

Hello 2009 fellow fighting Gamecock alumni. **News flash !**

News flash! If you've not heard, your JSU fighting Gamecocks back home "are making quite a bit of noise this



year on the gridiron", since facing the giants of Georgia Tech and Florida State Universities opening the season. Currently our Gamecocks are 4-3, after a disappointing loss this past Saturday against Eastern Illinois for Homecoming. I travelled down to Jacksonville and enjoyed a full weekend of activities. Hope you will plan to make it down next year.

The purpose of this newsletter is two-fold. *First to introduce our Vice President (VP) of the GWDC Alumni Chapter, Mr. Timothy Marshall Ballard, and to discuss the plans for our **chapter holiday meeting on Saturday December 12** at the **Old Ebbitt Grill** in close vicinity of the White House to support our planned **White House Tour on the same day.***

Tim hails from Anniston, Alabama and is a first generation college graduate. Tim received his bachelors of music in 1990 and master's degree from JSU in 2004. Tim grew up singing in churches and on *The Country Boy Eddie* television show in Birmingham, Alabama that was broadcast into 60,000 homes each morning. During his high school and college years Ballard sang at numerous national conventions and large arenas. While attending JSU, Tim's love for singing and acting flourished under the instruction of Dr. Richard Armstrong, who was his voice teacher and continues to be his mentor and close friend. At JSU Tim appeared in numerous musicals and plays with the drama department and was a member of the prestigious JSU Chamber Singers during his undergraduate career. This year Ballard will complete his doctorate of musical arts in Vocal Pedagogy at The Catholic University of America. Tim maintains an active performance schedule, and has appeared locally at the Kennedy Center, Strathmore and Summer Opera Theater. Tim has also been seen in tours of *Into the Woods* and *Follies*. This spring he will be heard in the DC area in *Pagliacci* and *Menotti's Saint of Bleeker Street*. Tim is currently teaching as an adjunct professor at local universities and will be published in 2 academic journals this spring. Last but not least, in Tim's busy schedule he is also the Vocal Arts Director at Act Two



Performing Arts in Rockville, MD, having just directed the Act Two Parade earlier this month. January 22-24, Tim will showcase in *Oliver* followed by: *The Producers*, *Sweeney Todd*, *Annie Get Your Gun*, and the 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee. Next summer you can see Tim in *Olympus Descending*, collaboration with another JSU alum, Mark Fifer, that will be work shopped in Washington DC and New York City. If you are in the area, you can contact Tim at ballard.timothy@me.com to get out and see him in action as a product of JSU.

Now to the EXCITING PLANS we have for **our holiday chapter meeting on Saturday December 12th**. As noted above, the chapter has reserved the historic Old Ebbitt Grill in D.C., to host our chapter meeting and to support our White House tour request on the same day. The Old Ebbitt Grill is located at 675 15th Street, NW Washington D.C. 20005.

During our chapter meeting will hear from **"the great Denzel Washington"** and many, many other exciting people including YOU in a group environment. **Trust me... this is one Chapter meeting that you will not want to miss.** If you have teenagers or college students that are home for the weekend, I encourage you to bring them. The book to the right of this paragraph will drive the focus/theme of this year's meeting **"A Hand to Guide"**.

Finally, the White House is decorated each year with a different theme! It's really a neat way to get in the holiday mood. More information is coming on this and we will be in touch with you as we finalize these exciting plans. With that said, please RSVP your plans to attend the chapter meeting/luncheon and the White House tour on December 12 to the Chapter Secretary, Mr. Gordon Rogers at gordon.rogers@us.army.mil by November 12th.

Please join our network to help maintain our chapter's presence and tradition of uniting to give back to what remains as the "Friendliest Campus in the South". Feel free to contact myself at dmispy@hotmail.com or phone @ 410-939-0299 at anytime with ideas and interest.

We hope to see you on December 12th.

Go Gamecocks!!!!

