



JACKSONVILLE STATE UNIVERSITY

ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

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Greetings from the Dean!

To say the least, 2020 has been an interesting, challenging, and unusual year! But as educators, we are taught to be flexible and to persevere! So we have made necessary adjustments, and we keep on keeping on!

The presence and continuing threat of the coronavirus demanded a lot of innovation, creativity, and flexibility as the Fall 2020 semester began. Class meeting spaces, class sizes, delivery methods, and communication channels were tweaked or changed outright! The challenge of the unknown tomorrow certainly called for us all to step beyond our comfort zones, but we did that. New levels of communication and collaboration with our P-12 partners schools and systems have evolved. The need for good, clear communication and working together has never been more important. We have grown and improved as a result of the challenges given to us. The 2020-2021 academic year, when

complete, will have been one of the most successful years in the recent past. In spite of the challenges of this year, enrollment in the School of Education is up over 70 students over Fall 2019, a 5.1% increase, resulting in a total enrollment of 1442 in the School of Education! This continues an upward enrollment trend for the third consecutive year, in spite of the unique challenges of 2020. We expect to have six new programs approved to begin the Fall of 2021. Those new and much needed programs include a Mathematics Specialist program at the master's degree level, four new middle grade (Grades 4-8) certification programs (English, Math, General Science, Social Studies), and a new bachelor's degree program in Computer Science Education! These programs will assist us in further addressing the current teacher shortage, as well as fill in some important gaps in education. All of us in the School of Education thank you for your



Dean Tommy Turner

partnership and support. Many of you have made financial contributions that provide scholarships and other enhancements to our students. Many of you are ardent recruiters for our programs in Education and Family and Consumer Sciences; we ask you to continue to point prospective students our way! And please know that you are invited to come by and visit at any time!

SoE Doctoral Program Proposal in the Works; Input Sought

By Wendy Stephens

The SoE is investigating the possibility of offering an Ed.D. in Teaching and Learning. This would be a unique program for teachers and instructional leaders in a variety of settings.

The process of establishing a doctoral program is a complex one, necessitating approval from university administration and Board of Trustees, the Alabama Commission on Higher Education, and SACS. One important component to a proposal is

establishing the demand for a program, so we are asking for your assistance in completing a brief online survey that would assess need, interest, and feasibility of such a program. The survey is located at <https://tinyurl.com/JSU-EDD>.

Ms. Kim Mitchell is ACTE National Award Winner

By Robbie Boggs

The Association of Career and Technical Education (ACTE) selected Ms. **Kim Mitchell** as the 2020 ACTE Postsecondary Teacher of the Year. This award recognizes exceptional career and technical teachers at the postsecondary level who have demonstrated innovation in the classroom, commitment to their students, and who seek to improve career and technical education in their institution and communities. Kim has enjoyed serving as a mentor to CTE professionals and working with students who desire to be future teachers. She has worked in both secondary and post-secondary

levels during her career. She taught in Talladega City, Talladega County, and St. Clair School systems prior to her current position as Career Technical Education Specialist and Program Chair in the FCS Department at JSU.

Ms. Mitchell was one of five finalists for the 2021 national title. The winner was announced in November at the ACTE Awards Gala. ACTE represents the community of CTE professionals, including educators, administrators, researchers, school counselors, guidance and career development professionals, and others at all levels of education.



Ms. Kim Mitchell



National Hispanic Heritage Month at JSU



Ms. Aurelia Ugarte

By Robbie Boggs

To celebrate and honor the contributions, traditions, and history of Americans who connect themselves of Hispanic or Latin ancestry, JSU designated September 15 - October 15 as National Hispanic Heritage month. There were several events and celebrations planned across campus. At the conclusion of festivities on October 15, JSU's Latin Ensemble performed at The Heirloom Taco, just off the square in Jacksonville. **Aurelia Ugarte**, co-owner of Heirloom

Taco, was one of the guest speakers who talked with pride of her culture and background. Aurelia graduated a few years ago with a degree in Family and Consumer Sciences-Human Sciences and she and her husband, Shane Gowan, opened Heirloom Taco because of their love for cooking with fresh ingredients and spices.

Treat yourself to an entrée at this restaurant! Heirloom Taco is certainly not your typical taco stand!

Marshall County School Systems Cohort Began in Summer 2020

By Cynthia Connor

Beginning Summer 2020, the JSU School of Education initiated a Masters Cohort program with the five school systems of Marshall County, AL. From January to March, Dr. **Tommy Turner**, Dean of the SoE and representatives from the Departments of Curriculum and Instruction, Secondary Education, and Counseling and Instructional Support met with interested teachers and administrators to present this cohort initiative to the five school systems of Marshall County--Albertville City, Arab City, Boaz City, Guntersville City, and Marshall County. During these informational meetings, Dean Turner explained the advantages of pursuing a masters via the cohort including reduced tuition rate, no added fees per semester, and future increase in salary and retirement funds. After Dean Turner provided general information, there was the opportunity for participants to meet individually with the representatives of the various programs. Anyone who was not able to attend one of the meetings or who had already begun a JSU masters in one of the qualifying programs, could still qualify to become a part of the cohort. Below is a list of EdS and Masters programs in the cohort.

EdS Degree Programs available

online: Teacher Leader, Instructional Leadership, Counselor Education, Library Media, and Physical Education. All qualify for Class AA pay. (NOTE: PE must be employed in a PE position)

Master's Degree Programs

available online: Instructional Leadership (along with an 18-hour certificate option), Library Media, Instructional Technology, Early Childhood, Early Childhood Special Education, Elementary, Reading Specialist, Special Education K-6, Special Education 6-12, Secondary Language Arts, Secondary History, Secondary Social Studies, Sport Management, and Physical Education. According to ALSDE, all qualify for Class A level pay.

General Information: Reduced tuition is \$350 per semester hour, as opposed to \$400 regular rate, a 12.5% savings. There are no additional fees attached, resulting in an approximate 20% overall savings. (There is an application fee of \$35.) Students MUST enroll in two/three courses per term (depending on program length) for five consecutive terms to receive any approved reduced tuition rate (i.e. summer, fall, spring, summer, fall = Graduation). The principle is "continued enrollment." All

Programs are ONLINE with minimal campus attendance required (except orientation session and formal presentation).

Admission requirements differ slightly per program. Generally, students must (1) apply for graduate school/program; (2) Some programs require recommendation from principal and/or superintendent; and (3) some require specific years and type of experience.

Contacts/Advisers for programs:

PE- Dr. Kory Hill; **Sport Management-** Dr. Reggie Overton; **Instructional Leadership-** Dr. Kim Warfield; **Counselor Education-** Dr. Jerry Kiser; **Library Media-** Dr. Wendy Stephens; **Instructional Technology-** Dr. Jimmy Barnes; **Secondary Education-** Dr. Emily Sims; **Elementary Education-** Dr. Melinda Staubs; **Special Education -** Dr. Cynthia Connor **Early Childhood -** Dr. Christi Trucks; and **Reading Specialist-** Dr. Janet Bavonese.

Any other school systems that might be interested in forming a similar cohort model for their teachers should contact Dr. Tommy Turner at tturner@jsu.edu or 256-782-5180.

FCS Scholarship Recipients Honored

By Robbie Boggs

The JSU Foundation Scholarship Luncheon for 2020 was held at the JSU Rec & Fitness Center

Multiloop Activity Court on March 10. Scholarship recipients for 2019-2020 were invited and many of those who funded these awards attended the spring event

and spoke about giving back to the community. FCS Scholarship Award recipients for 2019-2020 were (L to R) (photo on next page):

LeighAnne Graham
Erica McGuirk
Sharonda Bandy
Andrea Cope
Alyssa (Bre) Heard
Quad Whitson
Mackenzie Hanks



FCS - ALACTE “New Teacher of the Year” Award 2020



Ms. Tinzley Giles Wilson

By Robbie Boggs

Tinzley Giles Wilson graduated with honors from JSU with a degree in FCS Education. She has

been a Family and Consumer Sciences teacher for 4 years. This is her second year at Elberta High School in Baldwin County. She recently won the FCS division for

for the ALACTE (Alabama Association of Career Tech Education) “New Teacher of the Year” Award for 2020 in appreciation for her outstanding contributions to FCS Education. She was nominated for the award due to her students’ accomplishments. Her students constructed and donated 25 pillowcases to the Children’s Hospital in Mobile to brighten up the rooms and spirits of the children. Her FCCLA students volunteered at the Prodissee Pantry in Spanish Fort. Nineteen of her students attended the FCCLA state conference just prior to COVID with 14 of those students winning their state competitions. They were invited to attend the national FCCLA competition in summer but due to the pandemic, they did not get to attend. They also won one state award called *Children’s First*. Great job, Tinzley! We are so proud of your achievements!

AmericasMart-Atlanta October Apparel Market New Buyers

By Robbie Boggs

Recent FCS-Merchandising graduate, **Madison Burrell**, along with two other graduating seniors, **Maddie Cryar** and **Ivey Harris**, attended AmericasMart in Atlanta on October 15-16 for the October market event. They are all employed as buyers for

Wakefield's Department Store in Anniston. Besides attending the market to search for new merchandise, they are responsible for entering purchase orders and making visits to some of the stores in the chain to check the performance of products they have purchased. **Kailey Treglown**,

who graduated a couple of years ago in FCS-Merchandising, was also at AmericasMart-Atlanta during the October apparel event to purchase merchandise for *The Perch on Marble* in Rockmart. She serves as the social media specialist for *The Perch* and is a flight attendant for Delta.



Clockwise from top left: Kailey Treglown, Madison Burrell, Maddie Cryar, and Ivey Harris



FCS Merchandising Entrepreneurs

By Robbie Boggs

What do FCS-Merchandising Graduates do with their degrees after they leave JSU? Below are highlights on just a few of our entrepreneur grads.

Mackenzie Harris Corbin has a full-time job as social media director of Chick-Fil-A in Jacksonville where she utilizes her skills in visual merchandising, and she started a part-time position in October with *Havenly* as a home stylist, using a design program from her housing final design project called Floorplanner®. In her spare time, she enjoys decorating the homes of her customers through her business, *Mackenzie Corbin Home Designs*.

Ashlyn Lake Harrell, along with her husband, Brock, have started a Facebook home decor business

named *Home Sweet Designs, LLC*. She has produced some live shows and posted numerous creative images to sell her products.

Nikki Fossett and her partner, Lisa, officially opened *Magnolias on Main* in downtown Guntersville on October 5. Nikki worked at the Willow Tree prior to starting this business. *Magnolias on Main* was named after Mary Magnolia, a fashionista ahead of her time who was a light to everyone she embraced.

Kayla Shipman Adams owns *Elitaire Boutique* located on Clinton Avenue East in Huntsville. She is known for the creative videos she produces for social media of the apparel and accessories she carries in her boutique. Kayla supports brands

that enable women in other countries to support themselves, namely the Able accessory line.

CJ Brown, a foster care advocate, began serving as executive director to a non-profit business, *Heart to Heart of Montgomery - A Foster Care Ministry*, in January of this year to meet foster families' needs when kids come into their care. She moved into her new space in April. Her boutique allows foster families to shop for new and gently used items monthly for FREE for their foster, adoptive, and birth children. CJ mixes her fashion background with her love for orphan care. She and her husband, Chris, just adopted the little girl who was their foster child since birth. She is also a birth mom to two other little girls.



heart
to
heart
of Montgomery



Above: Heart to Heart boutique; Center: Magnolias on Main; Right: Elitaire Boutique



FCS Makes Masks for the Southerners

By Robbie Boggs

The Family and Consumer Sciences Department was commissioned to make 325 masks for the Marching Southerners for the Homecoming Game in early October. Faculty, staff, and FCS students along with volunteers from the Honors Program and community started work on the masks in early September. When the masks were received, they were already cut out and monogrammed. There was a directive chart on how to make the masks. The FCS Department and volunteers had to attach the linings, fold and pleat them, press, and finally add elastic and seam bindings to the sides of each mask.

FCS 131: Clothing Construction class and several of the FCS faculty and staff helped in constructing the masks, and volunteers from the outside community were also solicited. One student's mother and grandmother even spent a full day in the sewing lab. The masks were presented to band director Dr. **Ken Bodiford** by Dr. **Allison Newton** for the band's use at Homecoming.

It took a "village" to complete them, but the final result was quite impressive and provided the band with a unified look and a safer environment.



FCS Child Center Students go Trick-or-Treating

By Robbie Boggs

Three and four-year old children enrolled in the Cynthia Harper Child Center in Mason Hall visited across campus to go trick or treating. Student workers helped Ms. Jill and Ms. Brenda escort

the children through Mason Hall to the counseling center, Ramona Wood Building, and Bibb Graves Hall in search of candy. President **Don Killingsworth** posed for a picture with the kids. Dr. Gena Thornburg, acting department

head for FCS, and Mrs. **Lynn Steward**, administrative assistant, dressed for the occasion and distributed candy at the onset of the venture. Some of the collected candy will be donated to the JSU Food Pantry.



Clockwise from top left: Daycare students; FCS 353 lab students help out; FCS student workers; President Killingsworth poses with trick-or-treaters.

SoE Alum Elected to Board of Directors for State Organization

By Wendy Stephens

Angela Formby, librarian at Indian Valley Elementary in the Sylacauga City School System, was elected as a member of the Alabama School Library Association (ASLA) Board of Directors. ASLA is the Alabama State Affiliate of the American Association of School Librarians (AASL) and the professional development and advocacy organization for school library professionals. Formby will serve in this capacity through June 2021.

Formby was the 2017 Student of the Year for the Library Media master's program. Majoring in Secondary English Education, she earned her Bachelor's of Science in Education from JSU with Honors in 2012. Formby was recently enrolled in the Library Media EdS program, completing her Capstone research project on the impact school librarians have on student achievement. She graduated this summer and continues to impact the library profession in a positive manner.



Ms. Angela Formby

New Faculty & Staff in the SoE

By Deanna Bohannon and Kelly Paynter

Dr. **Astin Sarrell** is excited to be returning to her alma matter to teach in the SoE. Dr. Sarrell's experience includes 10 years of public school teaching in grades 5-7, serving as a county-level instructional specialist for two years, and serving as a cooperating teacher for JSU students for the past few years.

She lives with her husband and three sons in Heflin, Alabama. She is a recent graduate of the University of Alabama where she completed her doctoral dissertation on *Coordinate Professional Development Efforts to Enhance Mathematics Instruction at the Elementary Level*. Dr. Sarrell is an active member of the JSU alumni association and is currently serving on both the SoE Mentor/

Induction and Program Impact Committees. Dr. Sarrell is teaching assessment, diversity, and math courses and is also the advisor the EED-T and EED-Master's program.

Dr. **Andrea Beerwinkle** joins the JSU faculty from Friendswood, Texas, a suburb of Houston. She earned her doctorate in Curriculum and Instruction with a focus on Language and Literacy from Texas A&M University in 2018. She also has an M.Ed. in Curriculum and Instruction from Texas Tech University and a B.A. in English from Texas A&M University. Dr. Beerwinkle has several years of classroom experience teaching every grade from fifth through twelfth. She has taught in urban, rural, and suburban schools across Texas. She is passionate about providing pre- and in-service teachers with

evidence-based instructional strategies to improve decoding and reading comprehension. Her research interests include practice-based professional development and reading comprehension in the content areas. She has presented her research nationally at the American Educational Research Association, Society for Research on Educational Effectiveness, Society for the Scientific Study of Reading annual conferences, and at the European Literacy Network conference. Additionally, her research has been published in top academic journals such as *Reading and Writing* and *Annals of Dyslexia*. She is the advisor for the RDG-T program.

We also introduce Ms. **Sunshine Williamson** as the new secretary to the Coordinator for Clinical Experiences. Welcome, Sunshine!



Dr. Astin Sarrell



Dr. Andrea Beerwinkle



Ms. Sunshine Williamson

SoE Alumni Win Awards, Recognition

By Deanna Bohannon and Kelly Paynter

Exciting things have been happening to SoE graduates these past few months!

SoE Counselor Education graduate, **Anjuli Thompson**, owner of HOUSE Counseling, was named the winner of the Emerging Small Business of the Year Award.

Ansley Rudbeck Cash, teacher at Evans Elementary School, earned the distinction of 2020 Javits-Frasier Scholar, sponsored by the National Association of Gifted Children. This distinction recognizes passionate educators who work with low-income and minority populations.

SoE graduate in Music Education, **Dr. Jeremy Stovall**, was named as an outstanding alumnus by the

JSU Alumni Association. Dr. Stovall earned his Bachelor of Arts in Music Education and his Master of Arts degrees at JSU and his DMA in Wind Conducting from the University of Alabama. He serves as the Assistant Director of Bands and Assistant Professor at Jacksonville State University. In addition to instructing the Marching Southerners, Dr. Stovall conducts the Symphonic Band, the JSU Pep Band: Hardcorps, and teaches courses in Conducting and Marching Band Techniques. He has also served as the Music Director and Pit Orchestra Conductor for the Drama Department's Musicals and Jacksonville Opera Theatre.

Dr. Stovall has conducted the Marching Southerners in the

Bands of America Grand National Championships (2019), the World Peace Parade in Rome, Italy (2019), the Pearl Harbor 75th Anniversary Commemoration (2016), and the London New Year's Day Parade (2012). He is a member of Kappa Kappa Psi, Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia, Phi Kappa Phi, College Band Directors National Association, National Band Association, and the College Music Society. Dr. Stovall was a member of the Spirit Drum and Bugle Corps visual staff from 2002-2007, serving as the Visual Caption Head. He also was a member of the instructional staff for the U.S. Army All-American Marching Band in 2016-2017.

Fatima Wise was honored with the Excellence in Innovative



Anjuli Thompson with House Counseling



Dr. Jeremy Stovall

Teaching from the Chamber of Commerce. She states, “If you know me, my students are my absolute heart and soul. They make me a better person and have completely changed my view on life. They love each person to the absolute fullest with no care for flaws, they make the best of every day, and change the world with each passing day. Because of them, I try to do the same (I fail often). They make me think outside of the box and push myself. In return, they give me their all and push past so many barriers in their life and are constantly achieving goals, proving people wrong, and accomplishing more and more with each day.”

Ashley Wilson was voted the Best Public Schoolteacher of Calhoun County. She notes, “If you know me, you know how I feel about my job. It’s hard, but so worth it. In kindergarten, I was asked what I wanted to be when I grew up. My immediate answer was always an Alabama cheerleader, but knowing I couldn’t do that forever, my

second answer was ‘teacher.’ Many people tried to change my mind along the way, but somehow I knew this was what I was born to do. I’d like to think good teachers can be made, but honestly... I think it’s something that is naturally within a person. Winning #1 Public Teacher in Calhoun County is such an honor. I hope you know that I do my absolute best and give 110% every day to be an encouraging teacher who motivates kids to learn, not always to learn academic lessons, but life lessons as well.

Thank you to those of you who voted for me. I promise to continue to educate kids for as long as I can in any opportunity I am given. To those of you who are born to teach, don’t let anyone ever persuade you to do anything else. The days are long and the emotions you feel will be overwhelming at times, but know in the end that it is all worth it. You love them and they will listen...eventually.”



Above: Fatima Wise
Below: Ashley Wilson



Retired Professor Mourned by Faculty, Staff, and Students

The SoE mourns the loss of a former colleague.

Mr. **Terry Marbut** served as Department Head of Technology and Applied Engineering for many years prior to his retirement from JSU. We extend heartfelt sympathy to his family and friends and remember fondly his contributions to the SoE and his department.



Math Education Degree Commended by Governor Ivey

By Ahmad Alhammouri

During a meeting with Alabama Governor Kay Ivey, State Superintendent of Education Eric Mackey highlighted JSU for planning to offer a couple of new programs, one of which is the Elementary Math Specialist.

This program will be the first of its kind to be offered in the State of Alabama. I am so proud to have taken a part in developing the proposal of this program with a great support from the School of Education!



SoE Video for CAEP Accreditation

The SoE recently produced a professional video about the programs it offers and recent initiatives. Check it out!

<https://youtu.be/G0w1CgdgNPk>