



2007-2008 Highlights

Jacksonville State University held its first-ever Freshman Convocation on August 26, 2008 at Pete Mathews Coliseum. The Freshman Convocation was a unique welcome ceremony filled with elaboration, tradition and marked the beginning for the incoming freshmen's academic career at Jacksonville State University. Just as commencement is a ceremony that marks the completion of study, the convocation celebrated the student's entry into higher education. It was also the first formal event where new students and JSU faculty and staff members were welcomed back to the Gamecock community. The ceremony provided an opportunity for freshmen to reunite with fellow students, faculty, and staff members from summer orientation, as well as for remarks from our University President, Dr. William A. Meehan, Vice President of Academic and Student Affairs, Dr. Rebecca O. Turner; and Jennifer Nix, Student Government Association President.

The College of Nursing and Health Sciences (CNHS) continues to experience extraordinary growth. In fall 2001 there were 210 nursing students; in fall 2008 there were 517 students (overall a 146% increase). The bulk of growth has occurred in the online STEP Program which has increased 20 fold since 2001. The MSN program has increased 233% in the last six years.

Currently in our Power of 125...Join the Celebration capital campaign, which began in 2004, the initial goal of \$17.5 million was reached within 24 months of the five year campaign. The revised campaign goal is \$25 million of which \$27.8 million has been obtained.

A dedication ceremony for the new fine arts facility named in honor of Gladys M. Carlisle, a distinguished member of the Jacksonville State University Board of Trustees, was held Monday, October 15, 2007. The Carlisle Fine Arts Facility will provide much needed space for the art department and features new equipment and facilities designed to aid students in drawing, design, ceramics and photography classes.

Dr. Guillermo Francia III, professor of computer science, Dr. Jay Ketterer, International House director, and Ms. Lisa Williams, associate dean of the College of Arts and Sciences visited China in June. The purpose of the trip was to promote JSU's English Language Institute, to introduce JSU's academic programs, and to initiate a collaborative 2+2 academic program in computer science with Huayu College and Taizhou University.

Accelerated high school enrollments for classes offered in the local high schools grew by 8% over the previous year, increasing from 608 enrollees in 2006-2007 to 657 in 2007-2008. Participating schools were as follows: Alexandria, Cedar Bluff, Donoho, Jacksonville, Oxford, Pleasant Valley, Sacred Heart and Saks.

Academic year 2007-2008 was the first time students were able to register themselves using the newly implemented Banner system.

In January 2007, the Jacksonville State University trustees approved the university's strategic plan.