAVE ONE OF THEIR MOST SUCCESSFUL SEASONS IN SCHOOL HISTORY, CULMINATING IN AN APPEARANCE AT THE NCAA DIVISION I NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP GAME ON JAN. 9.



“You’re talking about a program three years ago that had not won an FCS playoff game, and to be sitting in a national championship game is where our dreams and goals were. And we got here,” said coach John Grass, who just completed his second season as head coach for the Gamecocks.

The Gamecocks broke more than 50 school records en route to their second-straight unbeaten conference season. Grass became the first coach in Ohio Valley Conference and FCS history to go unbeaten in conference play in his first

two seasons as a head coach. He also tied for the best start to a head coaching career in FCS history through his first 26 games (23-3). He was named the OVC Roy Kidd Coach of the Year for the second-straight season and the National Coach of the Year by the American Football Coaches Association.

After becoming the first FCS team in history to take a ranked FBS foe, then-No. 6 Auburn, to overtime, JSU then rattled off 12-straight wins to claim its second-straight OVC crown to earn the No. 1 National Seed and roll into the FCS Championship Game in Frisco, Texas. The Gamecocks were ranked No. 1 in the nation for the first time in school history and held that spot in at least one poll for the final 11 weeks of the regular season. They finished the season ranked No. 2, the school’s highest ranking in the final polls in Division I history.

The North Dakota State University Bison stopped the Gamecocks from claiming their first national title since 1992, and it was the only game the Gamecocks would lose since the second week of the season. Jax State finished with 13 wins, which tied for the most wins in school history, and just two losses.

Several school records were shattered this season, including total offense (7,613), rushing yards (4,511), passing yards (3,102), points scored (584) and tackles for a loss (135). Senior running back Troymaine Pope broke the school and OVC single-season rushing record with 1,788 yards, while his 8.2 yards per carry led the nation. He was named the 2015 College Football Performance Awards FCS Running Back of the Year.

Junior quarterback Eli Jenkins’ 3,949 yards of total offense was also a school record. The Birmingham, Ala., native was named the Ohio Valley Conference Offensive Player of the Year and the FCS Quarterback of the Year by the FCS Athletic Director’s Association. Read more about JSU’s Lucky No. 7 on page 8. Junior wide receiver Josh Barge broke the single-season record for catches with 92,

receiving yards with 1,145 and touchdown catches with 11.

On the defensive side of the ball, sophomore Darius Jackson and senior Chris Landrum, Sr., each had 19.0 tackles for a loss to break the school record in that category.

The Gamecocks finished the year ranked fourth nationally in total offense, third in rushing offense and second with 362 first downs. Defensively, JSU was third nationally with 20 interceptions, while ranking 12th in total defense.

The Gamecocks had 17 All-OVC selections and five players earn All-America honors, Eli Jenkins (1st Team STATS, College Sporting News, ADA, 2nd Team AP), Casey Dunn (1st Team AFCA, College Sporting News, 2nd Team STATS), Jermaine Hough (College Sporting News, 2nd Team AP, 3rd Team STATS), Troymaine Pope (3rd Team STATS, College Sporting News, 3rd Team AP) and Chris Landrum (3rd Team STATS).

All-American Quarterback Eli Jenkins has confirmed he will be back for his senior season and hopes to lead the Gamecocks back to the National Championship game in Frisco. Shortly after the game, Jenkins tweeted, “That was a good run. I wish I could’ve played better for my team and fans, but I’ll be back in Frisco next year I promise.”

With the next season expected to be just as promising as the last, fans are encouraged to go ahead and book refundable hotel rooms and purchase tickets in advance for next year’s national championship. Bison fans were able to get their hooves on most of the tickets because they purchased as soon as they went on sale last summer. Let’s stop that from happening again. Buy tickets early! You can always resell on the NCAA Ticket Exchange if your plans change. 🙅

# Jacksonville State University

## 2016 FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	SITE	TIME
Sept. 1	North Alabama	Jacksonville	6 p.m.
Sept. 10	at LSU	Baton Rouge, La.	TBA
Sept. 17	Coastal Carolina (Band Day)	Jacksonville	1 p.m.
Sept. 24	at Liberty	Lynchburg, Va.	TBA
Oct. 1	OPEN		
Oct. 8	*Tennessee Tech (Red Out)	Jacksonville	1 p.m.
Oct. 15	*Austin Peay (Fall Preview Day)	Jacksonville	1 p.m.
Oct. 22	*at Eastern Kentucky	Richmond, Ky.	2 p.m.
Oct. 29	*Eastern Illinois (Homecoming/Family Day)	Jacksonville	2 p.m.
Nov. 5	*at Southeast Missouri	Cape Girardeau, Mo.	TBA
Nov. 12	*at Murray State	Murray, Ky.	TBA
Nov. 19	*UT Martin (Southerners Reunion)	Jacksonville	1 p.m.
Nov. 26	NCAA First Round TBA	TBA	
Dec. 3	NCAA Second Round TBA	TBA	
Dec. 10	NCAA Quarterfinal Round TBA	TBA	
Dec. 17	NCAA Semifinal Round TBA	TBA	

\*-OVC games

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# Southerners Turn 60

Acclaim Continues to Crescendo for JSU's Beloved Marching Band

PHOTO CREDIT: KATY NOWAK  
BY KATIE CLINE

Dr. John T. Finley would be proud of his marching band. The former music department head founded the Marching Southerners and Ballerinas in 1956, when it was little more than a “small instrumental group,” according to current band director Dr. Ken Bodiford. Fifty-nine years later, in July 2015, Finley passed away, but not without leaving a legacy that has shaped thousands of band members and fans alike.

When Finley was first put in charge of Jacksonville State Teachers College’s band, it didn’t have uniforms, organization or discipline. Finley changed that. “He’s the one who really started the band’s tradition of being good,” Bodiford said.

Finley added a dance line modeled

after the Radio City Rockettes. Today, they are known as the Marching Ballerinas, and they still wear uniforms similar to the red and white “Santa suits” the line wore in 1956. Both the Ballerinas and the Southerners got their names from an original band member who submitted the suggestions as part of a contest Finley held.

Finley also believed that a marching band could play both loudly and well, and he taught the band an orchestral breathing warm-up that has persisted throughout the years.

After completing his doctorate, Finley was named head of the music department. Dr. David L. Walters took over as band director in 1961 and, according to Bodiford, he and Finley quickly became friends.

Together, they continued to build the Southerners with Walters leading the band for 30 years. Sadly, Walters followed Finley in death by only a few months – passing away on Dec. 30.

“Everyone just fell in love with Dr. Walters’ personality immediately, and he started recruiting,” Bodiford said. “And from that point on, the band really started building. So it was kind of a tag-team effort between Dr. Finley and Dr. Walters that has really given us what we have today. When I came on in ’94, I just tried to go back to running the band the way Dr. Walters ran it. I went back to the roots. And I hope whoever takes my place after me will look at that tradition and realize it works.”



This dedication to tradition is in part what has led the Marching Southerners to one of its most successful years to date. This fall, the Alabama Media Group hosted a competition to find “Alabama’s Best College Marching Band,” pitting the state’s 19 college marching band programs against one another in rounds of fan-based voting. After three weeks of intense Internet competition on al.com, only one band remained: the Southerners.

“I never try to say that one band is better than another because – fortunately, in the state of Alabama – we really do have some great college bands,” Bodiford said. “If you look at some of the other states in the country they can’t compare to the state of Alabama with just the quality of the

Marching bands. I want to give out props to everybody, but we’re very thankful that our fans came through for us and voted.”

As the band prepares to celebrate its 60th anniversary in 2016, it is also preparing for the ultimate honor. The Southerners have been selected to play aboard the USS Missouri battleship on the island of Oahu, Hawaii during the weeklong commemoration of the 75th anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor next December.

“We were contacted about it about a year ago,” Bodiford said. “They saw us at an exhibition in Atlanta. Someone took a video with their cellphone and showed it to the committee, and they contacted me after that. So I sent them a video of the patriotic show we did in 2009, and they just went bananas over that.”

The band will arrive in Honolulu on Dec. 9, 2016 for a weeklong tour that includes the USS Missouri performance as well as a visit to the Arizona Memorial and other attractions. After their performance, the band will be presented with an American flag that flew over Pearl Harbor. The JSU Alumni Association is organizing a travel package for alumni and friends who want to join the Southerners in Hawaii (see page 18).

Leading the band to Hawaii in 2016 will be its four newly selected drum majors. While head drum major Daniel O’Donnell will be returning for his third year, assistant drum majors Andrew Record and Alana Ivey, as well as backfield drum major Koree Martin, will be picking up the baton for the first time. For them, this upcoming season is more than just the trips and awards: it is the fulfillment of a dream.

“To me, it is the opportunity to help continue the tradition that is the Marching Southerners,” said Record, a sophomore majoring in finance. “I’m honored to have been elected alongside three other great leaders to help lead the

Southerners through 2016.”

Martin, a junior majoring in business, agrees.

“To me, being a drum major for the Southerners means two things: being a positive influence on members of the band and setting the example both on and off the field. I think these two things are essential for a successful Southerners drum major and I truly think the four of us possess these qualities and more.”

The Marching Southerners and Ballerinas have come a long way since Finley and Walters created their now-classic style and sound, but the one idea that has remained is that each student should strive for excellence on and off the field, in music and in life. Excellent musicians make for an excellent band – one that is recognized from London to Hawaii, gets standing ovations from the fans of opposing football teams, and thrives on its traditions even 60 years later. And for the Southerners, that tradition has always been one of excellence. 🍌



**🍌 ABOVE:** (Left-Right) Dr. John T. Finley and Dr. David L. Walters, founders of the southerners, both passed away this year



## JSU Awarded \$330K Grant to Support Veterans Students

The U.S. Department of Education has awarded JSU a grant totaling more than \$330K to establish a Center of Excellence for Veteran Student Success on campus.


The grant, along with matching funds from JSU, will establish a stand-alone center for veteran students with the goal of increasing enrollment, good academic standing, persistence and graduation rates at the university.

“Survey data from our veteran students identified their unique needs and, over the past two years, we have worked to provide the infrastructure to meet those needs,” said Allison Newton, principal investigator on the project. “This grant will allow us to create a stand-alone, ‘one-stop-shop’ model program that can be replicated not only in our state and region, but nationally.”

The center will support veteran students and ensure their college success by providing the academic, financial, physical

and social services as identified by the veteran survey.

Gretchen Richards, co-principal investigator for the project, said, “The Department of Education has allowed JSU and the Research Center for Veteran Support Services to begin an exciting and innovative program to give back to our men and women who served our country. This is an exciting time for our university, the center, and most of all our veterans and active military students.”

The Center of Excellence for Veteran Student Success, along with the Research Center for Veteran Support Services and the JSU Veteran Student Organization, will actively provide programs and opportunities for veterans, both on campus and in the community. 

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## Masterpieces Back in the Spotlight

The doors of Hammond Gallery – the exhibit space for the JSU Department of Art – were locked all last summer. Few knew what astounding transformations were taking place inside until a grand reopening celebration was held in September.

Workers replaced outdated carpet flooring with sleek hardwood. Carpeted walls were ousted in favor of sophisticated white drywall. A kitchenette was added in the back of the gallery to accommodate food preparation for events. Over the fall semester, several faculty, student and guest shows were on display in the renovated gallery. Many more are planned for spring.

Located in Hammond Hall at JSU, across from the Theron Montgomery

Building on Trustee Circle, the Hammond Gallery typically hosts three shows each month, overseen by gallery coordinator Ray Wetzel. Gallery hours are Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Visitors must see the department secretary for access. Admission is free and open to the public. [Check out a list of show openings at www.jsu.edu/art/hammond-gallery.html](http://www.jsu.edu/art/hammond-gallery.html). 📱

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## University Names New International House Director

Chandni Khadka came on board as director of the JSU International House and Programs on Jan. 4, where she provides leadership for the International House and acts as an advisor for international students. She is responsible for International Programs at JSU, providing campus-wide support and activities to promote cultural diversity, assessing program needs, implementing and administering appropriate services for students and managing staff.

Khadka recently served as director of International Student Services in the Office of International Programs at Arkansas State University, having previously served as senior admissions officer and coordinator of special projects in the same office since 2011. She holds a bachelor's in marketing from Nepal College of Management and an MBA in management from the University of North Alabama. She has been awarded the Dale Carnegie "Highest Award for Achievement."

Dr. Teresa Reed, professor of English, served as interim director for 2014-2015 following the retirement of long-time director Dr. John Ketterer. David Myer, instructor for English, served as interim director for the Fall 2015 term before Khadka arrived in January. The university thanks Reed and Myer for their service and welcomes Chandni to the JSU family. 



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# FOUR JSU LEGENDS

Inducted into Athletics Hall of Fame



Two All-Americans, one 1,000-point scorer in basketball, and one of the most successful coaches in Gamecock history were inducted into the JSU Athletic Hall of Fame on Nov. 15.

**James Hobbs** has coached at JSU for almost 40 years, including 16 years as an assistant basketball coach and more than 30 years as golf coach. Coaching both the men's and women's golf programs, Hobbs led the Gamecocks to 19 NCAA regional appearances, including 12 appearances after JSU moved to Division I in 1993.

On the men's side, the Gamecocks won nine conference championships and Hobbs was voted Coach of the Year six times. He had a pair of OVC Golfers of the Year and four OVC Freshman of the Year honorees. On the women's side, the Gamecocks dominated the Ohio Valley Conference, winning the OVC Championship in 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008 and 2012, and making five total appearances in the NCAA Golf Regionals. Hobbs was named the OVC Women's Golf Coach of the Year in 2006, 2007 and 2008, with four OVC Players of the Year and five OVC Freshmen of the Year honors.

Hobbs served as an assistant basketball coach under Bill Jones for 16 years. During that time, the Gamecocks made eight appearances in the NCAA Division II Tournament, including a national championship in 1985, two Final Four appearances and three Elite Eight appearances.

**Montressa Kirby**, a former Gamecock quarterback, played from 1995-98 and earned All-America honors. As a senior in 1998, he was named the Southland Football League Offensive Player of the Year after completing 168-of-318 passes for 2,271 yards and 15 touchdowns. He also was the second leading rusher with 114 attempts for 310 yards and seven touchdowns.

The Anniston, Ala., native set 14 school records including most passing attempts in one game (48) and in a season

(418), most completions in one game (28) and in a season (218), most touchdown passes in a game (5), most passing yards in a game (417) and the longest touchdown pass (93). Kirby completed 492-of-966 career passes and ranks second on the all-time JSU list with 6,587 career-passing yards.

He finished his career as the school's all-time total offense leader with 7,688 yards, including three outings with more than 400 yards and a school 433 total yards versus Southwest Missouri State in 1997. Kirby completed a JSU record 28 passes twice, versus Middle Tennessee State and Sam Houston State, and tossed a school-record five touchdown passes versus Southwest Missouri State. Kirby also set JSU single-season records with 218 completions, 418 pass attempts and 2,817 yards during his junior season in 1997.

**Craig Stevens** is one of the most decorated golfers in JSU history and is a two-time All-American for the Gamecocks. He set the school record for the all-time low stroke average with a 72.96 in 1985, which stood for more than 20 years, to earn his first All-America honor. He led the team to a 111-32-1 record in 1985 and an eighth-place finish in the NCAA National Championships.


He played as an individual in the 1986 NCAA National Championships and finished in the Top 45 to earn his second straight All-America honor. He helped the Gamecocks post a 226-109-2 with five team championships during his career, and had the all-time team low stroke average of 297.5.

Stevens won five individual titles and was an All-Gulf South Conference selection in 1985 after winning medalist honors in the GSC Tournament. He played head-to-head with PGA professionals Lee Janzen and Hugh Royer during his collegiate career. Stevens also earned Academic All-America honors his senior year.

**Earl Warren**, one of the best players in JSU's basketball history, played four seasons for the Gamecocks and became just the 12th player in JSU history to score 1,000 or more points.

The Oneonta, Ala., native finished his brilliant four-year career with 1,156 points, adding 461 assists and 226 steals. He led the Gamecocks to an impressive 93-28 recording during his career and helped Jax State advance to the NCAA Division II playoffs three times.

During his sophomore season in 1983, he helped JSU to the GSC Tournament Championship and to the Elite Eight after winning the regional title. As a junior, he averaged 14.5 points and shot 55.9 percent from the floor to help JSU to a 23-8 record and into the NCAA Division II Regional finals.

As a senior, Warren made the key steal with just seconds remaining, then calmly sank two free-throws to give the Gamecocks a one-point win over South Dakota State and the NCAA Division II National Championship. He averaged 13.9 points and helped JSU post a perfect 16-0 record in league play, the first team to go undefeated in GSC history. 



# RE-PETE

## JSU'S COLISEUM UNDERGOES MAJOR RENOVATION

When the Gamecock Women's Volleyball team opened their home season against Jackson State on Friday, Oct. 2, 2015, they were the first JSU team to compete in a much-improved Pete Mathews Coliseum.

Renovations at "The Pete" began in Spring 2015 and continued throughout the summer. Included in the upgrades were new chair back sideline seating, new bench baseline seating, a new playing surface, new scorer's tables, new paint and a team video room. These upgrades followed a 2014 facelift that added air conditioning and new lighting to the building, which had not undergone a major renovation since its construction in 1974.

The Jacksonville State men's basketball team played their first game on their home court on Nov. 3 in an exhibition game against Miles College. This was


followed by 17 home games during its 2015-2016 season.

"It feels different," men's basketball coach James Green said of the upgrades when his team began practicing in early October. You can look at pictures and try to get an idea of what it looks like, but until you come in here and feel the floor and actually look around in here you have no idea. I can tell you our guys feel better and even people that have been coming in here while we are practicing are talking about the improvement. It's a very, very exciting time for Jacksonville State basketball."

Green said he believes the facelift will pay huge dividends for the program in the future and will also be a bonus to the Gamecock fan base.

"It shows that we are stepping up our commitment, and I think everybody involved did a great job," he added. "I

feel like we really did a good job of taking every dollar that we had and we got the most out of it. I can tell you that coaches and players really appreciate it, and when our fans come in here, they're really going to enjoy this place."

Beyond sports, the coliseum is used for graduations, concerts and other large events. On Nov. 11, JSU and the City of Jacksonville partnered to host the first community-wide Veterans Day ceremony in the Coliseum. JSU's first commencement in the new Pete took place on December 18. 

# HOMECOMING 2015

## CURSE THE COLONELS!

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# Golden Gamecocks

THE CLASS OF '65 CELEBRATES ITS 50<sup>TH</sup> REUNION



BY KATIE CLINE AND HEATHER GREENE

While Homecoming always brings Gamecocks of all ages back home to roost for a few days, a very special group of alumni had the opportunity to reunite after receiving their diplomas 50 years ago. For a few, this was their first time back in Jacksonville since their graduation, and obviously, there have been a few changes around campus in the last half-century. Here's what a few of the "Golden Gamecocks" had to say about days gone by and the JSU of today:

**James Carroll**, a business alumnus from Addison, Ala., said, "One of the fondest memories I have is the band playing 'Stars Fell on Alabama.'"

**Bobbie Raper Andrews**, a biology alumnus from Birmingham, Ala., reminisced, "We studied hard, we laughed hard. We were up on the square when Kennedy was shot, and someone came up to me and said, 'The president's been shot!' And I said, 'Who would shoot Houston Cole?'"

**Margie Clayton Klein**, from Decatur, Ga., said, "I thought this was a great opportunity to do whatever I wanted to do and be whoever I wanted to be...We'd walk into town to the post office to look at the

wanted posters just for something to do."

Both Andrews and Klein were roommates their freshman year of college and have been best friends ever since, despite the fact that Andrews initially thought Klein a "know-it-all" and Klein believed Andrews to be a "goody-two-shoes."


**Jerry Estes** majored in math and went on to work on the Saturn V at the Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville and later for IBM. He has fond memories of participating in the "Mobile Radio-Isotope Lab" during his senior year and loved science club activities. On his first trip back to Jacksonville since 1965, Estes stated, "When I was here in '65, the tallest building was the main building: Bibb Graves Hall. I understand they have a new football stadium."

**Glenda Ann Justice**, an English major with a history minor, taught English for more than 27 years after graduation. This reunion proved to be her third return to JSU since 1965. Regarding the changes and her own memories, Justice said JSU is "A different place, a very different place! I attended almost all home ball games – football, basketball, baseball...I went to every concert that I could, and I enjoyed archery and tennis."

**Dottie ('65) and Joe Garner ('61)** enjoy returning to JSU during the fall for "JSU football and the Southerners." Dottie recalls marching with the Southerners, "watching a friend leave class when he was notified that his guard unit had been activated for the Bay of Pigs crisis," "learning President Kennedy had been shot and killed in Dallas," and knowing that "the next step" after graduation "would be Vietnam" for many of her friends.

**Charles and Gail Gamble** take great pride in having been voted Mr. and Miss Jax State by their fellow classmates. Charles was a law professor and dean at the University of Alabama, and Gail was a college and high school teacher.

**Marjorie "Maggie" Naylor Muegge**, a Marching Ballerina and business and economics major, laughed when asked how much JSU has changed in 50 years. She recalls the strict male/female dorm rules and explained that they had an early weekday curfew of 9 p.m. Also, three failures to pass a clean room inspection resulted in being thrown out of the dorm. As ladies could not live off campus, being thrown out of the dorm meant being expelled from school. Desiring to be a stockbroker in the days when women weren't stockbrokers, Muegge finally realized her dream and later worked in real estate.

While it's safe to say that JSU has grown by leaps and bounds since 1965, there still exists the sense of family that every one of the "Golden Gamecocks" mentioned during their luncheon. As they, and all the current alumni of JSU, can attest, it's great to be a part of the Gamecock Family! See you this fall, Class of 1966! 





# Aloha! Alumni and Friends

YOU ARE INVITED TO JOIN THE SOUTHERNERS IN HAWAII  
DECEMBER 9-14, 2016

They have represented America on the streets of London and New York, but on Dec. 11, 2016, the Marching Southerners and Ballerinas could perform their most meaningful appearance to date as they join their nation in recognizing a day that “lives in infamy.”

The Marching Southerners and Ballerinas have been selected to perform aboard the USS Missouri battleship on Oahu during the week of the 75th anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor. The band, which numbers close to 500, will arrive in Honolulu on Dec. 9, 2016 for the week-long tour that includes the USS Missouri performance as well as a visit to the Arizona Memorial and other points of interest.

Originally, they had been invited to perform along with bands from throughout the country in the national ceremony

on Dec. 7, Pearl Harbor Day. Because the students could not miss finals for the performance they have been given the opportunity to perform by themselves aboard the USS Missouri, according to JSU Band Director Kenneth Bodiford. After their performance, the band will be presented an American flag that flew over Pearl Harbor.

“I’ve always been a patriotic person,” said Bodiford. “In a way, this performance means a lot more to me than a lot of the other things we’ve done. To be able to hear the Southerners play patriotic music there where the events of December 7, 1941 took place is going to be really, really special for the band. When the kids get there and see the video and footage of what happened while they’re standing in the place where it happened, it will be something they will never forget.”

It will definitely be a special moment to witness, and JSU alumni and friends are invited to accompany the band on the trip. Organized by Alumni Affairs, tour packages start at \$2,350 per person for quad occupancy (four people per room), which includes flight, hotel, and some meals. Payment plans are available. **Questions? Contact Kaci Ogle at 256-782-5405 or [kogle@jsu.edu](mailto:kogle@jsu.edu). Learn more at [www.marchingsoutherners.org](http://www.marchingsoutherners.org).** 



# JSU Alumni Bring History to Life

BY ANGIE FINLEY



**ABOVE:** Greg Morrow of Southern Custom Exhibits at Flight 93 Memorial

Looking back at JSU alumnus Greg Morrow's career is like flipping through the pages of a history book. His company, Southern Custom Exhibits, has been bringing the past to life through interactive media exhibits since he wrote its business plan as a class project during his senior year at JSU more than 26 years ago.

From Alaska to Hawaii and all points in between, the company's portfolio of more than 500 installations is staggering in its size and historical significance. SCE designs, builds and installs everything from TV studio sets to kiosks and lobby displays, including the recently updated JSU Field House lobby. They have built exhibits and topographic maps for a number of National Parks and historic sites, including the Grand Canyon and the Alexander Hamilton Memorial in New York City.

But perhaps the most significant installation in the company's history was also

the most difficult to put together – if not physically, then emotionally, said Morrow. Last September, Morrow was on hand for the dedication of the \$26 million visitor center at the Flight 93 National Memorial in Shanksville, Pa. The monument for the fourth plane hijacked on Sept. 11, 2001 is near the crash site and contains tributes to the 40 passengers and crew who lost their lives when they thwarted the hijackers believed headed for the U.S. Capitol.

The installation took nine months to build and required Morrow's crew to relive the victims' final moments. The latter proved a heavy burden. Among the many artifacts on display at the center are photos of each passenger, pieces of the United Airlines 757 that were taken from the site, and voice recordings from that horrific day.

"We actually have the recordings for the passengers' last calls in an exhibit

where you can pick up a handset and listen to them," Morrow said. "We had to listen to them to create the exhibit and it was a real struggle to do it. They were just too disturbing to hear."

Also difficult: finding a way to mount and display the mangled, barely recognizable pieces of plane wreckage. "We had to do some unique things to get them to work," Morrow said.

Then there were the display items with backstories too horrific to process. The driver's license belonging to doomed flight hero Todd Beamer, which was retrieved from the top of a tree after being blown there during the plane's impact and explosion. Silverware from first class that had been buried deep underground when the plane plowed upside down and nose first into the Pennsylvania countryside.

The day before the exhibit opened to the public, the families of the victims came

by for a private walk-through. Morrow had been there for a week with his crew, overseeing final installation details to make certain that the victims' stories of heroism and strength would be preserved as part of a grieving nation's narrative. It is such attention to detail and personal connections that have driven SCE since Morrow and his father Elvin began the company in 1990. Both Elvin Morrow and his wife, Sarah, are now deceased.

Today Morrow runs the company with his sister, Debbie, also a JSU alumna and former Alpha Xi Delta (Nursing/'89). The pair employs JSU alumni John Lee, Derrick Palmer and Levi Raven at their company, which averages between 10-30 employees, depending upon workload. Morrow received his B.S. in management in 1988. As a senior final, he had to put together a business plan and present it to his class. At the time, Morrow's father was working in the trade show exhibit industry in Atlanta. Father and son had experience building furniture, and so the idea of a business that they could build together just seemed like the right project.

"I wanted to do something cool and different - it's kind of the story of my life to be unique," he recalled. "I thought about it and then I approached dad with the idea. I sat him down and said, 'What if we started this museum exhibit business?' I wrote the report - it was really in-depth. I had to write out the plan, the projections and the five-year report. Essentially, I did the business plan for the company. We started it two years later."

Morrow's first project after JSU was at Universal Studios in Orlando, where he built one of the scenes of the ET ride, a giant model city of 35,000 square feet. As soon as that project wrapped he was asked to do the same for Universal Hollywood.

With Morrow's parents newly retired, the family dug in to build the business. Each brought specialized skills that put them on the right track out of the gate.

Elvin had the manufacturing background, Sarah was adept at accounting, financials and office management, and Greg brought modeling design, electronics and graphics talent. "It was the magic combination," Morrow said.

The company's first projects were the Jefferson Memorial, and then the north and south rims of the Grand Canyon.

Within a year, they had \$80,000 in sales. By year three, annual sales had grown to \$800,000. "The stars aligned is the only way I can explain it," Morrow remembered. "It's been like a snowball rolling down hill ever since."

One of the first projects SCE did for the National Parks Service was the Great Basin National Park in Nevada. Next came Big Bend National Park in Texas. The company grew so rapidly that, 10 years after the company began, sister Debbie left nursing to join the family business. "We've controlled our growth at about the size we want," said Morrow. "We just want to do high-quality work and stay the size we are now. We enjoy the work; we enjoy the people."

SCE is a turnkey company that employs all the talent it needs for its projects in-house, from the design to the engineering to the fabrication. The company employs software engineers, graphic designers, carpenters, and even videographers. A single job could include everything from the road signage to the exhibits to the documentary film that visitors watch. SCE has produced more than 60 documentary films to date to accompany some of its 560+ installations.

The variety of projects and locations is what keeps the business interesting, according to Morrow. "You never know what someone's going to call and ask you to build. I like for clients to tell me they have the money for me to be creative," he said. "Doing what we do is the easy part. The hardest thing is the scheduling."

During the weeks leading up to

Christmas, Morrow shuttled back and forth between Alabama and New York, renewing some of the nation's most recognized and iconic public spaces in New York Harbor. When Hurricane Sandy came ashore in New Jersey in late October 2012, the entire region was ravaged, including the Statue of Liberty and the Ellis Island Immigration Museum. SCE got the call when it came time to clean up and refurbish these facilities.

"This work is very rewarding because you're touching so many people," he said. "Work becomes legacy when you're touching so many lives."

SCE also gives Morrow the opportunity to pass his parents' work ethic down to the next generation. Last summer, he took his son, Kyle, a JSU sophomore, on the road to work at the Grand Canyon, the Flight 93 Museum, and the Statue of Liberty. While the younger Morrow spent the summer learning outside the classroom, his dad enjoyed the opportunity to reconnect. "It was kind of unique to spend that time with Kyle because it took me back to when I worked with my dad," he said.

What is next for the SCE story? After projects in New York, the Grand Tetons and Abraham Lincoln's birthplace are complete, they will head to Alaska, where the company will outfit the visitors center in Kenai Fjords National Park, one of the most popular launch ports for Alaskan cruises.

While many count on JSU to help them get where they're going, for Greg Morrow, JSU has also been a large part of where he's been, from that first day when his future was written in a 400-level business course.

"JSU did good for me," he said. "I wouldn't change anything about my education and my time as a JSU student."

**For more about Southern Custom Exhibits, visit [www.southerncustomexhibits.com](http://www.southerncustomexhibits.com)** 



## Honoring Lilly: JSU Scholarship to Honor Equal Pay Champion

BY BUFFY LOCKETTE

Simple acts can change the world. When Rosa Parks refused to give up her bus seat to a white passenger on December 1, 1955, she didn't know it would spark the Montgomery Bus Boycott and, in turn, the Civil Rights Movement. The bone-tired seamstress was just trying to get home. Similarly, fellow Alabamian Lilly Ledbetter didn't set out to amend the Civil Rights Act of 1964. The Goodyear employee simply wanted to be paid the same wages as her male coworkers. One simple act of defiance by these brave women changed history.

Born in Jacksonville, Ala., in 1938—the daughter of an Anniston Army Depot mechanic Lilly McDaniel Ledbetter grew up picking cotton and milking cows on the family farm in Possum Trot. After graduating from Jacksonville High School in 1956, her strong work ethic served her well as she advanced from an associate at H&R Block to an office manager at an accounting firm

and doctor's office. She even worked at JSU in the mid-1970s as assistant director of Financial Aid.

“The day I started work, I walked onto campus thinking about what my life would have been like had I gone there,” Ledbetter penned in her autobiography, “Grace and Grit.” “I didn't dwell on it too much. In my own way, I'd gotten to college after all. Working on campus and helping eager, grateful students in need go to college was something I looked forward to daily.”

The mother of two was initially discouraged from working outside the home, but she enjoyed earning her own wages and supporting the family income. With her extra income, she was able to provide her children things they would otherwise go without – from cheerleading uniforms to college tuition. With the goal of sending her children, Vickie and Phillip, to college at JSU, she decided to

apply for a manager's position at Goodyear in Gadsden.

In 1979, Ledbetter started her 19-year career at Goodyear. She trained in all the plant's various departments and divisions and her first supervisor assignment was to manage third shift stock prep in the radial division. Over the years, she endured injuries and sexual harassment with little complaint – believing her hard work would speak for itself. Then one day before work, she found an anonymous note dropped in her cubby that listed the salaries of three other managers in her area. She was bringing home thousands less per year than men doing the same job.

Ledbetter realized she was one in a long line of women to fall victim to America's wage gap. In 2015, women still earned just 77 cents for every dollar a man earned. According to the White House, “This significant gap is more than a statistic – it has real life consequences.

When women, who make up nearly half the workforce, bring home less money each day, it means they have less for the everyday needs of their families, and over a lifetime of work, far less savings for retirement.”

Ledbetter could have taken the easy route, dropped the issue and retired. Thinking of generations of women before her and those to follow – including her own granddaughter – she decided to take a stand. She sued Goodyear and a jury awarded her \$3.8 million, which was later thrown out by the U.S. Supreme Court based on the statute of limitations.


Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg stated in her dissent to the ruling: “Lilly Ledbetter was a supervisor at Goodyear Tire and Rubber’s plant in Gadsden, Alabama, from 1979 until her retirement in 1998. For most of those years, she worked as an area manager, a position largely occupied by men. Initially, Ledbetter’s salary was in line with the salaries of men performing substantially similar work. Over time, however, her pay slipped in comparison to the pay of male area managers with equal or less seniority. By the end of 1997, Ledbetter was the only woman working as an area manager and the pay discrepancy between Ledbetter and her 15 male counterparts was stark: Ledbetter was paid \$3,727 per month; the lowest paid male area manager received \$4,286 per month, the highest paid, \$5,236.”

In 2009, Congress passed the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act, removing the statute of limitations on discrimination suits. The Supreme Court had overturned her discrimination suit with Goodyear, since Ledbetter hadn’t filed within 180 days of receiving her first paycheck (despite whether she was aware of the discriminatory pay practices within those 180 days). The new act removed the statute of limitations. As his first official piece of legislation as president, Barack Obama signed

the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act into law.

“When I set out on my Goodyear career in 1979, it wasn’t part of my grand plan to someday have my name be on a Supreme Court case or an act of Congress,” Ledbetter wrote in “Grace and Grit.” “I simply wanted to work hard and support my family. The rest, I believed, would take care of itself. Clearly, fate had other plans for this Alabama girl.”

Ledbetter’s children, Vickie Saxon and Phillip C. Ledbetter, did realize their mother’s dream of achieving a college education. Both are JSU alumni. Vickie earned a bachelor’s degree in management in 1980 and Phillip earned a bachelor’s in economics in 1983.

The Lilly Ledbetter Scholarship has been established in honor of Ledbetter to promote the education of deserving full-time undergraduate students enrolled at JSU. The scholarship will be awarded to entering first-time freshmen who have a 2.5 high school GPA or higher and demonstrate financial need. **To make a contribution, contact the JSU Foundation at 256-782-5360 or visit [www.jsu.edu/giving](http://www.jsu.edu/giving).** 



## Vickie Saxon Named to JSU Foundation Board

Vickie Saxon, daughter of Lilly Ledbetter (page 28), recently joined the JSU Foundation Board. The JSU alumna is senior vice president of enterprise resources at Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Alabama, where she has worked for 33 years. She is responsible for all aspects of human resources, facilities operations, quality management and plan performance, as well as the Business Consulting Division.

Saxon graduated from JSU with bachelor’s degrees in accounting and management. She is an alumna of the Momentum Women’s Leadership Program and president-elect of the Momentum Alumni Program Board. She serves as a board member of Aldridge Gardens and the Alabama Governor’s School Leadership Council.

# ALUMnotes

## BIRTHS

*\*pictured below*

### 2000-2015

Devin D. Beasley '00 and his wife Kesha, Harvest, Ala., announce the arrival of their daughter, Avery, Mar. 26, 2015. They also have a 4-year-old named Ashton. Mr. Beasley was a member of the JSU men's basketball team (1998-2000).

\*Cody Brown '11 and his wife Lauren '13, Oxford, Ala., announce the arrival of their daughter, Leah Kathryn, Aug. 16, 2015. Brown is employed by Oxford City Schools. Mrs. Brown was a JSU Ambassador and works at Regional Medical Center Anniston.

\*Tyler Harris '11 and his wife Sarah '13, Jacksonville, Ala., announce the arrival of their daughter, Charlee Claire, Dec. 10, 2015. Harris is employed by SPAR, Inc. He was a JSU Ambassador as well as the Director of Operations for baseball and softball. Mrs. Harris is a kindergarten teacher at Lincoln Elementary School. She is a Phi Mu alumnae. Both were members of Campus Outreach.

\*Lee '00/'02 and Kelly Nye Hinkson '03/'04/'05, Dallas, Ga., welcomed a boy, Knox Anthony, Jul. 8, 2015. They have three girls Kalee, Kenzie and Kierslee. Hinkson was a pitcher for the Gamecocks (1996-1998) and Mrs. Hinkson was a shooting guard for JSU women's basketball (2000-2004). Both are teacher/coaches with the Paulding County Board of Education.

\*David Charles '01/'03 and Chelsea Kate Buchanan Thornton '06/'08, Jacksonville, Ala., welcomed a daughter,

Sarah Charlotte, Aug. 24, 2015. Dr. Thornton is an associate professor of computer science at JSU and Mrs. Thornton is JSU's Retention Specialist. She was a member of the Southerners color guard.

Brian '05/'10 and Ashlie Holland Snead '07/'10, Centre, Ala., welcomed the birth of their son, Porter, Dec. 29, 2014. Both were members of the JSU GO orientation/peer counselor team and ambassadors. Snead also served the SGA as director of publicity and was Mr. JSU. Mrs. Snead worked on campus with the admissions office. Snead is employed with Amedisys home health as area vice president of business development and Mrs. Snead is employed with the Cherokee County Board of Education as a kindergarten teacher.

\*Jonathan Price '06 and Heather Esneault Dalton '08, Cumming, Ga., welcomed the birth of their son, Charles Price, Oct. 25, 2015. Dalton is employed by Georgia Pacific. He was a member of Sigma Phi Epsilon. Mrs. Dalton is employed by Northside Hospital. She was a member of the Ballerinas and Alpha Xi Delta.

Steven Oliver '07 and Leslie Nicole Stinson Cruse '12, Oxford, Ala., announce the arrival of their son, Oliver Carl, Jul. 1, 2015. They also have a daughter, Chloey Leigh. Mrs. Stinson is employed with JSU in the In-Service Office at McClellan.

## WEDDINGS

*\*pictured below*

### ATTENDED ONLY

Bridget Curry and Maj. Paul W. Roden, Lawrenceville, Ga., June 27, 2015. Mrs. Roden was a member of the Marching Ballerinas. The couple will relocate to Atlanta where Maj. Roden is stationed.

### 2000-2015

Robert Morrison Owen '03/'06 and Brianna Faith Hopkins '13, Oxford, Ala., June 13, 2015. Mrs. Owen is employed by the Talladega County Board of Education. Mr. Owen is employed by the Calhoun County Board of Education.

Angela Elizabeth Reaves '03 and Randall B. Moore, Anniston, Ala., July 18, 2015. Mrs. Moore is employed by the Calhoun County Board of Education.

Kimberly Blue Hulsey '05 and Morris Denson Smith, Opelika, Ala., Sept. 6, 2014.

### CORRECTION

In the last edition of the GEM, incorrect information was listed for this couple. We apologize for the error.

\*Ashley Leanne Wheeler '04 and Matthew Edward Toms, Birmingham, Ala., May 20, 2015, in Nassau, Bahamas. Mrs. Toms was a cum laude JSU graduate (special honors in communications) and immediately was hired by Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail in Glencoe, Ala., as director of sales and marketing. She was recruited by Fore Georgia in 2005 where she worked as director of sales promotions before joining the March of Dimes in

Birmingham in 2007 where she now holds the title of division executive director.

Lynnley Laurel Clark '08 and Kevin Wyatt Neal, Decatur, Ala., April 18, 2015. Mrs. Neal served as a JSU Ambassador.

\*James William Birdsong '10 and Kristie Lynn Osborne '10, Rome Ga., May 25, 2013. Mrs. Birdsong is a cum laude JSU graduate in marine biology and holds membership in several biology honor societies. She served as a cheerleader and student ambassador, was crowned Miss JSU 2009, served in the 2010 Homecoming Court, and was a member of Alpha Omicron Pi. She is continuing her studies in the graduate program for biology education at JSU. Mr. Birdsong was a member of Kappa Alpha Order, serving as rush chairman.

Lauren Marie Couch '12 and Justin Adam Ervin '13, Oxford, Ala., Oct. 31, 2015. Mrs. Ervin is employed by the Calhoun County Board of Education at White Plains High School. Mr. Ervin is employed by Aerospace Coating, Oxford, Ala.

Holly Renee McCormick '12 and Neal Andrew Hurst, Lineville, Ala., Nov. 14, 2015. Mrs. Hurst is employed by Honda Trading America Corporation in Lincoln, Ala., as an administrative sales assistant. She was a member of Delta Zeta.

Ashley Nicole Henson '13 and Beau Garrett Smith, Devine, Tex., Sept. 12, 2015. Mrs. Smith was a member of Alpha Xi Delta and was commissioned through the JSU ROTC program.



Meaghan Hooks '13 and Zachary Shadoan '15, Jacksonville, Ala., Nov. 21, 2015. Mrs. Shadoan was a member of Alpha Xi Delta.

Brandon Michael Jerome '13 and Leann Frances Gann '14, Anniston, Ala., June, 2015. Mr. Jerome served as an athletic trainer for JSU sports.

Ashley Miller '14 and Shawn Morehead, Weaver, Ala., Aug. 30, 2015. Mrs. Morehead is employed by the Anniston City Jail. Mr. Morehead, who attended JSU, is employed by the Anniston Police Department.

## OBITUARIES

(Unless otherwise noted, the following information was taken from newspaper obituary notices)

### JSU FACULTY/STAFF

Mary Alice Angles, Jacksonville, Ala., Sept. 5, 2015. She was retired from Building Services.

Jerry W. Dobson, Jacksonville, Ala., July 7, 2015. He was retired from the Physical Plant.

Dr. John T. Finley, Jacksonville, Ala., July 22, 2015. Retired from the Music Department, Dr. Finley had served as department chair. He was the first band director of the Southerners.

Rowland "Smokey" Holcomb, Birmingham, Ala., June 6, 2015. He was a veteran of the Vietnam War and also served in Korea, Germany, and the United States. After retiring from the Army, he taught chemistry at JSU.

Dr. John Maltese, Athens, Ga., Oct. 12, 2015. He was retired from the music faculty. (Information provided by JSU Professor Emerita, Susie Francis Dempsey)

Lee R. Manners, Jacksonville, Ala., Dec. 1, 2015. Manners taught art for 31 years and had served in the Navy in World War II. His artwork hangs in many area schools, homes and businesses.

Earl Clayton McCool, Jr., Gadsden, Ala., Oct. 26, 2015. McCool served in World War II as a first lieutenant pilot in the Army/Air Force Reserve. He was a special agent for the FBI and a professor at JSU.

Mark Alan Meier, Glencoe, Ala., July 8, 2015. He served 23 years in the Air Force and 17 years in law enforcement in Morgan County, Ohatchee, Ala., and the university police department.

Dr. L.G. Sanford, Jacksonville, Ala., Nov. 24, 2015. He was a retired professor.

Morton Shapiro, Charlotte, N. Car., Sept. 11, 2015. His first teaching position was at Jacksonville State College before joining the English Department at the University of North Carolina-Charlotte where he retired in 1993.

Thomas Ray "Tommy" Simpson, Lebanon, Ky., Sept. 21, 2015. Mr. Simpson had been an assistant football coach from 1974-1975.

George W. Trivoli, Bradenton, Fla., Aug. 12, 2015. An Army veteran, he retired as a JSU eminent scholar in 1998 but continued to teach as an adjunct professor in retirement until the age of 80.

### ATTENDED ONLY OR DATE OF GRADUATION UNKNOWN

Sandra T. Bailey, Mansfield, Ga., June 22, 2015. A doll artisan, she had also taught for several years. Bailey was married to former JSU football player, Roy "Bull" Bailey '56.

Donald Maxwell Beabout, Anniston, Ala., Oct. 3, 2015. He retired after 25 years as an instructor at Central

Alabama Community College. He was also a retired Marine with over 20 years of service.

Michael Christopher Campbell, Rydal, Ga., Nov. 25, 2015. Mr. Campbell had been a member of Sigma Nu.

Frank Carr, Taylors, S.C., April 2014. The Alumni Office was notified by Carr's sister-in-law that he had passed away. He was a member of the Southerners.

Gary Lee Carr, Akron, Ohio, Sept. 23, 2015. He was a member of Sigma Nu.

Bret Warren Castleberry, Jacksonville, Fla., Aug. 8, 2015, in a motorcycle accident. He was a member of Alpha Tau Omega.

Jean Anne Whaley Dull, Elmira, N.Y., Oct. 28, 2014. She was a member of the Baptist Campus Ministry.

Elizabeth Horton Gray, Rainsville, Ala., May 19, 2015. She was retired from Plainview School.

Raymond Jerome Hill, Gadsden, Ala., May 3, 2012. Hill served in World War II, then went to Georgia Tech on a football scholarship. He transferred to JSU and played football for the Gamecocks for one year. He had worked at Allis Chalmers Manufacturing Company for 17 years and then worked for Goodyear Tire & Rubber, where he retired in 1985. In 1992, he was inducted into the Gadsden High School Sports Hall of Fame and to the Etowah County Sports Hall of Fame in 2005.

Julian W. Jenkins, Anniston, Ala., Sept. 16, 2015. Jenkins served in the U.S. Air Force during the Korean War. He was a partner in the architectural firm of Christian Boozer Jenkins AIA and later the firms of Julian W. Jenkins and Associates and Jenkins Munroe Jenkins AIA. He was involved in

designing several buildings at JSU and had served on the Foundation Board.

Walter N. Letson, W. Palm Beach, Fla., Oct. 7, 2013. Letson was involved in the International House Program.

Christine Sharp Marsicano, Charlotte, N.C., May 26, 2015. Marsicano had been married to Vito Marsicano '53, who had played football at JSU.

Donald O. Sharp, Eastaboga, Ala., date of death unknown. He was retired from the Anniston Army Depot.

Martha H. Skates, Fresno, Calif., Apr. 14, 2015.

Frank Curtis Snider, Dora, Ala., Jan. 19, 2015. He had been a member of the Army Reserve for 29 years and retired from New South Federal Savings Bank after 33 years.

Jeffrey Eugene Walker, Huntsville, Ala., May 6, 2015. He had been a member of Delta Chi.

James Howard Williams, Ohatchee, Ala., Aug. 30, 2015. He had played football for JSU from 1958 to 1961.

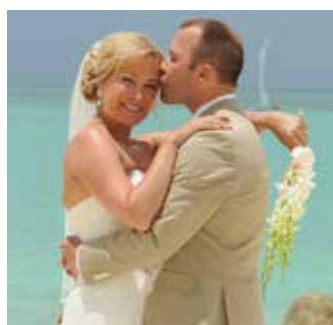
Laura Arrington Whorton, Marietta, Ga., June 28, 2015. Whorton had been a cheerleader for JSU. She was married to the late Joseph "Jay" Whorton '52, who played basketball and baseball for JSU.

### 1940-1949

Isabel Roper Rogers '41/'64, Jacksonville, Ala., May 21, 2015. Rogers was valedictorian of her Jacksonville State class. She taught school for 37 years at Kitty Stone Elementary. She was a founding member of the Inter Se Study Club in Jacksonville and was active in the Gen. John H. Forney Chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy, where she had held several offices including state president.

Mary Gertrude "Trudy" Stewart '44, Fayetteville, Ga., Oct. 8, 2015. She was retired from the JSU library. Stewart was involved with Alpha Xi Delta and the International House Program. She was married to the late, John R. Stewart '43, who had served as director of the JSU International House for many years.

Ruth Chappell Whitmire '45, Fort Payne, Ala., Sept. 10, 2014. For over 30 years, she had taught elementary school.



Left to right: Charlie Price Dalton, Ashley Wheeler '04 and Matthew Toms, Kristie Osborne '10 and William Birdsong '10

Dorothy Dimple Hendrix Lusk '48/'72, Huntsville, Ala., June 21, 2015. She had taught at Blossomwood and Whitesburg Elementary Schools during her 30 years of teaching. Lusk was married to the late Walter Eugene "Gene" Lusk '51.

Girda Thompson Bush '49, Jacksonville, Ala., Aug. 8, 2015. She had taught for over 40 years, 30 of those years in Jacksonville (including JSU) and 10 in Walker County. Bush had been married to the late Newburn W. Bush '36.

Charlie Jean Payne McDonough '49, Staunton, Va., Oct. 31, 2014. She spent many years as an educator with the last 29 at Goldsboro, N.C., High School. McDonough had been a member of the Baptist Campus Union.

Clyde J. McSpadden '49, Birmingham, Ala., Aug. 7, 2015. He served in the Army in the European Theater, including the Battle of the Bulge, and was awarded three European Campaign Battle Stars, a Presidential Citation and a Combat Infantry Badge. As a member of the JSU faculty, he published a laboratory manual and brought Pi Kappa Phi Fraternity to the campus, serving as its advisor for twelve years. Also at JSU, he was the director of the Northeast Regional Science Fair that had several national winners. He was awarded professor emeritus status.

Frances Virginia Reed Smith '49, Feb. 7, 2015. She had taught typing, shorthand and English for 31 years at Paint Rocky Valley High School and Woodville High School. The alumni office was notified by Jean Humphrey Arndt '60 of her cousin's death.

E.C. "Baldy" Wilson '49, Glencoe, Ala., Oct. 26, 2015. An Army veteran in World War II he saw combat in the Battle of the Bulge and was awarded a Purple Heart for a combat wound. Wilson is remembered at JSU for suggesting the Gamecocks colors be changed to red and white and the mascot changed from Eagle Owl to Gamecock! He played basketball (1946-1947) and football (1945-1948) at Jacksonville State. He coached football and basketball at Glencoe for 19 years. In 2002, the Glencoe football field was named Wilson-Darnell Field in honor of him and his friend, Coach Lyle Darnell. Coach Wilson has been inducted into the Alabama High School Athletic Association Hall of Fame, the JSU

Hall of Fame, Etowah County Sports Hall of Fame and Calhoun County Sports Hall of Fame. Following his coaching career, he worked for the Etowah County Board of Education and served as superintendent for 10 years and for a second term as interim superintendent. He subsequently served on the Etowah County Board of Equalization for over 20 years. He was married to Mattie Jones Wilson '60 for 69 years.

### 1950-1959

Richard Thomas Mayes, Sr. '50, Raleigh, N.C., Nov. 13, 2015. Mayes was a Navy veteran, serving in the South Pacific in World War II. He enjoyed a 31-year career with Monsanto, where he developed a patent.

James Robert Styles '50, Atlanta, Ga., Aug. 13, 2015, after a battle with Alzheimer's disease. After receiving his divinity degree in 1954, he served in various churches in north Georgia. He was then commissioned in the Air Force as a chaplain and served for 22 years throughout the United States. Upon retirement, he was appointed minister of visitation at Decatur First United Methodist Church where he served until his retirement in 1993. He went on to serve in interim appointments at various churches in Georgia. The Emory University Alumni Association honored Rev. Styles by induction into its Gold Corps of the Heart in recognition of 50 years of ministry and giving.

Lorene Tidmore '50, Huntsville, Ala., Oct. 17, 2015. She had been a dedicated elementary school teacher for many years in Marshall County and the Huntsville City School System.

James Alexander Hill '51, Mobile, Ala., March 19, 2015.

Ruby Letherwood O'Shields '51, Cleveland, Ala., Oct. 25, 2015. A lifelong educator, she served as a teacher, mentor and assistant principal in Cleveland and Oneonta high schools. After retirement, she continued to teach as a volunteer for citizenship classes in Blount County. She was married to the late Hugh P. O'Shields '51, who played football at JSU from 1948 to 1950.

Betty Lou Bigham '52, Rainbow City, Ala., Sept. 9, 2015. She taught English for 32 years in the DeKalb County, Ga., School System, retiring in 1987.

Marion Bryan Cole '52, Huntsville, Ala., Dec. 14, 2015, from Parkinson's disease. He was retired from the Army Missile Command where he served as a supervisory contract specialist/contracting officer. He was a World War II Navy veteran and was commissioned in the Marine Corps during the Korean War. He later transferred to the Army National Guard, retiring as a lieutenant colonel.

Jeannene Drake Patterson '52, Trussville, Ala., Aug. 4, 2015. She had taught English for 26 years at J.B. Pennington High School in Blountsville, Ala.

David W. Pearson '52, Jacksonville, Ala., Nov. 29, 2015. He was an Army veteran and served during the Korean War. In 1978, he was named Jacksonville Man of the Year. After becoming Jacksonville's youngest bank president, he was the chairman for Jacksonville's Development Board, which recruited such businesses as Federal-Mogul, Parker-Hannifin and Shelco Foundries, Inc. to the area. Pearson was a member of the International House Program and was commissioned through the JSU ROTC program.

Charles A. Stough '52, Geneva, Ala., Oct. 15, 2015. He played football for Jacksonville State. Stough also served in the Army during the Korean War. He began his coaching career at Red Level High and led his team to the Alabama State Championship and was named Coach of the Year. He served as head football coach at Demopolis High, Thompson High (Siluria, Ala.), and then Samson High. He then went on to become assistant football coach at Geneva High and taught driver's education until his retirement in 2000.

John Casey Thomas '53, Cedartown, Ga., Aug. 17, 2015. During his 56 years of teaching he served as band director of schools in Ohattee and Roanoke, Ala.; Lakeland, Fla., and Darlington School in Rome, Ga. He also taught brass and music education at Shorter College and JSU. Thomas received the Citizen of the Year in Government and Civil Service in 1978 - 1979 by the Cedartown Chamber of Commerce. He was a member of the JSU band before they became the Southerners and was a member of the Baptist Campus Ministry.

Judson S. Whorton '53, Jacksonville, Fla., June 24, 2015, of cancer. He retired from American Heritage Life

Insurance Company in 1986 after 31 years where he served as senior vice president, treasurer and chief financial officer. He was a Navy veteran. Whorton had been married to Carolyn Buckner Whorton '53. He was a member of the Baptist Campus Ministry.

Gaynelle Moncrief '54/'63, Talladega, Ala., Aug. 9, 2015. She was retired from the Talladega School System.

Anne Frances Carter Parker '54, Lafayette, Ala., Feb. 24, 2014. She had taught school in West Point (Ga.) and later in Lafayette. She had also worked at the Chambers County Health Department.

Guy Edward "Sonny" Sims '54, Gadsden, Ala., June 16, 2015. He was an Army career officer and a highly decorated Vietnam veteran. After retirement, he worked for the Department of Human Resources. Sims played football at Jacksonville State and was commissioned through the JSU ROTC program.

Lois Culp Acton '55, Panama City, Fla., Feb. 26, 2015. A retired teacher, she had taught for over 42 years at Northside, St. Andrews and Drummond Park Elementary Schools. She was married to Dr. Milton E. Acton '55.

William Gary Morgan '55, Commerce, Ga., Aug. 6, 2015. He was a member of the Southerners and was commissioned through the JSU ROTC program. The alumni office was notified by his wife of his passing.

William "Bill" Pannell '55, Fairhope, Ala., Oct. 18, 2015. He retired as a full colonel from the Air Force in 1978 with more than 20 years of military service. A Vietnam veteran, he was shot down twice but was never captured. He escorted astronaut John Glenn's capsule around the world. Prior to his service in the Air Force, Col. Pannell was a paratrooper in the Army and received the Distinguished Flying Cross. After retiring from the Air Force, he served as director of the off-campus branch of Troy University in Valdosta, Ga., and later as dean of the Georgia Military College in Milledgeville, Ga. He was a cheerleader at Jacksonville State and was commissioned through the JSU ROTC program.



Mae Zuber Boozer '56/'59, Rainbow City, Ala., Nov. 10, 2015. She had taught at Kitty Stone Elementary in Jacksonville until 1968, when she moved to Gadsden. She retired from Gaston School after 26 years of teaching.

Patricia Anne Genge Wentz '56, Clemson, S.C., April 12, 2015. She taught business at Pendleton High School and was an adjunct instructor at Tri County Technical College.

Anna Faye Moore Hamilton '57/'58, Houston, Tex., Aug. 24, 2015. She had a 36-year career as an educator. Hamilton was a member of the Baptist Campus Ministry.

Etheridge M. "Deacon" Killion '57, Cullman, Ala., June 20, 2015. He served in the Air Force during the Korean War. In 1993, he retired as an insurance adjuster with State Farm. Killion played football for Jacksonville State and had served on the Alumni Board of Governors. The alumni office was notified by his son, Don Martin '81, of his death.

James Luther Sallas '57/'64, Sylacauga, Ala., Nov. 1, 2010. Sallas retired after teaching at BB Comer School for 27 years.

David Keith Whisenant '57, Albertville, Ala., Aug. 29, 2015. He served in the Air Force. A successful salesman, Whisenant traveled all over the southeastern part of the United States. The last company he worked for was the Coty Cosmetics Company.

John Stanley Hilburn '58, Alpharetta, Ga., Aug. 25, 2015. He served in the Army during the Korean War, spent time in the Pacific and returned to have a distinguished career with NASA.

Curtis Leroy Hood '58, Gadsden, Ala., July 5, 2015. He was retired from Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company where he spent most of his career in quality control. He was an Army veteran.

George Harmon Partridge '58, Jasper, Ala., Nov. 7, 2015. He was the band director at Walker High School where he taught for 24 years. He played trumpet professionally for a number of years with the Ted Galloway Orchestra of Birmingham. He continued playing in the Guys and Dolls Dixieland Band in the Birmingham area until recently. Af-

ter his retirement as a music educator, Mr. Partridge worked for Byars Realty for many years. He was a member of the Southerners.

Robert H. Barnard '59, Arab, Ala., Jan. 26, 2015. He served in the Army. A previous resident of the state of Washington, he was retired from the Washington State Department of Transportation as chief right of way specialist. Barnard was commissioned through the JSU ROTC program. He was married to Joy Maddox Barnard '61.

George Nelson Cooper, Sr. '59, Alexander City, Ala., Aug. 19, 2015. He served in the Army in Korea and then worked at Litchfield, Ala., High School as a math teacher. He was a private accountant in Gadsden, Ala., for 50 years.

Jacques Lee Cox '59, Oviedo, Fla., March 25, 2015. Cox was a member of the Southerners.

Robert E. Daves '59, Broken Arrow, Okla., Nov. 21, 2014.

William Gary Gregg '59, Dunwoody, Ga., Sept. 20, 2015. He was commissioned through the JSU ROTC program.

Clyde E. Martin '59/'62, Birmingham, Ala., Aug. 30, 2015. He served in the Air Force during the Korean War. He later taught at Alexandria High School, Ala., and JSU before moving to Birmingham to teach at Jefferson State Community College until his retirement.

### 1960-1969

C. Arland Beck '60, Fayetteville, Tenn., May 3, 2015.

L.D. Dobbins '60/'74, Collinsville, Ala., June 11, 2015. His coaching career began in Cherokee County and Southside High Schools before moving to Collinsville in 1961 and becoming basketball coach for 29 years. Besides winning county and regional championships, he was named State Coach of the Year (1975), was nominated National Coach of the Year (1976), was a charter member of the DeKalb County Sports Hall of Fame, named Collinsville Alumni Association Teacher of the Year, DeKalb County Coach of the Year (5 times), received a National Association of Basketball Coaches Achievement Award, inducted into the Alabama High School Sports Hall of

Fame (2000), and the gym at Collinsville, Ala., is named in his honor.

Daisy Weller Smith '60, Jacksonville, Ala., Oct. 26, 2015. Smith was a long-time financial services specialist at the First National Bank of Jacksonville and its successors, AmSouth and Regions banks. She was also an active supporter of our military personnel through her work with the USO.

Bruce Key '61, Oxford, Ala., Oct. 4, 2015.

Mary Hubbard Nichols '61, Blountsville, Ala., Aug. 18, 2015. She was a retired teacher from J.B. Pennington High School. She had been married to William K. "Bill" Nichols '61.

Harold Lee Shankles '61, Yorktown, Va., April 14, 2014. Shankles played football for Jacksonville State and was commissioned through the JSU ROTC program.

Samuel Glenn Davis '62, Columbia, S.C., March 24, 2015. He was an Army veteran and worked in petroleum sales for more than 45 years. He had been commissioned through the JSU ROTC program.

Nancy Ruth Kimberly Owens '62, Tallahassee, Fla., Aug. 8, 2015. Several years after graduation, she and her husband moved to Florida and joined the NASA Space Program. She later worked for the National High Magnetic Field Laboratory at Florida State University where she had been currently employed. She had been a member of the Baptist Campus Ministry and the Southerners.

Bobby Neil Johnson '63/'76, Jacksonville, Ala., Dec. 1, 2015. He taught school throughout Calhoun, St. Clair and Marshall Counties, finally retiring from Anniston High School. He was a member of the Baptist Campus Ministry and had been married to Joyce Green Johnson '58.

Kathryn Green Yake '63, Fontana, Wis., Nov. 19, 2015. She taught science at the high school level in Birmingham and also in Rochester, Minn.

Ernest L. Downs '64, Birmingham, Ala., Jan. 8, 2015.

Charles Cecil Jenkins '64, Palatka, Fla., Dec. 25, 2014. He taught history at Palatka High School, retiring in 2006 after 35 years of service. He had

previously taught at the Florida State Prison in Raiford, Fla. He was also a Boy Scout leader with the Boy Scouts of America in Florida and Alabama.

Rhetta Hendon Russell '64/'75, Hamilton, Ga., Nov. 12, 2015. She had taught in Calhoun County, Ala., at Saks and Walter Wellborn, and retired from Oxford High School in 1991.

Kenneth Upton '65, Cedartown, Ga., Nov. 28, 2015.

Jack Otis Bidy '66, Birmingham, Ala., June 25, 2015, from complications following open heart surgery. He was in the beauty supply business for 32 years, founding United Beauty Supply with his best friend. He later moved on to sell real estate with his wife.

Tommy Burdette '66, Foley, Ala., Dec. 14, 2014. He was a retired teacher who spent most of his career at DeArmanville High School in Anniston.

Robert Edsel Beck '67, Anniston, Ala., Dec. 25, 2014.

Larry Eugene Rains '67, Anniston, Ala., June 28, 2015. He was an Air Force veteran and had taught at Macedonia Junior High, Cedar Springs Junior High and Saks High School. He was married to Hilary Roberts Rains '70.

Margaret T. "Peggy" Crabtree '68, Gadsden, Ala., Aug. 24, 2015. She taught private piano lessons for 25 years and taught for 17 years in the Gadsden City School System as a music instructor. While teaching middle school strings, she was instrumental in setting up an honors string orchestra program and each year an outstanding string orchestra student is chosen to receive a special award given in her name. She retired in 1996.

Tommy Earl Ham '68, Sylacauga, Ala., April 4, 2015. Ham played tennis at Jacksonville State.

Raymond W. Hicks '68, Birmingham, Ala., Nov. 2, 2015. He retired with 24 years of service with the City of Birmingham.

Frederick William Johnston '68, Bristol, Va., Nov. 16, 2014.

Charles Edward "Mac" McKerley '68, Houston, Texas, June 10, 2015. He had worked at NASA's Johnson Space Flight Center where he helped design

and program life support systems for a number of missions, including the Apollo Program, the Apollo-Soyuz Program and Skylab. Mr. McMerley was commissioned through the JSU ROTC program.

**1970-1979**

Robert Lewis Jones '70, Memphis, Tenn., Nov. 3, 2015, after a battle with lymphoma. He was an Air Force veteran and worked as a district executive for the Boy Scouts of America until 1985 when he became an agent for Allstate Insurance from which he retired in 2000.

William David Jones '70, Summerville, Ga., June 24, 2015.

Bill G. Osborne '70/'72, Gadsden, Ala., Aug. 30, 2015. An Army veteran, Osborne was retired from Merrill Lynch as a financial advisor.

Terry Lynn Sandlin '70, Birmingham, Ala., Nov. 8, 2015. He was awaiting a double lung transplant at the Mayo Clinic in Jacksonville, Fla. He served in the Army National Guard in Birmingham. Sandlin worked as a large claims representative at Infinity Property and Casualty Company in Birmingham.

Brenda Jane Jackson Smith '70/'76, Madison, Ala., April 20, 2015. She had taught at Oxford High School and was then employed at the Polygraph Institute at Fort McClellan. Her last employment was with the federal government as a background investigator. She is the former wife of Larry Joe Smith '70, Guntersville, Ala., who served as JSU's financial aid director for many years.

Janet "Bee" Atkinson '71, Birmingham, Ala., Dec. 1, 2014. She was a retired teacher with the Hoover City Board of Education. Atkinson was an inaugural member of the Gamecock Chicks at JSU and a member of Alpha Xi Delta.

Lionel "Doug" Devine '71, Cedar Park, Tex., June 18, 2015. He worked for several cutting tool companies both in sales and in regional manager positions. He began a residential real estate career with NPC in 1982 and later established his own company, Quarter-Mark. After a stint as a home builder, he turned to commercial real estate and founded Premas Commercial Real Estate Group, LLC with his wife.

Betty Jo Green Howell '71, Jacksonville, Ala., Dec. 11, 2015. She had been a teacher in the Calhoun County School System. When her husband retired, they moved to South Africa to work with the Xhosa Tribe in the Natal Province. They later moved to Budapest, Hungary, to continue their missionary work

and then relocated to Orlando, Fla., where they ministered to the homeless and incarcerated. She returned to Jacksonville after the death of her husband.

Doyle Ivey Ingram '71, Talladega, Ala., June 19, 2015. He worked his entire life in sales and management, holding various positions. While working with Clayton Homes he was inducted into the prestigious Hall of Fame for Clayton Homes.

Thomas G. Marler '71, Jacksonville, Ala., Nov. 16, 2015. He was retired from Anniston Army Depot.

Robert Eric Watson '71, Loxley, Ala., May 24, 2014.

Nick "N.L." Bowlin '72, Ashville, Ala., July 29, 2015. For over 45 years he was an accountant and also owner of Bowlin McCain Supply in Ashville. He also coached little league football and baseball and was a former scoutmaster. Bowlin also served a term as a councilman for the City of Ashville.

George Harold Moore '72, Madison, Ala., Feb. 13, 2015. He was an ordnance officer who retired as a major with the Army with 20 years of service. His last assignment was as the arms control officer for Retro-Europe for 5 years. He had also served in Korea, Germany and at various U.S. installations. Moore was commissioned through the JSU ROTC program.

Ronald Clark Swann '72/'75, Memphis, Tenn., June 8, 2015, after a battle with cancer. Swann was a member of Alpha Tau Omega.

Charles G. Baughn '73, Florence, Ala., Jan. 17, 2008. The alumni office was notified during the annual Phonathon that Baughn had passed away.

Charles S. Clare '73, Marietta, Ga., April 7, 2015. Clare had been a member of Delta Chi.

Dorothy Laverne Jones Eden '73, Pell City, Ala., June 30, 2015. She had taught in the Pell City School System for 20 years.

Patrick Eli Harmon '73, Birmingham, Ala., July 7, 2015. He was the owner of Valley Tire Company in Homewood. Harmon had been a member of Delta Chi.

Mervaleen Logan Martin, '73, Albertville, Ala., Feb. 13, 2015. She had been a member of the Baptist Campus Ministry.

Billie Dean Probus '73, Gadsden, Ala., July 1, 2015, from pancreatic cancer. An Army veteran, he was a steelworker for 27 years. He later went on to retire from the Alabama Department of Human Resources and the Medicaid office.

Deborah Elaine Little Young '73, Hokes Bluff, Ala., Nov. 9, 2015, from cancer. She was a longtime employee of Farmers and Merchants Bank in Piedmont.

Malcolm Walter Anderson, Jr. '74, Lewisville, Texas, Feb. 5, 2014.

Alexander Edwin Charleston, Sr. '74, Anniston, Ala., Aug. 18, 2015. He retired from the Army after 27 years of active duty. He had served in World War II, the Korean War and Vietnam, receiving many awards, medals and commendations. After retiring from the Army, he taught school for 19 years in the Calhoun County School System and for two years at the Donoho School.

Milton Joe Kimbrough '74, Weaver, Ala., June 13, 2015.

Christopher Louis Krone '74, Mobile, Ala., Dec. 11, 2014.

Eddie Albert Pharo '74, Rockmart, Ga., May 9, 2015.

Larry Lane Ragsdale '74/'93, Rockmart, Ga., Jan. 15, 2015.

Charles Crawford Teague '74, Lyerly, Ga., May 15, 2014. He was retired from the Cherokee County School System where he was a teacher.

Michael George Allen '75, Fruit Cove, Fla., July 12, 2015. He began his career with Clow Corporation in Birmingham, Ala., but transferred to Jacksonville, Florida. In 1988, he

opened MGA Construction, Inc. He was a founding member of the Utility Contractors Association of North Florida and served in the local, state and national associations.

Lewis Bernard Patterson '75, Cartersville, Ga., June 20, 2014.

Arnold Schmitz '75, Ormond Beach, Fla., Oct. 11, 2014. He served as an air police officer captain during the Korean War in the Air Force. He was an emergency medical service coordinator for Harris County, Texas, and a rural route carrier for the postal service in Hawaii.

Larry Thomas Gable '78, The Villages, Fla., May 27, 2015. He was a pitcher in the minor league system of the Cincinnati Reds and the Pittsburgh Pirates for 11 seasons. After his baseball career, Gable served as assistant principal for Eastbrook Middle School and principal of Westside Elementary School where he retired from the Whitfield County, Ga., school system. He was an Army Reserve veteran.

Fred Orvin Holland, Jr. '78, Resaca, Ga., Sept. 10, 2014. Holland had been a member of Pi Kappa Phi.

Jarrel Boyd Hunt '78, Cleveland, Ga., Nov. 15, 2014. He was an accountant and comptroller and had been employed by PGI Nonwovens Chicopee in Gainesville, Ga.

Raymond Lewis Low '78, Huntsville, Ala., Sep. 1, 2015. He spent his professional career in retail management beginning with JC Penney in Tuscaloosa and continued through Jackson, then Chattanooga, Tenn., and then Kenner and Covington, La. His most recent position was with Bed Bath and Beyond in Huntsville. He had been a member of Delta Chi, where he had served as its president.

Frances Bellflower Payne '78, Gallant, Ala., June 4, 2015. She was a retired nursing instructor at Gadsden State Community College.

James R. Hipp '79, Trussville, Ala., May 31, 2015. Hipp had worked over 40 years in law enforcement with the Birmingham Police Department and Jefferson County Services.

Martha E. Parrish '79, Duluth, Ga., Sept. 18, 2014.

Gary Wayne Stanfield '79, Albertville Ala., March 24, 2015.

Bruce Edward Zimerle '79, Defuniak Springs, Fla., March 19, 2015.

### 1980-1989

Mildred Reed Johnson '81, Crossville, Ala., Oct. 7, 2014.

Vanessa Jackson Austin '82, Harvest, Ala., Dec. 22, 2014. She had been owner/manager of Austin's Bookkeeping and CABBITT Designs in Harvest.

Teresa Morris Braun '82/'05, Jacksonville, Ala., July 13, 2015. She was a retired teacher.

Mary Ann Spurlin Coleman '82/'85/'90, Lineville, Ala., Nov. 2015.

Mark David Stiefel '84, Fort Payne, Ala., May 19, 2014. He was employed by the Alabama Fan Club and managed the Alabama souvenir shop in Myrtle Beach, S.C. He had also worked at V.I. Prewett & Son Hosiery, Cooper Hosiery and Earth Grains and managed a Goodwill outlet store in Nashville before health issues forced him to retire.

Peggy Jean McCullough Brown '85, Beaufort, S.C., Aug. 14, 2015. She was retired from the Alabama State Employment service after 30 years. After retiring, she volunteered with the food bank and at the elementary schools in the Jacksonville, Ala., area.

Paul Eugene Coffey '85, Granite Falls, N. Car., Feb. 18, 2014. He served 15 years in the Marine Corps and later retired from the Army. He was a Vietnam veteran.

Lorna Stewart Usrey '86, Alexandria, Ala., date unknown. She had been a member of Alpha Xi Delta. The alumni office was notified by another alum that she had passed away from diabetic complications.

Janice Fadely Watson '87, Glencoe, Ala., July 25, 2015. She taught in the Anniston City School System for 19 years before returning to Gadsden, where she taught and drove a school bus until retirement.

Sandra Joan Pace '88/'90/'92, Rome, Ga., May 5, 2014.

Mark Eric Rehm '88, Scottsboro, Ala., July 25, 2015. He had been a member of Pi Kappa Phi.

George Alexander Whaley '88, Oxford, Ala., Nov. 13, 2015. He was the former owner of the Great American Car Wash in Anniston.

Alisa Mae Mintz Driskill '89, Rainbow City, Ala., Dec. 28, 2014. She was retired after 23 years as a teacher at John Jones Elementary School.

Fred Bennett Rogers '89/'90, Albertville, Ala., Dec. 15, 2014.

### 1990-1999

Robert Hollis Spivey II '90/'92, Piedmont, Ala., May 28, 2015. He served as an educator for his entire professional career and taught at Springville Middle School for the majority of those years. Mr. Spivey had been a member of Sigma Nu.

James Randolph Hudson '91, Southport, N.C., Dec. 3, 2014. After more than 20 years of service as a military policeman in the Army, he retired in 2002. He then worked as an area manager for a private security company until 2009. After that retirement, he began teaching criminal justice classes at Cape Fear Community College. He had received a kidney transplant and lovingly named it Calvin!

Pamela Eulene Roach Boles '92, Phenix City, Ala., Oct. 31, 2015. She was a former elementary school teacher and a paramedic with the Columbus (Ga.) Fire and EMS and Meriwether County (Ga.) EMS.

Patricia Joan Tidmore '93, Attalla, Ala., Sept. 15, 2015.

James Dennis Tipton '94, Anniston, Ala., Oct. 24, 2014.

Keena Lannea Jones '95, Peachtree City, Ga., Aug. 21, 2014. Ms. Jones had been a JSU cheerleader.

Debra Lynn Shields '95, Woodruff, N.C., June 12, 2015. She had been recruited by Spartanburg Regional Healthcare System in 2000 to be the nurse manager for Gibbs Cancer Center. Over the past 15 years, she served in various nursing capacities. In 2009, she went to work as a nurse practitioner at Spartanburg Regional Weight Loss Services and retired early in 2015 due to her declining health. She was proud of her development and implementation of the Rapid Weight Loss Program within that practice, which has proven to be a great success.

Frank LaDon Thompson '95, Chelsea, Ala., Oct. 14, 2015. He had been a heart and kidney transplant recipient. He had served as a health care specialist with the Army Reserve and then worked as a registered nurse in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit and Critical Care Nursery at UAB Hospital in Birmingham. He had been a member of Sigma Nu.

### 2000-2015

Patrick Joseph Hood '00, Scottsboro, Ala., March 23, 2014. He enjoyed working as an attorney and had graduated with his Juris Doctorate from Cumberland School of Law in 2003.

Sharon Lee Mayo '00, Hoover, Ala., June 2, 2014

Sean Aaron Schewanick '02, Anniston, Ala., Sept. 6, 2015. He was an Army veteran, having served for 10 years in the military police. He later taught school at Mt. Zion Elementary, Ga., for 10 years.

Kevin Ray Barksdale '04, Crossville, Ala., May 13, 2015.

Joshua Guy Gardner '04, Sylacauga, Ala., Nov. 9, 2015. He had served as a JSU Ambassador.

Toni Elizabeth Young '04, Gadsden, Ala., June 10, 2015.

Jamie Shey Sexton '05, Weaver, Ala., June 12, 2015.

Quaethia Pierce Burton '06, Fayetteville, N.C., Jan. 3, 2014.

Christopher Mostello '08, Gadsden, Ala., June 16, 2015. He had been employed by National Cement Company, Ragland, Ala.

Tammie Lynn Butler '10, Oxford, Ala., Nov. 2015.

\*Precious Joy Lynn Goodwine '10, Talladega, Ala., April 16, 2013. She had been a rehabilitation teacher, bus aide and dorm aide at the Alabama Institute for the Deaf and Blind-EH Gentry and Helen Keller School. She had also employed by Bath and Body Works, Bed Bath and Beyond and served as a residential assistant at Southern Union State Community College. The alumni office was notified by her sister, Angel Batts, that Goodwine had passed away.

Barbara Denise Hicks Miller '10, Gadsden, Ala., Sept. 1, 2015. She

had served as an English as a Second Language (ESL) preschool teacher for the East Coast Migrant Head Start Program in Fairhope, Ala. She was also an adjunct ESL instructor at Gadsden State Community College, Ala., and was a second language teacher at Fort Payne Middle School (2004-2007), Ala., where she researched, developed and administered a program for non-English speaking newcomer children in grades 5-8. She next was a Spanish teacher at Sand Rock School in Cherokee County, Ala. (2008-2009). She then became a media specialist at Hillview Elementary in Jefferson County, Ala., and was the recipient of Jefferson County's Most Exemplary Elementary Library Program Award in 2012. And, for the past three years, she was employed by the Gadsden City School System, Ala., as a librarian at Floyd Elementary.

Sherry Tillman Ray '12, Oxford, Ala., Sept. 18, 2015.

## ALUMNOTES

*\*pictured below*

### ATTENDED ONLY OR DATE OF GRADUATION UNKNOWN

#### 1950 – 1959

Dr. Jack D. Street, Beloit, Wis., was awarded professor emeritus status in May 2015 upon his retirement from Beloit College where he taught for 54 years. He holds a M.A. in French from the University of Alabama, a M.A. in Italian from Middlebury College, and a Ph.D. in French from the University of Iowa. His teaching career spanned 62 years, including as a graduate assistant in three different universities, one of which was UA (1950-1951). He has published a dozen articles in reviews in this country and abroad, on French, Italian and their literatures. He is the author of three published books on Italian theatre of the 20th and 21st centuries.

#### 1960 – 1969

\*William R. Lee '68, Hixson, Tenn., has been elected Professor Emeritus of Music at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga. He was a member of the Southerners (1964-1968) and wrote the covers for the first two Southerners recordings. Dr. Lee taught at UTC for 30 years as coordinator of music education. He was director and founder of the Southeast Institute for Education in Music and has more than 200 publications and presentations. He

has won numerous awards, grants and fellowships. He was named to the Tennessee Music Educators Hall of Fame in 2012. He is married to Sue Knight Lee '68, who was also a member of the Southerners.

**1970 – 1979**

\*John L. Casey '71, Orlando, Fla., has been a national space policy advisor to the White House and Congress, a senior field engineer on the space shuttle program, consultant to NASA headquarters and consultant to or president of several leading edge technology startups. He is the author of the 2011 climate book, "Cold Sun," and its 2014 remake, "Dark Winter," which has become a best seller. He currently is the president of Veritence Corporation, a science and engineering consulting company, and CEO of the International Earthquake and Volcano Prediction Center in Orlando. He is a former Army missile and computer systems officer.

David Michael Kennamer '72, Owens Cross Roads, Ala., retired in 2015 from NASA after 35 years of federal service. He also holds degrees from Auburn and the University of Alabama -- but JSU started it all -- thanks JSU!

Cindy Kilgore Pharr '72, Owens Cross Roads, Ala., taught elementary school music in Tennessee public schools for 15 years. She also worked as a social worker for the states of Alabama and Tennessee for 15 years. Upon moving to Huntsville in 2003, she worked as a realtor for eight years. She is married to Carey Pharr who attended JSU but went on to get his electrical and mechanical degree with TVA at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga. He retired from TVA after 35 years in Nov. 2014.

Paul E Carpenter, Jr. '76, Savannah, Ga., has been appointed to the St. Joseph's/Candler System Pharmacy Director role. He had been serving as interim director and came to Candler

Hospital in 1987 as an IV supervisor. He was awarded Pharmacist of the Year 1985 in Chapel Hill, N.C., where he was employed (1983-1986). He also received the Georgia Society of Health System Pharmacy Community Service Award in 2004.

Lewis Edmund Morris '76, Huntsville, Ala., has retired as Huntsville's police chief, a job he began in 2012. He has been with the department for 38 years. He had been a member of Kappa Sigma.

Yvonne Gunn Swift '79/'90, Jacksonville, Ala., is now co-principal at Kitty Stone Elementary School.

**1980 – 1989**

Jamie-Lynn Marcus Campbell '81, Huntsville, Ala., retired from the Huntsville City School System as a special education teacher after teaching for 27 years.

Rhonda Trammell Tinker '85/'89, Jacksonville, Ala., is now co-principal at Kitty Stone Elementary in Jacksonville. She is married to David Bruce Tinker '84.

\*Jim R. Andrews '86, Los Angeles, Calif., is now manager, clinical trial liaison for Portola Pharmaceuticals, South San Francisco, Calif. The company discovers and develops novel therapeutics to meet patient needs in thrombosis, other hematologic disorders and inflammation indications. Mr. Andrews has worked in the pharmaceutical industry since 2001. He is responsible for the support of medical facilities in the western states who are participating in two phase 3 clinical trials for FDA consideration of two potentially life-saving medications.

\*Teresa Cannady '87, Vero Beach, Fla., is an international development specialist and attorney. She had been in private practice in Albertville, Ala. for several years before beginning a career in international development in 1998.

Now, 17 years later, she is still working internationally, supporting countries to develop effective legal systems and protect women's rights. Now living in Vero Beach, she still completes short-term international assignments. She has had her first book published, "The Triangle," a riveting story of international spy intrigue. She is working on her second book, which will detail the lives and politics of the many countries in which she has lived and visited.

Roy Williams '87, Birmingham, Ala., began a new job as public relations director at the 19-branch Birmingham Public Library System on Sep. 8. He previously spent 23 years as a reporter at the Birmingham News. Mr. Williams was a member of the International House Program and the Southerners.

**1990 – 1999**

\*Cheryl L. Bevelle Orange '90, Collierville, Tenn., has been promoted to director of information technology for FedEx. She joined FedEx in 1997 as an EDI Analyst. She has also served as retail marketing manager where she led the team to develop business requirements and implement the first FedEx retail point of sale solution for the FedEx World Service Center locations. She also created and launched other game-changing solutions for FedEx such as the FedEx Tech Awards Program, FedEx Web Services and the FedEx Developer Resource Center. She has been awarded a Five Star (2014) for using Quality Data Management (QDM) principals to redesign processes and optimize resources to save the company several million dollars over a 3-year period.

Michael Wayne Prestridge '90, Tavares, Fla., a nationally-recognized expert in mapping, serves as chief deputy in the Lake County Property Appraisers Office working with property appraisers to increase online services. Before moving to the Appraisers Office, he

worked for the Orange County Property Appraiser for 22 years, starting as a mapper and becoming chief deputy for six years. He has been recognized by Florida's elected property appraisers for his leadership and innovation. He was a member of the Southerners.

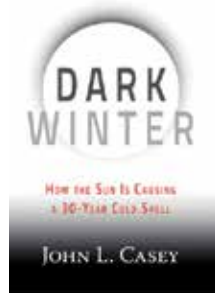
Randy T. Belyeu, Jr. '91, Montgomery, Ala., currently serves as a biology teacher and softball coach at Wetumpka High School. His team won Alabama's 2015 6A State Softball Championship against Southside-Gadsden by a score of 3-2. His varsity team finished 42-8 and his JV finished 30-1 and he was named Alabama's 6A Coach of the Year for 2015. Belyeu played baseball for the Gamecocks.

Karron Melissa Standridge '93, Oneonta, Ala., has been named the 2015 High School Counselor of the Year by the Alabama School Counseling Association. She has been the Hayden High School counselor for 12 years. Prior to that, she coached several sports while teaching at West End High School for 13 years.

Christy Allison Hamilton '94/'97/'04, Jacksonville, Ala., is now principal at Kermit Johnson Elementary in Jefferson County.

Bill Glenn Shelton '95/'06, Dutton, Ala., was named supervision director for the Alabama Science Teachers Association early in 2015. He currently serves as principal at Rosalie Elementary School and is in his 21st year of teaching. Before moving into administration, he spent 15 years as a classroom teacher where he earned National Board Certification in Early Adolescent Science.

Shannon Galloway Mallett '99/'03, Jacksonville, Ala., is teaching third grade at Kitty Stone Elementary. She previously taught at Shades Cahaba Elementary (Birmingham) and at Pleasant Valley Elementary (Jackson-



ville). Mrs. Mallett is married to Eric K. Mallett '11.

Ashley Tillery Smith '99/'05, Anniston, Ala., is teaching fifth grade science at Kitty Stone Elementary. She previously taught at White Plains for 15 years. Mrs. Smith is married to Clint Smith '03.

Maj. Michael D. Kennedy '96/'97, Colorado Springs, Colo., has been appointed the director of operations for the U.S. Air Force Academy Department of History. Maj. Kennedy, an Air Force logistics readiness officer and 1997 recipient of the Lovett Scholarship, is also the new course director for History 100, Introduction to Military History, the core history course for freshmen cadets. He is married to April Batey Kennedy '99/'11, who recently joined the New Parent Support Program staff with the Army Community Service at Fort Carson, Colo. As a registered nurse, she provides support and services that reflect the needs of the military families in the area.

Jeremy Daniel Wallace '97/'07, Gadsden, Ala., is the new assistant principal at Alexandria Elementary School. He has spent 14 years as a teacher and coach at Pleasant Valley High School. John Matthew Larry '99, Rome, Ga., has been named ELA-8 physical education teacher, head varsity baseball coach and assistant softball coach at Darlington School. He has more than 20 years of experience in collegiate athletics. Most recently he served as head baseball coach and professor of health education at Shorter University where he was named Staff Member of the Year (2012). In 2014 he led Shorter's baseball team to an NCAA Southeast Regional Championship and to the semifinals of the NCAA World Series. Mr. Larry is married to Jacqueline B. Larry '02.



Cheryl Orange

## 2000-2010

Lacey Michelle Bacchus '00, Pelham, Ala., has become director of marketing for Southern Veterinary Partners. She currently serves on the JSU Alumni Board of Governors as President of its Birmingham area chapter. She was a member of Alpha Omicron Pi.

Kimberly A. Hays '02, Rocky Face, Ga., was recently named the winner of the 2015 Dalton State Foundation Award for Excellence in Teaching. Dr. Hays is an assistant professor of biology in the Department of Natural Sciences at Dalton State College in Dalton, Georgia. She had been a member of the Southerners and Sigma Alpha Iota.

Shannon Anthony Finley '01/'14, Jacksonville, Ala., is the new assistant principal at Alexandria High School. She had been a teacher at Alexandria Elementary for 16 years.

Bryan Marc Taylor '01, Jacksonville, Ala., is co-owner of Taylor Real Estate Solutions and manages property in Jacksonville and surrounding areas. He previously spent several years as an instructional assistant and basketball coach for the Jacksonville City School System. Mr. Taylor also held a position in Atlanta working for the International Sports Federation, a mission organization that sends sports teams overseas to work with missionaries. But he feels he's found his niche in real estate.

James A. Todd '01, Piedmont, Ala., has been hired as an assistant professor of politics at Palm Beach Atlantic University in West Palm Beach, Fla. He completed his Ph.D. in political science at the University of Alabama '15.

Christy Powell Shepard '02/'05, Oxford, Ala., has been appointed as the new principal at Coldwater Elementary School with the Oxford City School System. Shepard is a member of Delta Sigma Theta.

Brooke Miller Lee '04, Jacksonville, Ala., is the new owner of the Swank boutique on the Square in Jacksonville. She is married to Steven Alan Lee '04 who played football at JSU and was part of the 2003 OVC championship team. He owns the Steven Lee Agency of Allstate Insurance in Jacksonville.

Adam S. Crowe '05 Henrico, Va., is Virginia Commonwealth University's director of emergency preparedness. He recently authored "A Futurist's

Guide to Emergency Management," in which he makes projections on theoretical scenarios in emergency management to help others working in emergency management areas plan for future risks but also to address questions that need to be answered now.

Somer Lynn Leathers Medley '05/'14, Jacksonville, Ala., is teaching special education at Kitty Stone Elementary. She previously worked for 10 years in Polk County, Ga., at Cherokee Elementary.

Crystal Kirkpatrick Langston '07, Jacksonville, Ala., teaches at Alexandria Elementary School.

Jeffrey Ryan McCoy '07, Boaz, Ala., is teaching at Pleasant Valley High School. He previously taught at Cleburne County High, Sardis High and Ragland High.

LaTrevia M. Norwood '07, Childersburg, Ala., has had her first book published. "Divas in Distress" centers on four separate characters who reflect on what it means to be successful and happy after leaving their housing projects where they grew up. While writing her book, she suffered three tragedies herself -- she first lost her biological father to cancer then her stepfather to cancer, and then her husband was murdered. Rather than let her grief overcome her, she made it her goal to finish her book. She has already begun work on the book's sequel, "Divas in Distress II: The New Beginning."

Andres Amores '08/'11, Anniston, Ala., former JSU tennis standout from Ecuador, has been named the new head men's and women's tennis coach at JSU. He replaces long-time coach Steve Bailey '75/'77 who retired in June. He was an All-OVC player (2005-2008). Amores previously coached at North Carolina Wesleyan College, where he served as head coach for two years and left both programs ranked #1 in their respective leagues. He was a member of the International House Program.

Lori Davis Bradley '08, Piedmont, Ala., is a teacher in the Piedmont City School System with the Piedmont Learning Academy. She is married to John Clinton "Clint" Bradley '93, who works in insurance in Centre, Ala.

Seth Ford '08/'11, Ragland, Ala., was recently named the new head coach of the varsity boys' basketball team at

Ashville High School in the St. Clair County Board of Education.

Jordan Lee Weathers '09, Jacksonville, Ala., is the assistant principal at Wellborn Elementary. He previously taught in the Oxford City School System at C.E. Hanna Elementary.

Melissa Nicole Gay '10, Weaver, Ala., is a second grade teacher in the Jacksonville City School System at Kitty Stone Elementary.

Holly Alyssa Patterson '10, Jacksonville, Ala., is teaching English at Pleasant Valley High School. She previously taught at Saks High and White Plains Middle.

Christina Rachael Ginn '11, Pooler, Ga., has started her residency in pharmacy at St. Joseph's/Candler Hospital in Savannah, Ga. She was a GO Leader and a member of Zeta Tau Alpha.

Hannah Cooper McCauley '12, Ruston, La., is currently pursuing a master of fine arts from Louisiana Tech University. Her photography has been exhibited in group shows in various venues including Louisiana Tech, Photoplace Gallery (Vt.) and the Gadsden (Ala.) Museum of Art. She is married to Zachary Gene McCauley '11, who is also pursuing a MFA in photography at Tech.

Sallie Kruse Thomas '12, Jacksonville, Ala., is teaching pre-K at Kitty Stone Elementary. She previously taught for several years in Waco, Texas.

Kayla D. Goodwin '13, Jacksonville, Ala., is teaching pre-K at Kitty Stone Elementary. She previously taught at Iqra Math and Science Academy in Anniston.

Mytesa McLester Horton '13, Jacksonville, Ala., is teaching at Jacksonville High School. She previously taught at Weaver High.

Phillip Wayne Hunt '13, Rainbow City, Ala., is teaching history at Jacksonville High School. He previously taught at Sylvan Learning Center and 21st Century Program, Gadsden City School System, S.T.E.M. education.

Jennifer E. White '13, Talladega, Ala., has opened an exercise studio in Talladega called Motivations with the goal of not only helping people live healthy

lives, but also to motivate and support them through the trials of life.

Morgan Kate Martin '15, Boaz, Ala., is the latest addition to the staff of the Sand Mountain Reporter.

Abigail Kate "Abby" Minter '15, Heflin, Ala., has been hired by the Cleburne County Chamber of Commerce as its executive director. She has been an active volunteer with the Chamber for the last several years.

Michelle Leigh Thomas '15, Jacksonville, Ala., teaches world history at Pleasant Valley High School.

Shelby Leigh Triplett '15, New Market, Ala., a Space Camp crew trainer at the U.S. Space and Rocket Center in Huntsville, was recently proposed to under the iconic Saturn V at the Center by her now fiancé Steven Scott. He said, "This rocket took man to the moon, but you take me so much farther!" Her grandfather helped build the massive F-1 engines, which were the backdrop for the photo of the proposal. The two met while students at Jacksonville State.



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