

Fall 2004

Five Alumni Awards to be Presented at Homecoming Nov. 6

By Sherry Kughn
News Bureau



The Jacksonville State University Alumni Association will present the annual Outstanding Alumni Awards during halftime ceremonies at JSU's Homecoming game with Samford on Saturday 6 November at Paul Snow Stadium.

The honorees this year are Dr. Bobby H. Welch, Alumnus of the Year; Mr. Ben Cunningham, Young Alumnus of the Year; Dr. George R. Cline, Outstanding Faculty/Staff; Ms. Jennifer Knight Carmichael, Alumna of the Year; and Col. Rex Forney, Military Alumnus of the Year.

Dr. Bobby H. Welch — The 2004 Alumnus of the Year was elected president of the South Baptist Convention in June, 2004. His goal of one million baptisms in a year for the nation's largest denomination has made national headlines. Dr. Welch is a Fort Payne native who graduated from JSU during the mid 1960s in business administration. He holds a master of theology degree from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary and a doctorate degree from Palm Beach Atlantic College. He is a former member of the Army's prestigious Green Berets and served as a recon platoon leader in Vietnam. He said it was during a battle there when he was wounded and left for dead that he experienced the religious conversion that led to his career change. He is co-author of the FAITH

Sunday School Evangelism program and author of several books on faith and is the minister of First Baptist Church of Daytona Beach in Daytona, Florida. He and his wife, Maudellen, have two adult children.

Mr. Ben Cunningham — The 2004 Young Alumnus of the Year is a reporter at the *Anniston Star*. He served in the United States Air Force for four years before finishing a bachelor's degree in communications from JSU in 2003. While at JSU, he was the editor of the *Chanticleer*. He was a member of the Southerners and Phi Mu Alpha, for which he continues to serve as alumni secretary. In 2003 he received four awards from the Department of Communication: the Print Journalism Student of the Year, the Character Award, the Professional Skills Award for Newspaper Editorship, and the John Turner Award, which is the department's student of the year award for outstanding leadership. After graduation, Mr. Cunningham was invited by Alabama Press Association's president Felicia Mason to speak at the annual job fair. He covers education and the city of Jacksonville as a reporter, and he and his wife Sherri live in Jacksonville.

Mrs. Jennifer Knight Carmichael — The 2004 Alumna of the Year is the assistant inspector general for inspections in the Defense Intel-

ligence Agency's Office of Inspector General. She oversees 22 military and civilian staff members and is responsible for strategic planning, mission execution and assessments of DIA operations in the areas of organization and function. Mrs. Carmichael holds three degrees from JSU: two bachelor's degrees in forensic science and law enforcement, both of which she earned in 1982 from JSU; and a master's degree in criminal justice, which she earned in 1987. She has worked as a counterintelligence analyst, a policy staff officer, and an investigator. She received several awards for service within the DIA, including the Award for Meritorious Civilian Service and the 2003 Agency Team Award. She is a Columbus, Georgia native and lives in Cofton, Maryland. While at JSU, Mrs. Carmichael also was a member of the Southerners, the Baptist Campus Ministry, and ROTC. She and her husband, Scott, have three sons.

Dr. George R. Cline — The 2004 Outstanding Faculty/Staff member at JSU is a professor of biology in the College of Arts and Sciences. He has taught at JSU since 1992. He holds a bachelor's degree from Indiana University of Pennsylvania in Indiana, Pennsylvania with double majors in biology and environmental health, which he earned in 1974. He holds a doctorate from Oklahoma State University in Stillwater, Oklahoma. He is a member of the Chancel Choir at First United Methodist Church in Jacksonville and assists with the children's choir and music committee. He volunteers as a soccer and t-ball coach with Jacksonville PARD and volunteers to present programs for the Girl Scouts of Cottaquilla Council and Kitty Stone Elementary School. He helped establish the Alabama Herpetological Society and the annual College of Arts and Sciences Research Symposium. He is from Derry, Pennsylvania and is married and has two small children.

Col. Rex Forney, Jr. — The 2004 Military Alumnus of the Year is chief of the advisory group at the United States Air Force Air University in Montgomery. He is originally from Gadsden and graduated with a bachelor's degree from JSU, a master's degree from Webster College in Missouri and a master's degree from the United States Air

Force Air University in Montgomery. He entered the army in 1976 as a second lieutenant assigned to the Military Police Corps after graduating as a distinguished military graduate and receiving his commission through the JSU ROTC program. While at JSU, he was also a member of the Scabbard and Blade and the 10th Alabama Volunteer Ranger Company. He has served as a platoon leader and commanded two battalions. He has been executive officer to the U.S. Army parachute team, the Golden Knights. He has served in Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm in Saudi Arabia and Iraq; Intrinsic Action in Kuwait; Bright Star in Egypt; and Operation Uphold Democracy in Haiti. He holds numerous medals and awards for his service, including the Master Parachutist Badge, the Military Freefall Parachutist Badge, the Air Assault Badge and German Parachutist Badge. He and his wife Kay live in Prattville and have four children.

President of SBC Learned Power of Encouragement While at JSU

By Sherry Kughn
JSU News Bureau



SBC President Bobby Welch (right) goes over the day's itinerary as the bus leaves Maine Street Baptist Church in Brunswick, Maine, heading to Christian Fellowship Baptist Church in Londonderry, N.H. On the bus with Welch are (left to right) trip coordinator Jason Leschitz; writer Allen Palmeri with the *Missouri Baptist Convention's Pathway* news journal; and Jay Johnston, director of FAITH/Evangelism & discipleship at LifeWay Christian Resources. (Photo: Kent Harville, SBC)

After members of the Southern Baptist Convention elected Rev. Bobby Welch president in June, he recalled a lesson he learned as a student at Jacksonville State University during the 1960s: how powerful encouragement can be.

Looking back, Rev. Welch remembers how Coach Don Salls and Coach Jim Blevins encouraged him to do his best when he played football. He remembers encouraging words from then director of dining services, James Haywood. He remembers fellow football player Joe Kines, who became coach at JSU and is currently the assistant head coach for the University of Alabama. Coach Kines was and still is one of Rev. Welch's best friends and encouragers.

So, it was no surprise that Rev. Welch chose to encourage his 16 million fellow Baptists by setting aside a month to visit many of them by bus. There are about 43,000 churches in the denomination, which makes it the largest in the nation. Of course, he could not visit every church in the Southern Baptist Convention, but he traveled for 25 days in September and October to all 50 states speaking and making a plea for them to baptize and win for Christ one million people in a year. His plea is part of his initiative called The "Everyone Can" Kingdom Challenge for Evangelism.

Ironically, it was also a road trip that brought Rev. Welch in 1961 to JSU. He drove from his hometown in Fort Payne, where he said his car "gave up the ghost" when he reached the campus parking lot. When he climbed out, he realized that without his car the only valuables he had were the sixty-five dollars in his pocket. He was broke, he said, because he had used his savings attending the University of Alabama the previous year. Rev. Welch chose to transfer to JSU because it was closer to home, and he hoped the staff could get him a job. His goal was to complete his degree in business administration.

The university staff found several jobs for Rev. Welch, such as cleaning out classrooms, working in the bookstore, and helping maintain the tennis courts. During that same time he tried out

for the football team as a "walk on."
"I think I was about to get fired from my jobs when I received a football scholarship", said Rev. Welch.

Starting with almost nothing and eventually obtaining a scholarship taught Rev. Welch that a person with a "can do" spirit can do many things, he said. He has applied that same spirit to the past 30 years in his ministry by planning ahead and working hard. He and Rev. Doug Williams, then associate pastor at First Baptist Daytona, developed a ministry strategy called FAITH which has been used, with God's help he said, to bring the First Baptist Church to 4,000 members. FAITH stands for the words "Forgiveness, Available, Impossible, Turn, and Heaven." The Sunday School strategy works with small groups within the congregation to go out and discover needs in the community.

"Sometimes we find people who need their water turned on, or they are having health problems or need their heat turned on," said Rev. Welch. "We try to meet those needs and also find and meet their spiritual needs."

The written version of the FAITH strategy is so popular that it is now in 13 countries and has been translated into four languages.

Rev. Welch's interest in religion did not begin until after he graduated from JSU. He was in the ROTC while in school and upon graduation he attended airborne school, a school for rangers and a jungle-expert school; and then he volunteered to fight in the Vietnam War. Even though he knew several fellow football players had been killed, Rev. Welch was determined to serve his country.

A transformation took place, though, the day in Vietnam that he was shot. He lay on the battlefield bleeding and thinking about heaven. He was ashamed to face God, he thought, knowing he had not been the kind of Christian he should have been. Instead of dying he was rescued and renewed a commitment to serve the Lord. He finished his military duty, ran a business for a while in Fort Payne, and then was "called to preach."

“It was when I was shot and left for dead,” said Rev. Welch, “that the Lord turned me around.”

Rev. Welch also credits his high school sweetheart Maudellen, who later became his wife, with changing many of his attitudes about church. After graduation from JSU and before he served in Vietnam, they married. With her encouragement, he earned a three-year Master of Theology degree at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary in New Orleans after his military service. While attending seminary he served the First Baptist Church of Norco in Louisiana. Daughter Haylee was a newborn when God called him to preach. Son Matthew was born in Nashville when Rev. Welch was out of seminary school and was serving as associate pastor of Park Avenue Baptist Church. Both children are now married and each has two children.

Rev. Welch has never forgotten the encouragement he received at JSU. In fact, when his son and a family friend, who later became his son-in-law, decided to attend college, Rev. Welch drove them both up and enrolled them as students at JSU. Rev. Welch is looking forward to the coming year and hopes many people will come to Christ, but he also looks backward, with fondness, to his days at JSU where he remembers learning one of the great lessons of his life: “If you will just keep trying, something good usually opens up!”

New Position Will Help JSU Students Find Better Jobs

By Sherry Kughn
JSU News Bureau

A full-time position added to Jacksonville State University’s Department of Career Placement Services will help students find quality jobs or improve their chances to obtain co-op job opportunities.

“We are proud to announce that Sarah Aultman, who has served as a graduate assistant for the past year, has been hired as our new coopera-

tive education coordinator,” said the department’s director, Janet White. “She is passionate about helping students and is a perfect fit in helping us improve our programs.”



Sarah Aultman

Ms. Aultman is a Long Beach, Calif., native who previously worked for a corporate recruiter. She holds a bachelor’s degree in liberal studies and human development from California State University, San Marcos, and has lived in Hokes Bluff for about a year. She will continue to complete her master’s degree at JSU as she undertakes her new full-time role.

“I’m so happy to help provide opportunities for students to obtain quality jobs,” said Ms. Aultman. “It is really satisfying.”

Coupled with the announcement is the department’s release of its highest number of state placements, which is up to 32 during the first two quarters of 2004. The number in the area of cooperative education is up to 40 for the fall semester 2004.

Ms. Aultman said that about four or five students have applied daily for assistance since the end of June. Sixteen companies have requested workers for approximately 50 jobs. Figures in both areas represent the largest numbers in JSU history. She believes her department is poised on the brink of more growth.

The first reason is the university’s participation in the Monstertrak.com Internet program, which has improved communications between students, the department and the business community.

The second reason for growth is efforts by the department. "Mrs. White has made a focused effort throughout the past few years to establish relationships with those who offer jobs in state and federal governments and with those who recruit from corporations," said Ms. Aultman.

A third reason is the improved economy along the I-20 corridor related to the automotive industries. A 2004 report released by the Center for Economic Development and Business Research (CED) at JSU stated that the corridor, which runs from the Alabama state line near Atlanta through Tuscaloosa, is the main artery for the influx of 127,310 statewide jobs and the input of \$5.4 billion now fueling Alabama's economic growth.

Undergraduate students who need assistance with job placement or co-op opportunities are eligible after they have 24 hours of college credit and have declared a major. Because JSU is small enough to give individual attention, Mrs. Altman finds that she also "does a little bit of career counseling" to help those who are interested in co-op but are unsure of their career choice.

The advancements in JSU's co-op and placement programs appear to be a part of a more positive view by businesses throughout the nation to seek qualified workers through universities. The National Association of Colleges and Employers released a 2005 Job Outlook Fall Preview bulletin that states 61.4 percent of employers plan to increase their college hiring this year and next. Government and nonprofit agencies plan to hire 19.8 percent more college graduates. Those responding to the hiring surveys were in three areas – manufacturing, service, and government/nonprofit.

Students working in co-op programs may choose to work one of two work periods – the alternating or the parallel. In the alternating period, students alternate semesters with either full-time work or a full schedule of classes. In the parallel period, students work at a job in their field (sometimes complete with benefits) and attend at least two classes per semester, either at night or as time allows in their day schedule.

JSU's Conroy Receives Army Award for Patriotic Civilian Service

In a presentation during the September 9th Alabama Water Resources Conference, Jacksonville State University EPIC Director, Pete Conroy was awarded for "Patriotic Civilian Service." The recognition was in association with Conroy's work as US Alternate Federal Commissioner for Alabama-Coosa-Tallapoosa (ACT) River Basin Compact and Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-Flint (ACF) River Basin Compact.

Conroy's service was from 1999 to 2002. In August of 2003, the ACF Compact collapsed and more recently in August of 2004 the ACT Compact also collapsed.

"The failure of these compacts will go down in history as being golden opportunities now lost," said Conroy. "In consideration of the broad and extensive legal work that lies ahead, I'm especially appreciative of the Army taking time to recognize those of us who tried to move the process forward," he said.

Presented by US Army Corps of Engineers Branch Chief, Roger Burke and signed by US Army Commanding Brigadier General, Peter T. Madsen, the certificate states:

"He (Conroy) is recognized for his outstanding contributions to the ACT and ACF River Basin Compacts process. His facilitation of Federal awareness to third party interests was instrumental to the Federal team in the interstate compacts process, and in promoting innovative approaches to providing high quality government services to the public. Mr. Conroy's accomplishments are truly noteworthy and are a credit to himself, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and the Federal government."

New Faculty Members for Fall 2004



Jacksonville State University will be welcoming 27 new faculty members for fall 2004. Not shown are Kristi Beam, Bethany L. Skaggs, David Thornton, and Dr. Linda Yost. The latest new faculty roster includes:

Dr. Okon H. Akpan(14) Associate Professor
Mathematics and Computer Sciences

Ms. Kristi G. Beam Instructor
Nursing and Health Sciences

Dr. Paul R. Beezley(1) Assistant Professor
History and Foreign Languages

Ms. Rebecca Bertalan(12) Instructor
Nursing and Health Sciences

Ms. Dorinda R. Black(6) Instructor
Nursing and Health Sciences

Ms. Christy Burns(20) Instructor
English

Dr. Ann Callahan(18) Assistant Professor
Sociology and Social Work

Dr. Marsha Dale Campbell(2) Assistant
Professor - Curriculum and Instruction

Dr. Charlotte Eady(7) Assistant Professor
Educational Resources

Ms. Carrie Elkins(19) Instructor
Nursing and Health Sciences

Dr. Nancy Fox(13) Assistant Professor
Educational Resources

Ms. Jennifer Bell Frank(16) Instructor
Nursing and Health Sciences

Dr. Larry A. Gray(17) Assistant Professor
English

Ms. Michelle Halpin-Garcia(21) Instructor
Nursing and Health Sciences

Ms. Antoinette Hudson(9) Instructor
History and Foreign Languages

Ms. Teresha King(22) Ayers Chair
Communication

Dr. William A. Lowe(11) Assistant Professor
Institute for Emergency Preparedness

Ms. Joy Maloney(10) Instructor
English

Dr. Fred May(15) Associate Professor
Institute for Emergency Preparedness

Ms. Shannon Morrison(5) Instructor
Nursing and Health Sciences

Dr. Timothy Pitts(3) Visiting Assistant Professor
History & Foreign Languages

Ms. Gagandeep Sarkaria(4) Assistant Professor
Art

Major Gregory Scott(8) Assistant Professor
Military Science

Ms. Bethany L. Skaggs Assistant Professor and
Assistant Librarian

Ms. Kathleen F. Terry(23) Instructor
History and Foreign Languages

Mr. David C. Thornton Instructor
Mathematics and Computer Sciences

Dr. Linda Yost Assistant Professor
English



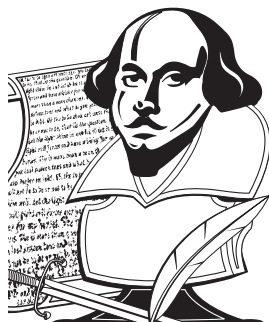
Arts&Entertainment

JSU Human Resources Office Offers Writing Skills Workshop

The JSU Human Resources Office presents a workshop, "Perfect Writing for the Professional World." The two-hour session will be led by Gena Christopher and is designed for anyone wishing to sharpen their writing skills.

Tuesday, October 26, 2004
1:00 - 3:00 p.m in 1101C Library

To register, call Human Resources at 5007.



JSU Drama Schedule 2004

A Doll's House

A drama by Henrik Ibsen
Translated by Eva Le Gallienne
November 18-21, 2004

Henrik Ibsen's *A Doll's House* reveals the unfulfilled, ordinary life of its heroine, Nora. Through delicate and moving language, Nora discovers her dignity as a human being in a hypocritical world. Her fight and fearless individualism penetrates the secret motives of mind and spirit.

Hammond Hall Art Gallery Schedule 2004

Lee Manners, "Paintings: Then and Now"

Tuesday, October 5 — Wednesday, October 27

Opening Reception: 5 October 7:00pm— 9:00pm

Jacksonville State University Department of Art Faculty Exhibition

Tuesday, November 2 — Tuesday, November 23

Opening Reception: Tuesday, November 2
7:00pm— 9:00pm.

Jacksonville State University BA and BFA Graduating Senior Show

Tuesday, November 30 — Tuesday, December 14

Opening Reception: Tuesday, November 30,
7:00pm. — 9:00pm



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JACKSONVILLE STATE UNIVERSITY™


Congratulations!

Employees of the Month

June



Marian Bryant
*Secretary
Financial Aid*

July



Trish Lacks
*Secretary
International House*

August



Sue Gardner
*Secretary
Criminal Justice*

September



Stephanie Przedwojewski
*Groundskeeper/Laborer
Physical Plant*