

THE MAGAZINE OF JACKSONVILLE STATE UNIVERSITY

GEM

OF THE HILLS

FALL 2016



**STAND UP
AND HOLLER!**

JSU cheerleaders and cocky
place 5th in the nation



DEAR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS,

As I begin my second year as president of your alma mater, I would like to update you on some of the exciting new developments taking place on campus.

During my inaugural address at the presidential investiture on April 8 (page 6), I stated that JSU must be *Transformative*, *Innovative* and *Engaged for Success* if we are to achieve even greater levels of excel-

lence. I believe these are the TIES that will move the university forward into the future as we celebrate our 50th year as a university in 2016.

In this issue of GEM, we share with you recent accomplishments that illustrate our continued progress as a university. These include creating a Center for Autism Studies (page 9), graduating our first doctoral student (page 8) and establishing our second doctoral program (page 8).

To make the university's academic units more manageable, marketable and synergistic, we have reorganized the university's four colleges into six schools (see page 10). I believe this will lead to better collaboration and innovation and position the university for growth. This reorganization is just one way we are working to strengthen your alma mater, because we know that a great reputation for JSU not only attracts new students, but also heightens the value of your degree.

We have asked alumni to become more engaged through our new Alumni

Mentoring and Boots on the Ground initiatives. I would like to recognize a few special alumni who volunteered to represent JSU by attending the high school awards programs of some of our brightest incoming students in the spring. Thank you Brice Wood, Cara Davis, Delita Clements, Jeff Bennett, Jeff Carpenter, Karli Estock, Keri Jo Shaw, Megan Bolten, Patricia Putman, Randy Roberts and Randy Vice.

To learn how you can get involved, please contact Alumni Relations at 256-782-5404. Thank you for your continued support. I look forward to seeing you at Homecoming on October 29 if not sooner!

Go Gamecocks!

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



GREETINGS GAMECOCKS!

Our future alumni are back on campus and excitement is in the air as the temperatures begin to cool and the sounds of the Marching Southerners afternoon practices remind us it is always great to be a Gamecock!

Homecoming and Family Day is right around the corner-October 28-30 and we hope you will be able to join us for a weekend full of activities. The schedule of events is included on page 21.

Thank you for all you continue to do to assist in our enrollment efforts and be JSU's "Boots on the Ground" in your area. We want and we need you to be involved. We, as alumni, are the best recruiters for JSU and with your help, we can continue to help enrollment management efforts to

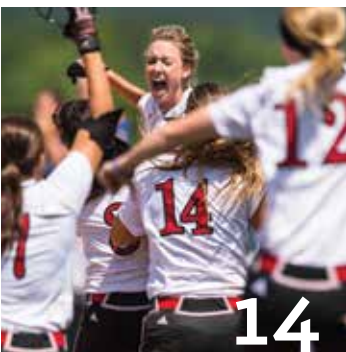
increase enrollment and welcome generations to come into our alumni family.

As always, we love to hear from you. Keep us informed on all the amazing things that are happening in your life and we will continue to keep you updated on all the amazing things happening with our alma mater.

I hope to hear from you soon!
Go Gamecocks! Blow Southerners!

Kaci Ogle '95/'04
Director of Alumni Relations

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of Jacksonville State University.



STAND UP AND HOLLER!

JSU Cheerleaders and Cocky Place 5th in Nation

By Buffy Lockette

TWO BITS, FOUR BITS, SIX BITS, A DOLLAR - ALL FOR JAX STATE'S PEP TEAM, STAND UP AND HOLLER!

While the JSU Cheerleaders and Cocky are usually the ones getting the crowd on its feet, it's their turn for a standing ovation. The team and Cocky both

placed fifth in the nation at the National Cheerleaders Association's Collegiate Championship in Daytona Beach, Fla., in April.

The cheerleaders competed in Coed Division 1, placing second in the nation in the preliminaries. Due to an injury during the preliminary round, the team had to regroup and make some changes to its rou-

tine. After making those adjustments, JSU still came in fifth overall out of approximately 250 schools and 5,000 athletes who participated. It's a big jump for the team, which placed 10th in 2015.

"We had a more difficult routine this year and really focused a lot on making our routine wow the judges," said Coach Dave Almeida. "We incorporated a lot of



tumbling and just overall performed our routine better at nationals.”

The routine consisted of multiple sections that had to include running tumbling, standing tumbling, a partner stunt, jumps, baskets, a pyramid and a dance section – all choreographed into a 2-minute and 15-second music selection, chosen by the team, comprised of different songs

blended together with voice-overs and sound effects to fit the choreography. The team also performed 45 seconds of game day cheers.

Cocky competed against mascots from across the country, all of whom pre-qualified for the national championship. Massive props and an energetic skit landed Cocky in fifth place as well. Just this past August, Cocky won Best All-Around Mascot at the NCA cheerleading camp.

The 2015-16 Cheerleading and Cocky team included Lauren Ashmore, Brooklyn Bean, Dylan Burns, Brittany Cates, Hannah Cronan, Dayleigh Dorsett, Tori Frederick, Hollie Hallmark, Jai Harris, Christian Henson, Abby Jimmerson, Karl Kiesler, Alicia Kittles, Brett Langston, Derek Langston, Niki Martin, Justin Pickrell, Jamon Phillips, Lindsay Roberts, Donald Smith, Presley Smith, Leslie Puckett, Harlie Vines and Carlee Waits.

The 2016-17 team is led by captain Brett Langston and co-captains Lauren Ashmore and Hollie Hallmark. Members include Brooklyn Bean, Brooke Bennifield, Allison Benson, Mitchell Brown, Dylan Burns, Brittany Cates, Carlos Chacon, Cassidy Clemenson, Alexandria Coffman, Caitlyn Cox, Dayleigh Dorsett, Hunter Eads, Tori Frederick, Anna Greenwood, Christian Henson, Abby Jimmerson, Morgan Johns, Derek Langston, Sydnie Marsh, Niki Martin, Justin Pickrell, Jamon Phillips, Trinity Poe, Lindsay Roberts, Nicki Rodgers, Jordan Shirey, Donald Smith, Presley Smith, Beau Steelman, Ty Trammell, Carlee Waits, Kelsey Wilson and Jeremy Wynn.

Almeida serves as head coach, aided by assistant coach Johnnie Neal. Almeida – or “Coach Dave” as the team refers to him – is celebrating his fourth season with the Gamecocks this year. The former North Carolina State University cheerleader received a scholarship to cheer in college after graduating from Quince

Orchard High School in Maryland. He has coached all-star and high school cheerleading for more than 20 years and has coached on the collegiate level at Coastal Carolina University, George Washington University, Kansas Wesleyan University and James Madison University.

The JSU Cheerleaders and Cocky perform at all home and some away Gamecock football games, all home men’s and women’s basketball games, all home volleyball games, and at some additional athletic and university events throughout the year. They can even be booked for private events.

The team holds tryouts each spring, typically the weekend after returning from Nationals in April. The three-day process involves an application, interview and evaluations of skills. Minimum requirements change each year and are posted online leading up to tryout weekend. On average, more than 40 hopefuls try out each year. For more information on tryouts, please e-mail jsucheer@jsu.edu.

So what can Gamecock fans expect to see on the sidelines this fall? Well, for one thing, new uniforms! Thanks to private donations, new white uniforms have been purchased for home games and new black uniforms have been purchased for use at travel games and competition. Fans can also expect the team to continue rising in the ranks in its quest to become the No. 1 cheerleading and mascot program in the nation.

“We are looking forward to another exciting season,” said Almeida. “All of our sports here at JSU bring so much excitement to the university. We are looking forward to record-breaking attendance at all sporting events and a successful season for all sports at JSU.”

Stay up-to-date on the latest JSU Cheerleaders and Cocky news by following their Facebook page, @GamecockCheer. 


Recap of the

PRESIDENTIAL INAUGURATION

April 8, 2016



Jacksonville State University inaugurated Dr. John M. Beehler as its 12th president during an investiture ceremony held on campus on April 8, 2016. Dr. Beehler assumed the presidency on July 1, 2015, bringing with him more than 20 years of higher education leadership experience.

The theme for the inauguration was “*Transformative, Innovative, and Engaged for Success: The T.I.E.S. that bind the university together.*” 



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“I believe in the transformative power of higher education. It changes lives, raises expectations, gives hope for a better life, and allows people, families, regions, states and nations to achieve their potential.”
– Dr. John M. Beehler, Inaugural Address

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DR. JSU:

University Awards First Doctorate, Announces Plans for Second Program

Six years after it unveiled its first doctoral program – the Doctor of Science in Emergency Management – JSU has awarded its first doctorate to Michael Ryan of Tampa, Fla.

Dr. Ryan was hooded during spring commencement on April 29. He first enrolled at JSU as an online master's student, receiving an MS in emergency management in 2005. He was so pleased with the quality of education he received that he delayed pursuing his doctorate until the JSU program was available. In 2011, after a highly competitive selection process, he was among the first few chosen for the inaugural doctoral class.

The Doctor of Science in Emergency Management prepares students for any community incident – from minor emergencies to major disasters – providing the knowledge and skills needed to lead the planning, response and recovery efforts. The 60-hour program is almost entirely online. Students are required to complete 42 hours of coursework, pass three qualifying

exams, and complete an applied research dissertation.

Ryan currently serves as manager of emergency planning for the Hillsborough County Fire Rescue Office of Emergency Management in Tampa, Fla. He spent 27 years in fire service – 20 of them with the City of Fairfax, Va., his hometown – before retiring and focusing on emergency management. He plans to use his doctorate to teach and conduct scholarly research.

Less than two months after awarding its first doctoral degree, JSU announced in June that it had gained approval from the Alabama Commission on Higher Education to offer its second doctoral degree, the Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP).

This degree option will allow students to seamlessly progress from the Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) degree to the DNP. Students may obtain the DNP through several different pathways: the Family Nurse Practitioner,

Adult Gerontological Acute Care Nurse Practitioner, and the post-master's degree option.

“For years, students, alumni and other community partners have requested that JSU consider offering a nurse practitioner option,” said Dr. Christie Shelton, dean of the School of Health Professions and Wellness. “Given that the preparation of nurse practitioners is moving to the doctoral level, the administration at JSU decided to set the BSN-DNP as the goal.”

The national need for nurse practitioners is expected to greatly increase over the next decade. In 2010, a landmark report published by the Health and Medicine Division of the National Academies of Sciences called for the medical community to double the number of nurse practitioners by 2020.

The university will begin accepting applications for the doctoral program in January, with the official launch planned for August 2017. 🚫

JSU Establishes Center for Autism Studies

JSU has established a new Center for Autism Studies to provide leadership, research and advocacy in the area of autism spectrum disorders.

Housed in the Department of Curriculum and Instruction in JSU's School of Education, the center's mission is to prepare the next generation of education professionals to better interact with students with autism. It will provide an avenue for research and education – including early identification, intervention, behavior management, differentiation of instruction, and family dynamics.


"The center is very important to our work in teacher education," said Dr. Janet Bavonese, center director and head of the Department of Curriculum and Instruction. "In Northeast Alabama,

there are little resources that specifically prepare teacher candidates to work with students on the autism spectrum and their families. We hope to be among the first to develop a cohesive model that positively impacts all educators."

The center will facilitate collaborative relationships across disciplines at JSU and partner with community colleges and P-12 institutions. It will contribute to the state and national understanding of ASD and build an infrastructure of research and support for families.

The idea for the center grew out of the JSU Autism Conference, which is chaired by Bavonese and Valerie Wheat, instructor of special education. The annual event features professional development for teachers and teacher candidates, along with resources for families impacted by

autism. Bavonese and Wheat saw the need for a year-round initiative and collaborated to design the center.

"The center will provide advocacy and support for people on the autism spectrum and their families," said Wheat, who is serving as the center's assistant director. "We hope to provide opportunities for transition from high school and college into the community. We also hope to provide support and resources for educators who work with people on the autism spectrum." 



JSU is now offering an online DOCTOR OF NURSING PRACTICE (DNP)

*Empowering exemplary nurses to care
for anyone, anytime, anywhere.*

There are 3 tracks or pathways to the DNP degree at JSU:

- BSN-DNP for FNP (3 years)
- BSN-DNP for AGACNP (3 years)
- Post-Master's DNP (2 years)

Application/Admission process opens
January 2017 for Fall Semester 2017.



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LEFT TO RIGHT:

Dr. Ashok Roy, Vice President of Finance and Administration, and Cherise Y. Peters, Vice President of Enrollment Management

JSU Reorganizes Academic Units

In an effort to make Jacksonville State's academic units more manageable, marketable and synergistic, the Division of Academic Affairs has reorganized the university's four colleges into six schools, effective August 1, 2016.

The prior academic organization included two very large colleges – Arts & Sciences and Education & Professional Studies – and two small colleges – Commerce & Business Administration and Nursing. The six new schools are of similar size and the disciplines within each logically fit together with strong pedagogical, professional, academic and research synergies.

The most noteworthy changes include:

- Splitting the College of Arts & Sciences into three new schools: Arts & Humanities, Human Services & Social Sciences, and Science
- Moving Communications, Applied Engineering from the College of Education & Professional Studies to the new School of Business & Industry, joining the traditional business disciplines

- Moving Kinesiology from the College of Education & Professional Studies to the new School of Health Professions & Wellness, along with Nursing and Respiratory Therapy

The new School of Human Services & Social Sciences contain disciplines focused on service to and protection of others, including Criminal Justice and Forensics, Emergency Management, Military Science and Social Work. The related social science disciplines of Psychology and Sociology are also included in this school.

As part of the reorganization, centers, institutes and other supporting units that logically fit within certain academic disciplines reside in the respective schools in which those disciplines are housed.

The reorganization was initiated by JSU President John M. Beehler and Provost Rebecca Turner, who charged the deans with revisiting the university's academic structure. Input was also gathered from the Faculty Senate, academic department heads, the Student Government Association and others as part of the open and collaborative process.

"I believe this new academic structure poises JSU for its very bright future and will enable excellent collaboration in developing new programs, securing grants, conducting research, enhancing regional stewardship and community engagement, growing enrollment, and serving students and preparing them for their future careers," said President Beehler. "Thank you for your continued support as we work to make JSU Transformative, Innovative and Engaged for Success."


New Campus Leaders

President John M. Beehler has appointed two new leaders to his cabinet to ensure the university's continued growth and success. We are happy to welcome the following to the Friendliest Campus in the South:

Dr. Ashok Roy joined the administration in March 2016 as vice president for finance and administration and professor of practice in finance. He previously served in senior management positions at four universities, as well as in the private sector and local government. He holds six university degrees and five professional certifications. He has authored more

than 90 publications in academic and trade journals, including chapters in two encyclopedias. In 2000, the governor of Tennessee recognized his public service with the state's highest honor, the title of "Colonel, Aide de camp."

Cherise Y. Peters came on board as vice president of enrollment management in April 2016, bringing with her more than 30 years of experience in higher education. Previously, she served as vice president for enrollment management at Miles College, associate provost and vice president for enrollment management at Alabama State University and registrar at Georgia State University. She has also held

leadership positions at the Art Institute of Washington, the Advanced Career Training Institute, DeVry University, Broward Community College and Fort Lauderdale University. She is a doctoral candidate at Georgia State University, where she has all but defended her PhD in education, research measurement and statistics. 

THE NEW ORGANIZATION INCLUDES THE FOLLOWING SCHOOLS, EACH LED BY A DEAN:

- School of Arts and Humanities
- School of Business and Industry
- School of Education
- School of Health Professions and Wellness
- School of Human Services and Social Sciences
- School of Science

Governor Appoints Greg Brown to JSU Board of Trustees



The Alabama Senate has confirmed Gov. Robert Bentley's appointment of Greg Brown to the JSU Board of Trustees. He represents Congressional District 3, filling a seat formerly held by James L. Coxwell, Sr., who has served a full 12-year


term on the board. The Senate also confirmed Bentley's reappointment of Randall Jones to the board, representing District 5.

Brown is CEO and chairman of the Board of Directors for BR Williams Trucking, Inc. Headquartered in Oxford, Ala., BR Williams was founded in 1958 and has grown to include locations in Anniston, Eastaboga, Piedmont, Mobile and Tallahassee, Fla. Its fleet of 170 late model tractors with 625 trailers travels the entire continental U.S. and Canada, with revenues that exceed \$43.5 million.

A JSU alumnus, Brown graduated with a BS in both mathematics and accounting in 1979 and became a certified public accountant in 1981. He went on to earn a juris doctorate from the Birmingham School of Law in 1989 and was certified by the Alabama State Bar Association in 1990. After serving as staff accountant and, later, senior accountant at Kirkland and Company from 1980

to 1983, Brown joined the staff at BR Williams as corporate controller in 1983. In 1991, he was promoted to president and CEO – a role he served in until taking his current positions as board chairman and CEO in 2006.

"I am pleased that Greg has accepted the governor's appointment and agreed to serve on the Jacksonville State Board of Trustees," said President John M. Beehler. "His business acumen and reputation as a strong leader in our community will serve the university well as we continue to move the university towards achieving even greater levels of excellence."

Randall Jones of Albertville, Ala. – who has served on the Board of Trustees since 2008 – has been reappointed for a six-year term. The 1976 JSU alumnus is a principal agent at Randy Jones and Associates, a Nationwide independent agency. 

ATHLETIC NEWS



Gamecock Golfer Wins the Masters

Former JSU standout and Ohio Valley Conference champion Danny Willett won the 2016 Masters Tournament in April – becoming only the second Englishman to clinch the title and making JSU the only

Division I university in Alabama who can claim a Masters champion.

“This is a proud moment for JSU, for our men’s golf team and for our program,” said Coach James Hobbs, who coached Willett at JSU and cheered him on at the Masters. “This puts a stamp on our program. We have a Masters champion who played at JSU.”

Hailing from Sheffield, Yorkshire in Northern England, the vicar’s son practiced in a sheep field as a boy. Upon arriving at JSU as a freshman in 2005, he quickly made a name for himself.

During his career with the Gamecocks, Willett won medalist honors at the 2007 OVC Championship and was a First Team All-OVC performer and a member of the OVC’s All-Tournament Team in both

seasons. After two years of sharpening his game at JSU under Coach Hobbs, Willett turned pro in May 2008.

“I knew Danny was a special player when he came here as a 17-year-old-kid,” Hobbs said. “There was just something special about him. Now he has a green jacket and, to me, it has a little red lining inside of it.”

Learn more about the Alabama course Willett trained on, Silver Lakes, and its sister properties in “The Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail: Its History and Economic Impact,” a new book written by JSU alumnus and professor emeritus Dr. Mark Fagan (’74) for the trail’s 25th anniversary.

Learn more at www.newsouthbooks.com. 

Ray Harper to Lead Men’s Basketball Program



Jacksonville State has selected a proven winner to take over its men’s basketball program. Ray Harper has been named the team’s 11th head coach and the fifth to run the Gamecocks at the Division I level.

A veteran with over 30 years of coaching experience at the collegiate ranks, Harper takes the reins at JSU with a 431-127 career record in 17 years as a head coach. That career includes four national championships – two at the Division II level and two in NAIA.

“We are thrilled to have Ray take over our men’s basketball program,” said Athletic Director Greg Seitz. “He is a winner and has proven that at every stop he has made in his coaching career. We feel fortunate to be able to land a coach with his credentials at Jacksonville State.”

Harper comes to JSU after a five-year stint at Western Kentucky that saw him post an 89-64 mark that included three 20-win seasons and two trips to the NCAA Tournament. Prior to joining the WKU program, he built a head coaching resume that included four national championships, five national runner-up finishes, eight conference titles, five national coach-of-the-year honors and a 342-63 record over 12 years at Kentucky Wesleyan and Oklahoma City University. He has also coached on the international level, having led the USA Basketball men’s junior team to a 7-1 record and a fifth-place finish at the 2003 FIBA World Championships in Greece. 



WALKER RUSSELL:

First Gamecock in the NBA Returns for Degree

Walker Russell added to an already impressive resume this summer, when he completed his course work and earned his degree from Jacksonville State University.


The former Gamecock standout and the only JSU basketball player to play in the NBA finished his degree in sociology with a physical education minor, 10 years

after departing campus to pursue a career in professional basketball. With quite the resume on the court, Russell described getting his degree as one of the "proudest moments" of his life.

"It's the ultimate feeling," Russell said after being presented his degree in the President's Office. "To me, this is a

better feeling than making it to the NBA or anywhere that I've played professionally. I've always wanted to do this, and I have kids now, so it's a dream for me to be able to do this and be a role model for them. My mother was pushing me to do it, so for me, this is one of the proudest moments of my life."

Russell was an All-Ohio Valley Conference performer for the Gamecocks and remains one of the best to put on the JSU uniform. He signed with the Detroit Pistons on December 12, 2011.

"We are extremely proud of Walker for returning to campus to finish his degree," JSU President Dr. John M. Beehler said. "His commitment to completing his education is just another example of what a great role model he is to all of our student-athletes at Jacksonville State." 

Longtime Gamecock Greg Seitz Named Athletic Director




Greg Seitz – who has filled in as interim athletic director three times over his 23-year career with the Gamecocks – has been promoted to the top post, permanently.

"We are very excited to have Greg Seitz lead our athletic department," said JSU President John M. Beehler. "Greg is very well respected in the OVC, the NCAA and nationally...I'm pleased to remove the interim title and introduce him as our athletic director."

Seitz has been with JSU since 1993, when he began working as assistant sports information director. In 1999, he became sports information director and was promoted to associate athletic director in 2002, before being promoted to senior associate athletic director in 2011.

He has been instrumental in many of the facility upgrades at Jacksonville State, including renovations at Pete Mathews Coliseum and the lobby of the football field house. He was also involved in the design and addition of the football stadium, as well as the recent softball stadium and dressing room expansion.

Seitz, who has served on the NCAA Men's Final Four Media Coordinator team for the last six years, has also worked numerous NCAA Championships and Alabama High School Athletic Association events over the years. In 2002, he became the first sports information director elected as president of the Alabama Sports Writers Association. He currently serves as the organization's secretary and treasurer. 



HOMERUN!

Gamecock Softball Knocks 2016 Season Out of the Ballpark

It's unlikely the Auburn Tigers will underestimate the JSU Gamecocks again after the 2015-16 athletic season. Still licking its wounds from the "Scare at Jordan Hare" in the fall – when Gamecock Football took the Tigers into quadruple overtime – JSU Softball also let the SEC school by with a near-upset last season.

In May, the Gamecocks took on No. 4 Auburn in the NCAA Regional Championship hosted by the Tigers. In the first of two games, the Gamecocks led the Tigers to the bottom of the seventh inning before the home team escaped with a 2-1 win. On day two, the Gamecocks fell to the Tigers 14-2 but, if you have to lose, lose to a great opponent! After getting past Jax State, Auburn went on to play in the national championship, finishing No. 2 to Oklahoma in the College World Series in a nail-biter of a game with a final score of 2-1.

While they may not have captured the national title, it was a historic season for the celebrated Jacksonville State softball team. The Gamecocks tied the 2006 and 2009 teams for the second most wins in a season and made history throughout an unprecedented run through the Ohio Valley Conference slate. The Gamecocks went 26-0 in OVC play to become the second team to go through the OVC record unbeaten and the first since the 1994 Tennessee Tech team went 17-0.

Softball won a school-record 20 games in a row at one point during the season,

and their regular season run also extended their winning streak in OVC games to 30 – tied with Fresno State for the longest active conference win streak in the country.

Head Coach Jana McGinnis was named the OVC Coach of the Year a record-tying fifth time, while Ella Denes claimed Player of the Year and Whitney Gillespie Pitcher of the Year honors.

Coach McGinnis earned her 800th career win this season. A 1991 graduate of JSU, McGinnis was a two-time All-Gulf South Conference guard in basketball. She helped the Gamecocks to a 98-22 record during her four-year playing career and, in 1991, she played a key role in leading JSU to a GSC Championship and the NCAA Division II South Region title.

McGinnis still holds the JSU career record for assists with 603, as well as the single-season record with 204. She and her twin sister Dana Austin, JSU's former women's basketball head coach, are the only players in JSU women's basketball history to have their numbers retired.

After her bright career as a player, McGinnis began her career in coaching as a graduate assistant under women's basketball coach Tony Mabry during the 1991-92 season. The following year, she accepted her first head coaching job as the girls basketball coach at Cherokee County High School, where she led the Lady Warriors to the '93 Class 4A state championship.

With McGinnis at the helm, JSU Softball is expected to continue shatter-

ing records in 2017. The season will start back up in February. [Learn more at www.jsugamecocksports.com](http://www.jsugamecocksports.com). 



The Year of the Gamecock

JSU FOOTBALL HUNGERS FOR ANOTHER SHOT AT THE NATIONAL TITLE

With six home games, experienced players and a hunger for another shot at the national title, 2016 is expected to be the Year of the Gamecock.

In preseason polls, OVC head coaches and sports information directors picked Jax State to win its third-straight Ohio Valley Conference championship, while Eli Jenkins was predicted to repeat as Offensive Player of the Year and Darius Jackson to win Defensive Player of the Year. The two highlighted a group of 10 JSU players on the Preseason All-OVC Team, a league high.

The media that covers the OVC also picked Jacksonville State to win its third-straight league title and predicted Jenkins will repeat as the OVC Offensive Player of the Year.

After leading his team to a national championship in January, Jenkins returns for his senior year with his heart set on a national title. Last season, the Birmingham native orchestrated the most prolific offense in school history. He was one of just three quarterbacks at the Division I level (FBS or FCS) to pass for 2,700 and rush for 1,000 yards – joining Greg Ward, Jr. of Houston and Deshaun

Watson of Clemson. He finished the year with 2,788 passing and 1,161 rushing yards.

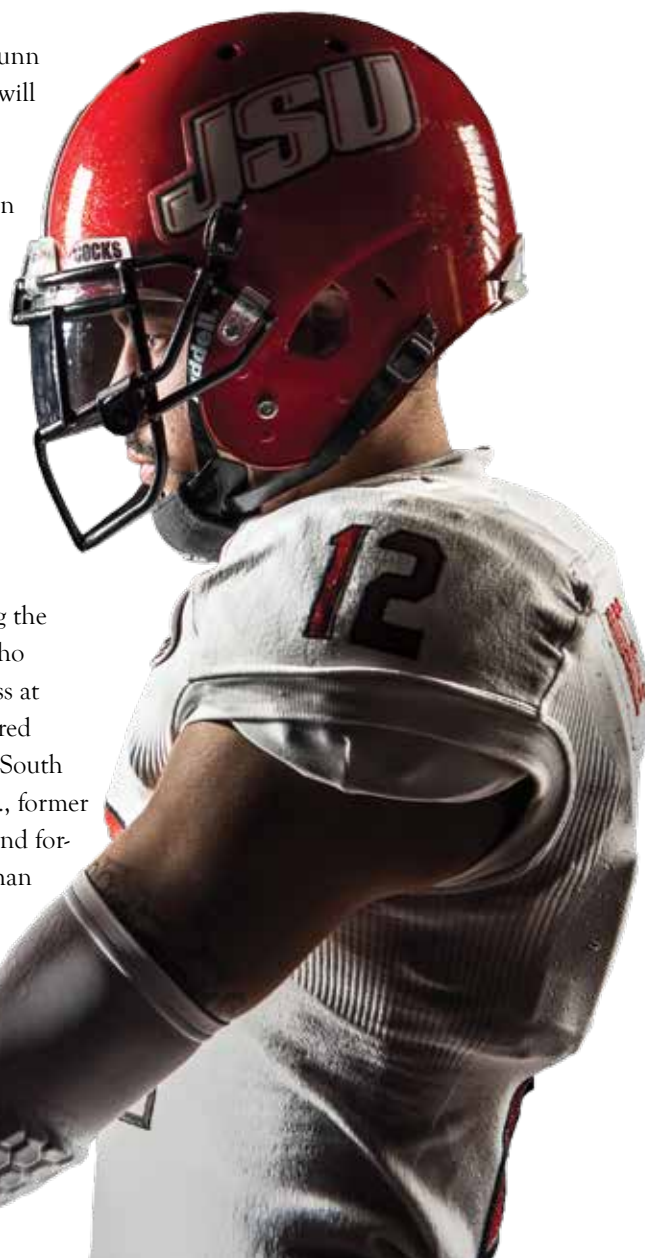
Also returning this season is the JSU's all-time receptions leader, Josh Barge, who hauled in 92 catches for 1,145 yards, both school records, a year ago. He also caught a school-record 11 touchdown passes last year and enters 2016 having caught at least one pass in 40-straight games.

All-American center Casey Dunn and All-OVC lineman Justin Lea will anchor the JSU offensive line in 2016, one year after opening the door for the first 7,000-yard season in school history. On defense, Darius Jackson enters his junior season as a defensive end after recording a school-record 19 tackles for a loss in an All-OVC campaign in 2015. He is joined by 2015 OVC All-Newcomer Team members Joel McCandless (LB) and Desmond Owino (DL).

Four FBS transfers are joining the team this season. Roc Thomas, who played for Head Coach John Grass at Oxford High School, has transferred from Auburn University. Former South Carolina cornerback Al Harris, Jr., former LSU wide receiver Kevin Spears and former East Carolina offensive lineman

Darius Anderson have also joined the Gamecocks.

Don't miss out on the action this season! Come cheer on the team at JSU Stadium. Purchase tickets at www.jsugamecocksports.com. 



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JSU to Construct New Baseball Stadium

The JSU Board of Trustees has approved the construction of a new baseball stadium after receiving a combined private gift of \$2 million to help fund the project.

"We are very thankful for this generous \$2 million private gift that we have received," said JSU President John M. Beehler. "This transformational gift, the largest ever made to Jacksonville State University, will help fund a new stadium for the baseball team, and will positively impact both the competitive and recruiting landscape of the program."

The baseball stadium is expected to include a 1,000 seat spectator grandstand with a shade canopy, an elevated, shaded entertainment or hospitality deck and service amenities, a new state-of-the-art press box to include radio and television broadcast booths, and a game operations center.

The Gamecocks' home dugout will be located along the first-base line and adjacent to a new clubhouse that will


feature a locker room, lounge, team meeting area and athletic training treatment area. The clubhouse will be attached to an enclosed training facility that will allow for batting and pitching workouts. New step-down team dugouts, bullpens, new coaches offices and meeting space will also be included in the project.

"The new stadium is going to mean so much to our baseball program," head coach Jim Case said. "It will provide our student-athletes with a first-class facility, while also improving the overall fan experience. Obviously, this will be a great recruiting attraction for our future student-athletes to help us to continue to have a championship program."

No other team has experienced the success over the last 13 years in the Ohio Valley Conference that the Gamecocks have enjoyed. Jax State has won six Ohio Valley Conference Championships; won more OVC games during that 13-year span than any other team in the league; set the

OVC record by posting an amazing 23-4 conference record in 2008; and played in the OVC Tournament Championship game nine out of 13 years.

"I cannot express how thankful we are to our lead-gift donors, President Beehler, and the Board of Trustees for approving this very important project," said Athletic Director Greg Seitz. "The new baseball facility will allow our team to continue to compete at the highest level, further demonstrating JSU Athletics' commitment to enhancing the experience of our student-athletes. As a fan, I can't wait to experience the excitement of JSU baseball in this new state-of-the-art venue."

Davis Architects, Inc., of Birmingham and local architect Bill Whittaker will collaborate on the project, which will begin construction later this year and is expected to take 9-12 months to complete. The Gamecocks will play their home games at Choccolocco Park in Oxford during the 2017 season. 



HEROES SALUTE:

2016 Halftime Show Honors Pearl Harbor

Albert Pine wrote, "What we do for ourselves dies with us. What we do for others and the world remains...and is immortal."

With this inspiration, the Marching Southerners will present "Heroes: Lost and Fallen" as part of its 2016 halftime show, honoring the 75th anniversary of the attacks on Pearl Harbor and the 60th anniversary of the marching band program.

As reported in the spring issue of "GEM," the Marching Southerners have been invited to Hawaii in December to perform at the ceremonies commemorating the 75th anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor. At halftime this fall, JSU football fans will get to preview some of the songs the band will play on the USS Missouri, overlooking the USS Arizona memorial, in Pearl Harbor.

"The bombing of Pearl Harbor and the rebuilding afterward has been the inspiration for the 2016 production," said Dr. Ken Bodiford, band director. "At some point in the season, we have scheduled a Pearl Harbor survivor to talk to the band about that horrific day.

When The Southerners are actually standing on the Missouri performing in Pearl Harbor, it is going to be an

unforgettably emotional performance that the students will remember for the rest of their lives."

Before they head off across the Pacific, the Southerners will see big changes on their home turf – literally. It was announced in August that the band is getting its first dedicated practice facility near Paul Carpenter Village, set to open in November in time for the annual Southerners reunion.

2016 HALFTIME SHOW

PART 1: FREEDOM

After a solemn opening memorial to those who lost their lives in the 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor, the Southerners will celebrate the enduring freedom those sacrifices helped secure. Selections from David Arnold's "Independence Day" will provide the foundation for the opening production. Cinematic, bold and intense, this music is the perfect soundtrack for the enduring spirit of American freedom and independence.


The music of Glenn Miller and The Andrews Sisters stands as an iconic artifact of the World War II period. John Williams paid tribute to this musical style in "Swing, Swing, Swing" on the soundtrack for the film "1941."

In an all-new production number format, the Marching Ballerinas will be featured in a burning big-band arrangement that will, no doubt, bring the house down.

PART 2: HONOR

With heavy hearts, the Southerners said goodbye to their founding fathers in 2015. Dr. John T. Finley and Dr. David L. Walters crossed to "God's celestial shores," leaving behind a legacy of tradition, pride and spirit that will endure for years to come. Hans Zimmer's "Honor," the main title from "The Pacific," provides the soundtrack for this moving memorial. In an emotional, visual, and melodious spectacle, the Southerners, with full and grateful hearts, bid our heroes a final farewell.

PART 3: HEROES FINALE

The 2016 production concludes with "Heroes Finale," a driving and contemporary production of original themes interwoven with Americana classics. The full spectrum of the Southerners' horn line will be showcased and pushed to the limits. After a powerful percussion feature, the Marching Southerners will unleash a final push of "Battle Hymn of the Republic, as one last poignant tribute to all of our heroes: lost and fallen, but never forgotten. 



GREATEST

SHOW ON TURF

HOME COMING

October, 29 2:00 PM

20 ✂ 16

JSU   **EIU**



JOIN US FOR HOMECOMING ON OCTOBER 27-30

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 27

6:00PM..... CALHOUN COUNTY ALUMNI & FRIENDS WINE TASTING
 8:00PM..... HOMECOMING PEP RALLY
 JSU STADIUM

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 28

12:00 NOON CLASS OF 1966 50-YEAR GOLDEN GAMECOCK REUNION
 HOUSTON COLE LIBRARY
 5:30 PM..... 60'S GROUP ANNUAL REUNION
 TOP O' THE RIVER IN ANNISTON
 6:00 PM..... ROTC ALUMNI BANQUET
 HOUSTON COLE LIBRARY
 6:00 PM..... INTERNATIONAL HOUSE REUNION 70TH ANNIVERSARY BANQUET
 HOUSTON COLE LIBRARY
 7:30 PM..... JSU DRAMA PRESENTS "PIRATES OF PENZANCE"
 OXFORD PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 29

8:00 AM..... 1955 REFRIGERATOR BOWL TEAM REUNION
 ALUMNI HOUSE
 9:00 AM-NOON ALUMNI OPEN HOUSE
 9:00-10:00 AM DEPARTMENTAL OPEN HOUSES: BUSINESS & COMMUNICATIONS
 10:00 AM..... BIOLOGY, GEOGRAPHY & CHEMISTRY ALUMNI TAILGATE
 KENNAMER FIELD
 10:30 AM..... HOMECOMING PARADE
 11:30 AM..... ALUMNI ASSOCIATION GENERAL (OPEN) MEETING
 TMB AUDITORIUM
 11:30 AM..... INTERNATIONAL HOUSE PROGRAM ALUMNI TAILGATE
 CLARENCE W. DAUGETTE, JR. INTERNATIONAL HOUSE
 11:30-12:30 AM 1970-1976 ALUMNI TAILGATE ON KENNAMER FIELD
 2:00 PM..... JSU VS EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
 HALFTIME PRESENTATION OF ALUMNI OF YEAR & HOMECOMING COURT WINNERS
 POST-GAME..... 1970-1976 ALUMNI RECEPTION
 JSU ALUMNI HOUSE PAVILION
 6:30 PM..... CLEATS VS GREEKS ALUMNI KICKBALL GAME
 UNIVERSITY FIELD
 7:30 PM..... JSU DRAMA PRESENTS "PIRATES OF PENZANCE"
 OXFORD PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 30

2:00 PM..... U.N. DAY TEA
 CLARENCE W. DAUGETTE, JR. INTERNATIONAL HOUSE
 3:00 PM..... JSU DRAMA PRESENTS "PIRATES OF PENZANCE"
 OXFORD PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

For the latest homecoming information and updates, visit www.jsu.edu/alumni and like us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/JSUAlumniAssociation.

UPCOMING ALUMNI REUNIONS

Reflect on your glory days at one of the Alumni Association's upcoming alumni reunions this fall:

SEPTEMBER 24

Fab 40s/Nifty 50s Reunion

OCTOBER 8

Old School Alumni After Party

OCTOBER 28-29

Class of 1966 Reunion
 ROTC Alumni
 60's Group Annual Reunion
 International House Program Alumni
 '55 Football Team
 1970-76 Alumni

NOVEMBER 18-19

Marching Southerners Alumni
 Cheerleader Alumni

DECEMBER 9-15

Alumni and Southerners Trip to Hawaii

LEARN MORE AT

WWW.JSU.EDU/ALUMNI.

SHIRTLESS SCHOOL SPIRIT:

Band of ROTC Brothers Keep Friendships Alive and Fans Entertained



By Katie Cline

How does a group of clean-cut military men go from serving their country in areas like Grenada, Iraq and Afghanistan to parading half-naked across Jacksonville, sometimes in freezing weather? For the Elite Letterman's Club, it has always been about fun, friendship and love for their alma mater.

If you've been to a JSU Homecoming game in the past decade, you have likely seen them: a group of shirtless middle aged men sporting red and white body paint across their chests reading, "Go Cocks!" In some circles, they are borderline famous. They have been featured in *The Anniston Star*, *The Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, on ESPN's website and in a commercial for the Hampton Inn of Jacksonville.

Who are they? A band of fun-loving ROTC brothers who met on campus in the 1970s and 1980s: Dave Bowles, Bill Huggins, Doug Hicks, Brian Chatham, Theo Galzerano, Mike Hollaway, John Shields, Jesse Carpenter, Jim Martin, Gus Edwards, Jim Sullivan and Stan Carpenter. Even Rich White, ('89) a former JSU professor of military science, joins their ranks.

"We were a mischievous bunch," Dave Bowles admitted. "As our military careers began to come to a close, the opportunity to get together during Homecoming became more plausible, so that became our tradition. As a group, we still shared that competitive spirit that drew us together as ROTC cadets, which is what eventually led to the challenge to 'paint up.'"

They first painted up in 2005 on a dare but it has since become a JSU tradition. Their "uniform" has evolved over the years – adding red and white football pants, leather helmets and eye black. The name "Elite Lettermen's Club" was inspired by questions from fellow football fans.

"During our first game in 2005, several people asked if we were former football

players in the JSU Lettermen's Club," said Doug Hicks. "We weren't, but we took the Lettermen's Club idea and added 'Elite' to the beginning. We in no way consider ourselves Elite. It just sounded good to the group."

In 2006, they started marching in the Homecoming parade. Two of the members, Theo Galzerano and John Shields, supply the military vehicles that follow behind the group. Their wives proudly ride along and throw candy to the crowd. In 2010, former JSU head football coach Jack Crowe asked them to lead the football team onto the field, a task they've been proudly doing ever since. But the group's story goes back even further.

"We came to JSU and, particularly, the ROTC program because we desired challenging training and wanted to serve as officers in the Army," said Bowles. "We were rewarded by being mentored by outstanding role models, such as then-Captain William Stone, then-Captain Jack Schlegel and Sergeant Major Hank Kilgrove. They dedicated their time and efforts to not only teach us military skills, but life lessons as well. Not only did they push us, but we pushed ourselves. The program provided many challenging opportunities for development, such as physical training, field training exercises, Scabbard and Blade initiation, and Army schools such as Airborne and Ranger School. As we went through these events together, we matured and developed a special bond – a bond that has endured over 35 years, and will continue on indefinitely."


Each Homecoming, they convene on the JSU campus from five states – Alabama, Georgia, Tennessee, Kentucky and Virginia – with their wives, children and grandchildren in tow. The reunion begins on Friday afternoon with lots of hugs as the old friends and their families catch up on lost time. They continue to enjoy one another's company throughout

Homecoming Day, participating in the parade, the game and an all-out tailgating party.

In addition to Homecoming, the Elite Letterman also try to attend the big football games each season. In 2015, they traveled to the near-upset game at Auburn University and the National Championship game in Frisco, TX to support their beloved Gamecocks. They also make an effort to get together each spring in cities like Gatlinburg or Nashville or take fishing trips together.

"I've most enjoyed the camaraderie," said Hicks. "Being able to stay in touch with folks that you share a common bond with from 30-plus years ago is rare. We are also almost all married to spouses we met at Jacksonville State. Most everyone I tell about our group is amazed that we have kept so close for so long, and it is also a heck of a lot of fun." Bill Huggins added, "You can't fake real friendships! I am thankful for my ELC Band of Brothers!"

Besides sharing their school spirit with stadiums full of Gamecock fans, the Elite Lettermen's Club sponsors an ROTC scholarship and actively supports the ROTC Alumni Association.

"Despite the miles that separate us, we stay in close contact through emails and Facebook," Bowles said, "and if you heard or saw the banter you would think we were still in college. When we were at JSU, our parents worried about us, now our kids (and grandkids) do. We wouldn't have it any other way." 

ALUMNI

OF THE YEAR

AWARD WINNERS WILL BE RECOGNIZED AT HALFTIME OF THE HOMECOMING GAME ON SATURDAY, OCTOBER 29



Marc Angle '82

ALUMNUS OF THE YEAR MARC ANGLE '82

Marc Angle earned a BS in finance from JSU in 1982 and went on to receive an MBA from Samford University. He began his career as part of SouthTrust's first commercial training program in 1983. In 1999, he moved to Texas with SouthTrust to build the company's Texas wholesale and retail franchise, where he managed markets in Dallas/Fort Worth Metroplex, Houston, San Antonio and Beaumont. He served three years as president of the Texas region of First Horizon Bank before joining Regions Financial Corporation in 2008. He currently serves as the area president for the greater Texas market for Regions, where his responsibilities include all commercial and consumer lines of business for Dallas/Fort Worth Metroplex, Houston, Austin, San Antonio and East Texas. He serves as a board member for the SMU Athletic Forum, Emily's Place and the JSU Foundation. At JSU, he was a member of Kappa Alpha Order and president of the Student Government Association. He and his wife Mary (Hudson) '88, reside in Plano, Tex. Their daughter, Darby, is a freshman at JSU.



Heather Marshall '99

ALUMNA OF THE YEAR HEATHER MARSHALL '99

Heather Marshall earned an MS in education from JSU in 1999. She holds a BA in international relations from Samford University and is pursuing a Master of Disability Studies at City University of New York. Upon graduating from JSU - where she was named Phi Delta Kappa Medal Student Teacher of the Year and received the Award for Excellence in Secondary Education - she began her teaching career at Gardendale High School in Gardendale, Ala. She went on to teach at Roebuck Community Adult Learning Center and E. B. Erwin High School in Birmingham before moving to New York in 2003 to teach at York Preparatory School. In 2014, she was promoted to her current position as dean of its Upper School. She serves as an advocate for people with disabilities and, in 2015, was appointed to the leadership council for the New York City chapter of the Foundation Fighting Blindness. She is a member of the Society for Disability Studies, the Association of Teachers for Independent Schools and the New York Historical Society. She resides in New York City.



Warren Sarrell III '10

YOUNG ALUM OF THE YEAR WARREN SARRELL III '10

Warren Sarrell earned a BS in business management with a minor in technical writing from JSU in 2010. He earned a JD from The Birmingham School of Law in 2014 and currently serves as the Cleburne County Circuit Clerk. He is an alumnus of Leadership Cleburne County and serves as a member of the Alabama Circuit Clerks Association, the Cleburne County Chamber of Commerce and the board for Friends of the Talladega National Forest. Having achieved the rank of Eagle Scout with Boy Scouts of America in his youth, he serves as a Cub Scout Leader for Pack 206 in Heflin, Ala. He is also an active mentor for the Cleburne County Middle School mentoring program. While at JSU, he served as a Gamecock Orientation Leader, president of Kappa Alpha Order, and was voted Mr. Jax State. He continues to serve as alumni advisor for his fraternity and was an alumni judge for the 2015 JSU Homecoming Pageant. He and his wife, Astin (Mobley) '08, have one son, Branson. The family resides in Ranburne, Ala.



Col. Todd E. Key '87

MILITARY ALUMNUS OF THE YEAR**COL. TODD E. KEY '87**

Col. Todd Key earned a BA in history and English from JSU in 1987 and was commissioned as a second lieutenant into the field artillery. Now an Army strategist, he has served five Army chiefs of staff, two chairmen of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and the senior four-star general in charge of all NATO forces in Afghanistan. He was serving in the Pentagon on 9-11 and has three combat tours in Afghanistan. He is a recipient of the Legion of Merit (two oak leaf clusters), the Bronze Star Medal, the Defense Meritorious Service Medal (oak leaf cluster), the Meritorious Service Medal (three oak leaf clusters), the Army Commendation Medal (two oak leaf clusters), and the Army Achievement Medal (one oak leaf cluster). He is also the recipient of the Italian and Polish Afghan Campaign Medals. He holds master's degrees in international relations from the US Army Special Operations Center and School through Troy State and in national security and resource strategy from the Eisenhower School for National Security and Resource Strategy. He is chairman of the Strategic Research and Analysis Department at the Army War College at Carlisle Barracks, Penn. He and his wife, Kelly Boucher, are the proud parents of daughter Emilyann Key.



Dr. Christie Shelton '96/'02

OUTSTANDING FACULTY/STAFF MEMBER OF THE YEAR**DR. CHRISTIE SHELTON '96/'02**

Dr. Christie Shelton earned a BS and MS in nursing from JSU in 1996 and 2002, respectively, and completed a PhD in nursing at the University of Alabama at Birmingham in 2009. Currently the dean of the School of Health Professions and Wellness, she has held diverse roles over her 16-year career at JSU, including serving as nursing arts lab coordinator, instructor of nursing, project director of a \$3.2 million grant studying the health effects of polychlorinated biphenyls on the Anniston population, director of the traditional BS in nursing program, and associate dean. Some of the most significant accomplishments under her deanship include construction of a state of the art simulation facility, approval of the second doctoral program at JSU – a Doctor of Nursing Practice – and approval of a bachelor's program in respiratory therapy. She is a Certified Nurse Educator and a board certified Nurse Executive-Advanced. In 2012, she was recognized by her peers with a Alabama League for Nursing Lamplighter Award. She and her husband, Bryan, reside in Heflin, Ala., and have two grown children, both of whom are JSU alumni. They also have two grandsons with a third due in September.

**ALUMNI CHAPTER OF THE YEAR STUDENT ALUMNI ASSOCIATION (SAA)**

The Student Alumni Association is led by President Jessica Gattis, a senior majoring in criminal justice with a concentration in forensics, under the advisement of Assistant Director of Alumni Relations Alan Renfro. The SAA prepares students for life after college while having fun in college. Open to all students, its activities include cookouts, alumni guest speakers, professional etiquette dinners, community service, mock interviews, icebreakers, team building exercises, leadership development and more. But mostly, the SAA is about meeting new friends, making lifelong connections and having a great time! The young organization already has more than 100 members.

To nominate someone as 2017 Outstanding Alumni/Faculty of the Year, complete the form at www.jsu.edu/alumni. The nomination deadline for the 2017 awards is February 1, 2017.



FEAR THE BEAK!

Student Alumni Association Inspires New JSU Tradition

BY KATIE CLINE

At the beginning of the historic 2015 Gamecock football season, while brainstorming slogan ideas to print on club T-shirts, the JSU Student Alumni Association unexpectedly created the battle cry heralded throughout the team's most successful season in 22 years – “Fear the Beak!”

The group knew they wanted the shirt to feature the rooster hand sign popularized by the JSU Cheerleaders – in which the thumb and index fingers touch, forming a beak, with the other three digits extending into a comb – but they had a hard time hitting on the right words to go with the image.

“We thought about ‘Get Cocky,’ but we already had the Cocky T-shirts,” said Alan Renfroe, club advisor and assistant director of Alumni Relations. “Then we had the idea of ‘Fight On,’ the first words of our fight song. We really liked the artwork we had, but we weren’t sold on the saying. Then one night I just said, ‘Fear the Beak!’ and we all said, ‘That’s it!’”

The shirts debuted at Red Threads Apparel on the Jacksonville Square late in the regular football season. Red Threads donated a portion of each shirt sale back

to the Student Alumni Association, and the group raised \$800 last season alone.

What is the Student Alumni Association? Founded in 2003, the SAA is a small but growing club aimed at helping JSU students have fun in college while preparing for their future. Originally called Students Today, Alumni Tomorrow (STAT), the group is currently 105 members strong, up from 65 members at this time last year.

“The Student Alumni Association is an inclusive group,” said Renfroe, “If you’re enrolled in any class at Jacksonville State – graduate or undergraduate – you can join.”

Membership dues are \$30 per year or \$80 for life and come with a complimentary T-shirt and a discount card for local restaurants. Jessica Gattis joined SAA in 2012 as a freshman. This past year, she served as president, and she has been elected to serve a second term beginning this fall.

“As president, not only do I want students to learn and grow into successful graduates, but I want everyone to feel comfortable,” said Gattis, a senior majoring in criminal justice with a concentration

in forensics. “I want everyone to know who they are, love who they are and know that they are family to us in SAA. That’s what the Student Alumni Association has taught me: leadership and how to love others. I’m a better person because of this organization.”

Within the SAA is an elite group of students called the SAA Ambassadors. These 16 students represent the organization at campus events like Homecoming and Orientation.

The SAA also hosts a number of events on campus to help students make connections and prepare for life after college. Some of their signature events include résumé building workshops, mock interviews and the annual etiquette dinner. They also host an annual Shrimp Boil fundraiser on the lawn of the Alumni House each spring. At Homecoming, the organization is being recognized as Alumni Chapter of the Year.

For more information on the Student Alumni Association, contact Alan Renfroe at 256-782-8256. ☎



JSU Mourns the Loss of Board Chair and University Alumnus Jim Bennett

JSU is mourning the loss of Jim Bennett, chair of its board of trustees and a 1962 alumnus, who passed away on Aug. 17 following a battle with cancer.

"It is truly a sad day for JSU," said President John M. Beehler. "As a family, JSU mourns this great loss."

Bennett's relationship with Jacksonville State goes back more than 50 years, when he first enrolled as a freshman at the university. He was a highly involved student, serving as a representative in the Student Government Association and editor of the Collegian student newspaper, now known as The Chanticleer. He played trumpet and was an announcer for the Marching Southerners from the second year of its existence. He was also a member of Phi Mu Alpha, Three Keys and Omega Delta Pi. In fact, he was instrumental in bringing social fraternities to campus.

After graduating with his bachelor's degree in biology with minors in political science and history, Bennett became a reporter for the Birmingham Post Herald. He was assigned to the capital and covered the Civil Rights Movement throughout the 1960s, including the day in 1963 when fire hoses were turned on peaceful protest-

ers in Birmingham. He interviewed such historical figures as Gov. George Wallace and Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr.


After leaving the news business in 1971, Bennett briefly went into public relations before his election to the Alabama legislature launched his career in public service in 1978. For more than 30 years, he served the state of Alabama. He was a member of the Alabama State House of Representatives from 1978-1983 and a member of the State Senate from 1983-1993. He was appointed secretary of state in 1993 and was elected to the position in 1994 and 1998. He was appointed labor commissioner in 2003, 2006 and 2011. In 2013, he was appointed to serve another stint as secretary of state, which he completed in 2015.

As a lawmaker, Bennett was a leading advocate of election reform and constitutional revision. He wrote many of the current day state election laws. He retired from public office in 2015 and was honored for his service by Gov. Robert Bentley and current Secretary of State John H. Merrill on March 18, 2015 during a special ceremony at the capitol building. On August 15, 2016, Gov. Bentley presented

him the Governor's Cross – only the second time the governor has awarded the medal.

Bennett served on the JSU Board of Trustees from 1985 to the time of his death, presiding as board chair since 2002. Throughout his 31 years of service to the board, he worked with four different university presidents, saw the university post its highest enrollment, witnessed the construction of McGee Science Building and the Little River Canyon Center, cheered for the Gamecocks from the newly constructed JSU Stadium and was instrumental in JSU Athletics' move to Division 1.

Reflecting on his time at JSU, Bennett told the JSU Office of Public Relations in 2006, "Jacksonville State is a place you can be just about what you wish to be by the amount of effort you put into it...I view my four years there as the best in my life."

Bennett is survived by his wife, Andrea, and their two children, three grandchildren, and a new great granddaughter born only a week before his death. 

ALUMnotes

BIRTHS

**pictured below*

2000-2010

*Misty Cassell Ray '04/'07 and her husband Brandon, Jacksonville, Ala., announce the arrival of their twins, daughter Cassell Gail and son Calhoun James, December 16, 2015. Mrs. Ray is employed by the JSU athletic department as an assistant athletic director for compliance. She was a member of the Gamecock Orientation team while at JSU. Mr. Ray is employed by Honda Manufacturing of Alabama.

WEDDINGS

**pictured below*

1980 – 1989

Kathy Carlene Grimes '81 and Jody Verlene Thompson, Trion, Ga., October 17, 2015, Gatlinburg, Tenn. She was a member of the Marching Southerners.

*Doris DeMott "Dodie" Coleman '83/'85, Jacksonville, Ala., and Tim Hill, July 16, 2016.

Derrick B. Bryant '88 and Warline Harry, Havre de Grace, Md., December 5, 2015. Mr. Bryant was commissioned through the JSU ROTC Program. He works in cyberspace planning with Booz/Allen/Hamilton, Annapolis Junction, Md. He previously served on the JSU Alumni Association Board of Governors.

1990-1999

Ellen Ann Tibbetts '91 and Ronald Wayne Hurst, Jacksonville, Ala., March 12, 2016. Mrs. Hurst is a program director for the AL CARES program at

the East Alabama Regional Planning and Development Commission's Area Agency on Aging, where she has worked for the past 15 years.

*Traci Layne Miller '92 and Timothy Carter Phillips '95/'03, Scottsboro, Ala., July 2, 2016. The couple met in the JSU Drama Department and was pleased to host retired drama professor Dr. Wayne Claeren as an honored guest at their wedding. Mrs. Phillips, who was a member of Delta Zeta at JSU, is a communications instructor at Northeast Alabama Community College in Rainsville. Mr. Phillips is employed by Highlands Medical Center. The couple resides in Scottsboro with Mrs. Phillips' two daughters.

2000-2009

Chris Cleveland '06 and Nan Davis, Trafford Ala., October 18, 2015. Mr. Cleveland is employed by the Blount County Board of Education and owns/operates Chris Cleveland Services, LLC. He served as a JSU Ambassador.

Rachel Justine Gordon '09 and Kyle Preston Hassell '10, Cartersville, Ga., November 14, 2015. Mrs. Hassell was a member of Alpha Xi Delta.

2010-2016

Mary Martha Hall '10 and Blake Steven Dalrymple '16, January 9, 2016, Anniston, Ala. Mrs. Dalrymple was a member of Delta Zeta and Students Today Alumni Tomorrow (now known as the Student Alumni Association). She is employed by BB&T in Alexandria. Mr. Dalrymple is employed by Lowe's.

Cameron Elaine Hayes '10 and Hugh Leslie Lackey, Childersburg, Ala., May 28, 2016.

*Jennifer Leann Torruella '11 and Benjamin Alan Tootle '14, May 7, 2016, Anniston, Ala. Mrs. Tootle was a member of Zeta Tau Alpha and played soccer for JSU. She has been an RN at the University of Alabama Hospital in Birmingham. After receiving a master's degree in nursing this summer from UAB, she is now a family nurse practitioner. Mr. Tootle played baseball for JSU. He is currently employed by Infinity Insurance in Birmingham as a software developer trainee. He is enrolled at Nova Southeastern University and will graduate with a Master of Science in Computer Science Engineering.

*Erica Paige Huddleston '14 and Jarrod Wayne Rowland, June 6, 2016.

Caleb James Anglin '15 and Anne Patricia Jenkins, April 23, 2016, Carrollton, Ga. Mrs. Anglin is employed by Webb-Stiles in Gadsden, Ala.

OBITUARIES

(The following information was gathered by the alumni office from newspaper obituaries or from notifications by friends and family.)

JSU FACULTY/STAFF:

Melvin Brewster, Jacksonville, Ala., December 15, 2015. He was retired from the National Guard and the JSU Physical Plant.

Dr. Samuel J. Crawford, Sr., Piedmont, Ala., February 17, 2016. He served the people of Calhoun County as a physician for more than 40 years, including as campus physician for JSU and team physician for the JSU Gamecock sports program. He received the Jimmy Bryan Award for his longstanding commitment to JSU athletes.

Robert B. Dillard, Hoover, Ala., June 12, 2016, from multiple myeloma. He coached the Gamecocks to consecutive NCAA Division II gymnastic titles in 1984 and 1985, the school's first of six total NCAA National Championships. He earned the Kellogg National Coach of the Year title in 1977 and was twice named the NCAA Division II National Coach of the Year. He then became the head gymnastics coach at Auburn University in 1986 and led the Tigers to 10 NCAA Regionals until his retirement in 1998. He was inducted in the JSU Athletic Hall of Fame in 2003. Coach Dillard was married to Mary Lou Dillard '78.

Robert Warner Foshee, Jr., Gadsden, Ala., May 11, 2016. He had been an instructor at JSU until he was disabled before his 35th birthday.

James A. Jackson, Jacksonville, Ala., March 1, 2016, after a battle with cancer. He retired with 40 years of service in law enforcement, including the Calhoun County Sheriff's Department, Anniston Police Department (motorcycle patrol), JSU Police Department (chief), and the City of Jacksonville Police Department. He then moved to Montgomery as head of the A Post and opened the Police Department Academies statewide.

Ralph E. Logan, Jacksonville, Ala., December 26, 2015. He was a retired inventory manager in the JSU Physical Plant.

Senior Master Sgt. George Milton Newland, Jr., Jacksonville, Ala., March 17, 2016. He served in the Air Corps during World War II and retired with 27 years of service. He had been a professor of management and marketing at JSU.



Paula Kay Henry Napoli '00, Jacksonville, Ala., May 25, 2016. Retired from JSU, she was an instructor emerita and served as director of the Cynthia H. Harper Child Study Center.

Dr. Jerry Lynn Smith, Birmingham, Ala., March 14, 2016. He was retired from JSU, where he served as a professor in the political science department and director of the Masters of Public Administration program and was instrumental in the inception of the national accreditation process. He served in many leadership roles at JSU, including president of the Faculty Senate and a member of the Foundation Board. He was awarded the status of professor emeritus by JSU in 2004. He also served on the city council until 1998, when he was appointed as mayor after the death of Mayor George Douthitt, and was elected mayor in 2000. He had been married to the late Lynne Swindall Smith '74.

Mary Martha Hosford Thomas, Cranberry Township, Pa., December 30, 2015, of aspiration pneumonia. She was a professor of American history at JSU from 1971 to 1992.

David L. Walters, Jacksonville, Ala., December 30, 2015. Dr. Walters served as JSU band director from 1961 until his retirement in 1991. Under his leadership and playing music he arranged himself, the Marching Southerners became known for its trademark sound and unique half-time performances. He was the emeritus director of bands until the time of his death. In recognition of his achievements, the JSU music department is named in his honor. He was inducted into the JSU Sports Hall of Fame and was awarded the Orpheus Award by national Phi Mu

Alpha, a professional music fraternity of which he was a member. Under his direction, the Southerners represented Alabama in the inaugural parade for President Lyndon Johnson in the early '60s. In 1976, they were selected to represent Alabama in the Bicentennial Parade in Philadelphia. His band program produced some of the finest directors and educators. He never failed to remind people to "be kind to each other, it's important!" He was married to Jeannie Levie Walters '75.

Jimmie Nell Williams, Hamilton, Ala., February 29, 2016. She served as a librarian at JSU from 1967 until her retirement 1998.

ATTENDED ONLY OR DATE OF GRADUATION UNKNOWN:

Jeanne Lavie-Bonvin, Saint Michel sur Orge, France, January 9, 2016. She attended JSU between 1947 and 1948 as a member of the International House Program.

Odette Michel Couture, Nancy, France, May 11, 2015. She had been a member of the JSU International House Program in 1946 and 1947.

Daniel Cros, Paris, France, November 20, 2015. He had been a member of the International House Program. Both of his sons, Julien '94 and Thomas, were also members of the program.

Kenneth S. Glenn, Birmingham, Ala., February 20, 2016. He was a member of the JSU Show Choir and the Southerners' 20J line. He also performed with the Spirit of Atlanta Drum and Bugle Corps.

Galen Greenwood, Lanett, Ala., March 2016. He was a member of Omega Psi Phi.

Michael J. Mann, Antioch, Tenn., July 14, 2016. After teaching and coaching, he began a long and successful career in the construction business, retiring in 2010. He played football for JSU.

Mary Jean Church Nugent, Birmingham, Ala., March 25, 2016.

Margenia Casey Arrington Ready O'Neal, Destin, Fla., February 2, 2016.

James Luther "J.L." Pass, Cleveland, Ala., June 3, 2016. He had worked as a lineman for Alabama Power. He played football for JSU from 1961 to 1963.

Kenneth L. Price, Anniston, Ala., March 22, 2016. He had been a member of Omega Psi Phi at JSU.

Frances Weaver Reeves, Pensacola, Fla., June 15, 2016. She had been employed by Mutual Federal as an events coordinator and decorator.

Hazel Helen Scales, Pensacola, Fla., February 29, 2016. She served 37 years as a teacher, department chairman, assistant principal and principal. She was the first woman to serve as a high school principal in Northwest Florida.

William Earl Scott, Weaver, Ala., February 21, 2016. He was employed for 26 years at Goodyear of Gadsden, Ala. He was a member of Omega Psi Phi.

Glenn Spann, Haleyville, Ala., April 26, 2015. He served in the Army, including two tours in Vietnam, and retired from Sunshine Homes after 25 years in sales. He played football for JSU.

Ronald Dwayne Towns, Anniston, Ala., December 17, 2015. He played basketball for JSU in 1978-1979.

1930-1939

Martha Edwardine Street Culp '34/'35, Johnson City, Tenn., May 6, 2016. She was 100 years, 6 months and 2 days old! She was married to the late Dr. Delos Culp '34.

Magueritte Posey Bryant '39, Charlottesville, Va., January 8, 2016. She had worked first as a teacher and then with the FBI. She had been a very proud life member of the JSU Alumni Association. In her junior year at Jacksonville State Teachers College, she was elected Miss JSTC and Miss Personality.

1940-1949

Jessie Fray Carter '48, Haleyville, Ala., September 3, 2015. He played football for JSU from 1946 to 1948.

Kathryn Milner Shehane '48, Tifton, Ga., January 24, 2016. She was a longtime educator and coach in the Georgia School System. She also served three terms as superintendent in the Douglas County School System. Her career spanned 44 years. At JSU, she was a member of the Baptist Campus Ministry.

Walala Johnson Woods '48, Piedmont, Ala., January 29, 2016.

Frances Engle Litzel '49, Bowie, Md., January 11, 2016. Her teaching career began in Alabama but she retired in Bowie, Md., in 1977.

1950-1959

Mary Frances Angel Hyde '50/'77, Jacksonville, Ala., April 21, 2016. She taught school from 1950 to 1987 in Alabama and Florida. She retired from the Calhoun County Board of Education with 38 years of service.

Carlton R. Johnson '50, Anniston, Ala., April 16, 2016. He served in World War II. He was known in the area as Muffler Man and in later years he owned a sharpening service called SURESHARPE.

Ula Jay Jones '50/'60, Anniston, Ala., March 23, 2016. He served in the Army Infantry during World War II in Okinawa and Korea. He taught public school for five years before going into civil service for 34 years, retiring in 1989.

Bonnie Cobb Skinner '51, Bryan, Tex., July 1, 2016, from a heart attack. She was very active in the Fabulous 40s/ Nifty 50s JSU alumni group, attending most of their annual reunions, sometimes even serving as a guest speaker. She was a retired National Christian speaker and wrote "Happiness on a Shoestring."

Winston Lovell Williams '51, Hokes Bluff, Ala., June 23, 2016. Commissioned into the Army through the JSU ROTC program, he was a veteran of the Korean War and retired from the Army Reserves after 26 years as a lieutenant colonel. In his civilian career, he worked for Goodyear Tire & Rubber, serving as a production supervisor, training manager and finally



Above: Erica Huddleston '14 and Jarrod Rowland

manager for statistical process control for production processes.

Col. Max S. Bowdon '53, Wetumpka, Ala., June 26, 2016. Designated a distinguished military graduate, he was commissioned through the JSU ROTC program as a second lieutenant (artillery) and served for three years on active duty with the 519th Field Artillery Battalion in Germany. He served for several years in the Army Reserves and returned to the Alabama National Guard in 1960, serving with the 1/117th Field Artillery Battalion for 17 years. From 1977 to 1991, he served as the US property and fiscal officer for Alabama. In civilian life, he spent 20 years in the wholesale grocery business as a buyer, data processing manager and sales manager. He also spent 54 years as a high school and college football and basketball official, being inducted into the CAFOA Hall of Honor in 2014 and receiving the Distinguished Service Award from the Alabama High School Athletic Association for his years of service. He played baseball for JSU and was selected the 1985 Military Alumnus of the Year by the JSU National Alumni Association.

Bonnie Imogene Rains Wilson '53, Albertville, Ala., January 6, 2015. She had been married to Arnold H. Wilson '55. She was a retired teacher from the Albertville City Board of Education.

Gail Mountain Boozer '54, Tuscaloosa, Ala., June 8, 2014. She taught school and private piano lessons. She had been married to Rayford M. Boozer '55.

Major Omar J. Calciolari '54, Lawton, Okla., December 12, 2015. He served briefly in the Navy and 21 years with the Army. He was commissioned through the JSU ROTC program as a second lieutenant in 1952 and retired in 1973 with the rank of major. After his retirement, he served as the principal at Treasure Lake Job Corps from 1973 to 1986. He had been married to the late Alice Jane Williams Calciolari '54.

Lt. Col. Robert Eugene Wesson '54, Attalla, Ala., June 13, 2016. His U.S. Army career spanned 20 years. While commander of troops for the U.S. Army Missile Command at Redstone Arsenal near Huntsville, he represented the Army in NORAD's joint design of the Strategic Missile Defense System, for which he received the

Presidential Legion of Merit Commendation for his efforts in the Cold War. He was a cattle, horse and pig rancher for the past 42 years, served as president of the Alabama Cattlemen's Association, and owned Wesco Meats, Altoona, Ala.

Harry William Yocum '54, Gadsden, Ala., June 13, 2016. He served in the Army during the Korean War. He played football at JSU and coached for many years in Etowah County. He was married to Dr. Virginia Nell Yocum '62, a retired JSU professor of family and consumer science.

Joe Thomas Carter, Sr. '56, Trussville, Ala., July 8, 2016. He was an Army veteran of World War II, serving in the Pacific as part of the detachment to Gen. Douglas MacArthur in Tokyo. He later served in the Marines during the Korean War. After his service, he was employed by Alabama Power as a staff accountant for industrial accounts for 30 years. He had been married to the late Wilma Cofield Carter '50.

Joseph L. Conyers '56/'58/'73, Anniston, Ala., February 25, 2016. He was retired with more 30 years of service as an educator in Calhoun County.

William Broughton Howell '56, Cartersville, Ga., January 7, 2015.

Billie Hyde Oden '56, Diamondhead, Miss., March 16, 2016. He served many years as principal of Pinson Valley High School and spent the last decade of his career as assistant to the superintendent of Jefferson County (Ala.) Schools.

Betty Sue Patterson Benefield '58, Gadsden, Ala., January 31, 2016. She was the director of Cornerstone Prison Ministry.

Jerry Coper Crawford '58/'66, Bowdon, Ga., December 30, 2015. He was a teacher and coach in the Tallapoosa (Ga.) School System. He also served as an assistant principal and principal. He retired from Bowdon Elementary, where he worked in administration and served as recreation director.

Dr. Mary Gardner Street '58, Auburn, Ala., February 3, 2016. She was a retired teacher.

Ernest Clifford Winchester '58, Adamsville, Ala., October 10, 2015. He was a retired educator with the Birmingham City Board of Education. He

also served his country in the Army. He played football for JSU.

David Richard Belcher '59, Birmingham, Ala., January 31, 2016. He had been president of the Royal Automotive Group in Birmingham. He was commissioned through the JSU ROTC program and had been a member of the Student Government Association and Baptist Campus Ministries. He was married to Sue Merrill Belcher '60.

James Robert Fite, Sr., '59, Altamonte Springs, Fla., January 2, 2016. He was an Air Force veteran.

Woodson Dennis Wallace '59, Tucker, Ga., January 1, 2016. He was retired from the Dekalb County Board of Education as a coordinator of planning and development. At JSU, he had been a member of the Baptist Campus Ministry.

1960-1969

Floyd Stencil Bennett '60, Anniston, Ala., February 29, 2016. He was employed by Union Oil Company (formerly Pure Oil Company) of California and was top salesman. He also worked as a service writer for Bentley's Auto in Anniston.

William F. Davis '60, Anniston, Ala., April 4, 2016. He was an Army veteran and served in Korea. He was retired from the Calhoun County Road Department and Forestlawn Gardens.

Robert Terrell Usry '60, Tuscaloosa, Ala., January 7, 2016. He served in the military for 24 years and was a Vietnam veteran. He was a clinical lab director at DCH until he retired in 2011.

Mattie Jones Wilson '60, Glencoe, Ala., January 14, 2016. She was a retired principal with the Etowah County Board of Education. She was married to the late E.C. "Baldy" Wilson '49.

Sandra Hicks Clotfelter '61, Decatur, Ala., March 15, 2016. She and her husband served in pastoral ministry for more than 40 years in over 18 churches for the United Methodist Church North Alabama Conference. She was an administrative assistant to more than five UMC district superintendents and also taught high school and adult education classes.

Joseph Ferrell Drummond '61/'67, Newnan, Ga., May 7, 2016. He had taught at West Georgia College and Carrollton High School for eight years and was named Star Teacher of the Year for six of those years! In 1972, he was named State Star Teacher of the Year. His second career was as a United Methodist minister in the North Georgia Conference. At JSU, Mr. Drummond was a member of the Baptist Campus Ministry.

Robert William Luker '61, Jacksonville, Fla., October 11, 2015. He was commissioned through the JSU ROTC program and served as an Army officer, retiring at the rank of captain in the Army Reserves. He was employed for over 30 years with Blue Cross and Blue Shield.

Jerry D. Heard '62, Hokes Bluff, Ala., June 23, 2016. He was commissioned through the JSU ROTC program and his 30-year Army career included five years in artillery and 25 years in finance and accounting. After retirement, he served his community working in commercial banking, teaching accounting at Gadsden Business College, serving as chairman of the zoning board and planning commissions, serving on the city council and serving as mayor pro tem for eight years. He was married to Mary Ann Maddix Heard '61.

Howard Schwartz '62, Southside, Ala., February 24, 2015.

Edward C. Gober '63, Sunnyvale, Tex., October 7, 2015.

Bobby Dwight Johnson '64, Aiken, S. Car., January 27, 2016. He was commissioned through the JSU ROTC program and served for 22 years in the Army, including two tours in Vietnam, before retiring as a lieutenant colonel. He worked in the Armed Forces Benefit Association for 21 years.

Jance Bass Deerman '66, Dutton, Ala., August 10, 2012. She had been married to Jimmy Darrell Deerman '63, who was a cheerleader at JSU.

Sandra Kaye Hughett '66, Jacksonville, Fla., July 1, 2016. She spent her career as an educator, both as a teacher and administrator, retiring from Englewood High School. She was a former JSU cheerleader and was an active member of the 60s alumni group.

ALUMNI MAKE PLANNED GIFTS TO JSU



Jim and Cindy Schoeneck, both 1979 graduates of JSU, have made a significant planned gift to the university's music and nursing programs.

"Cindy and I feel incredibly blessed," said Jim. "We met at the university our freshman year, started dating as sophomores, married one year after graduation and we've been

married for 36 years. We each received an outstanding education at JSU. The university has meant a lot to us and we wanted to give back."


The couple met when they arrived on campus for Marching Southerners band camp as freshmen.

"We met 300-plus JSU students who shared our high standards of music and performance and many of these friend-

"We met at the university our freshman year, started dating as sophomores, married one year after graduation and we've been married for 36 years. We each received an outstanding education at JSU. The university has meant a lot to us and we wanted to give back."

ships continue until today," Jim said.

Jim graduated with a BS in music education and is now president and CEO of Depomed, Inc., a publicly held Newark, Calif., pharmaceutical company focused on products that treat pain and other central nervous system conditions. Cindy graduated with a BS in nursing and now works in the health office of Maricopa Community College in San Diego. According to Jim, their successes in life are a result of their JSU education.

"We had the opportunity to learn in a practical way and the opportunities for leadership at the university helped to make the difference." 



When Darren Douthitt arrived at JSU as a student in 1983, he only had to travel 16 miles from home to attend.

"I grew up in a rural setting, so JSU provided me an education beyond the academic realm," he said. "The university gave me an opportunity to break out of generational poverty and my college education has had a tremendous impact on my family."


Having received his bachelor's, master's and educational specialist degrees from JSU, Douthitt is now superintendent of Anniston City Schools. He has stayed involved with his alma mater, serving in the past as president of the JSU Alumni Association and currently on the Alumni Association Board of Governors. A donor for many years, Douthitt has now chosen to include JSU in his estate plans with a generous commitment to scholarships and program excellence.

"The university gave me an opportunity to break out of generational poverty and my college education has had a tremendous impact on my family."

"I am indebted to JSU forever for changing my life," he said. "I want to ensure that many more underprivileged, college-ready young adults get the opportunity to experience what I experienced."

Douthitt encourages his fellow alumni to get involved and become donors as he has.

"I think if people make an effort to get involved with JSU, they will find that involvement entertaining and uplifting," he said. "We are all obligated to support our alma mater to ensure that we have a top notch institution available for our younger generation,"

To learn how you can make a planned gift to JSU, visit jsu.planmylegacy.org. 

Mevolene Culberson Vassar '66, Tuscaloosa, Ala., January 10, 2016. She taught in the Gadsden City School System for over 20 years.

Maj. Rickey J. Green '67, Pinson, Ala., April 14, 2016. He served in the Army from 1967 to 1987, five years on active duty in Vietnam and Germany. He retired as a major in the USAR Military Intelligence Branch. He has worked with NASA Defense Contracts Administration Service and USAID. He served outside the United States as a civilian for approximately eight years, mostly in the Middle East.

Mickey Lane Smith '66, Huntsville, Ala., July 7, 2015. He was a retired medical technologist from Crestwood Hospital, Huntsville, Ala.

Glenda Vivian Davis Reaves '67, Decatur, Ala., June 22, 2016.

Patricia Anne Loupo Odom '68, Darlington, S. Car., August 26, 2015. She worked for the Pee Dee Regional Council of Government, then at the Darlington Magistrates Office. She retired in 2010 after 16 years at the Department of Natural Resources Office.

Sandra Lanae Bunch '69, Union Grove, Ala., January 6, 2016. She had been a teacher, an administrative assistant at Millsaps College, and served as director of the adult degree program at Millsaps.

Robert James Causey '69/'75, Cragford, Ala., June 6, 2016. He worked in the Talladega County School System for 32 years before retiring in 2000. He then worked for the U.S. Postal Service until 2008, mainly at the Cragford Post Office. He also worked postmaster relief for other post offices within the county. He served in the Army National Guard.

Camellia Cooper '69, Oxford, Ala., March 5, 2016. She had taught in Huntsville and owned several businesses, including Southern Machinery & Supply Co., Oxford, Ala. Dedicated to animal rescue, she was a charter member of the League for Animal Welfare, serving as its first president. She also served on the board of the Calhoun County Humane Society. At JSU, she was a member of the Marching Southerners.

Kathryn M. Burdette Woodin '69/'76, Fairhope, Ala., February 10, 2016. She had worked as a tax preparer for H & R Block.

1970-1979

L. Michael Beshears '74, Oneonta, Ala., July 5, 2016, in Nashville, Tenn. He worked for Goodyear Tire & Rubber, Gadsden, for 42 years in various management roles.

Ronald Guy Folds '70, Trussville, Ala., June 5, 2016, of bladder cancer. He was retired from Alabama Power and had been recently employed by Trammell Equipment Co., Inc. He was married to Sheryl Dupuy Folds '70.

Danny Lee Pounds '70, Piedmont, Ala., April 26, 2013. The Army veteran taught at Heard County High School, Franklin, Ga., where he formed the school's first football team, coaching them to the state championship. He also taught and coached at numerous other schools in Georgia and Alabama. He was married to Peggy Bishop Pounds '69.

Hoyt Tuck Brazelton '71, New Hope, Ala., September 18, 2013.

Walter Parks King '71, Rainbow City, Ala., May 6, 2016. He worked for Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company for 33 years.

Larry Wayne Nelson '71, Birmingham, Ala., June 22, 2016. He was an Air Force veteran and worked as a CPA for the US Treasury Department.

Linda Lamb Rodgers '71, Gadsden, Ala., February 17, 2016. Her career included positions with Alabama Power, Bellsouth, and recently with Collage Designer Consignment.

Frederick Austin Busby '72, Birmingham, Ala., December 14, 2015. He was a retired accountant with O'Neal Steel, Inc.

Maj. Gary Elford Harvey '72, Ohatchee, Ala., June 30, 2016. He served in the Royal Canadian Armoured Corps before enlisting in the U.S. Army in Special Forces (Airborne) and serving in various duty assignments in the U.S. and abroad. After retirement, he served 25 years as an Army civilian employee at Ft. McClellan. In total, he proudly served his country for 45 years. He was married to Kathy Cavender Harvey '90/'97.

Ricky Eugene Jones '72, Sylacauga, Ala., November 9, 2015, after a long battle with cancer.

Kenneth E. Reid '72, Oxford, Ala., December 26, 2015. He was retired from the Anniston Army Depot, where he had over 36 years of service. He also served on the Oxford City Council.

Roger Alan Self '72, Gadsden, Ala., June 13, 2016. He had been an information technology consultant.

Dorothy Rigby Aniton '73, Columbus, Ga., December 30, 2015. She was a retired teacher.

Betty Lou Long Ellison '73, Gadsden, Ala., April 26, 2016.

Sammy Rex Freeman '73, Heflin, Ala., January 26, 2016. He was employed for 36 years with the U.S. Postal Service. After retiring, he operated Sam's Pest Control and B & S Rentals. He also served as the Cleburne County Baptist Disaster Relief director.

Harry Eugene Merritt '73, Birmingham, Ala., January 21, 2016. He played tennis for JSU.

Mary Louise McGhee Jones '74/'82, Anniston, Ala., January 2016. She worked for 30 years as a teacher at 10th Street Elementary School and at Norwood Elementary.

Anne W. Morrow '74, Lineville, Ala., June 2, 2016. She began her teaching career at Folsom Elementary School before transferring to Ashland Elementary School, where she taught for 42 years. She was still teaching at the time of her death.

Joe Carroll Cavender '76/'82, Heflin, Ala., March 12, 2016.

Sue Walters Patrick '76, Birmingham, Ala., July 12, 2016. A dedicated educator, she taught in Selma, Anniston and Birmingham school districts.

William Dwight Payne '76, Lake City, Fla., January 20, 2016. At the time of his death, he was teaching criminal justice and bible at Florida Gateway College. He was formerly a police officer with the Rome (Ga.) Police Department, an attorney, and director of the Northwest Georgia Police Academy. He also previously had been a major with the Cave Spring Police Department, an NAMB missionary, and an instructor at Berry College, Floyd Junior College and Georgia Northwestern Technical College. While at JSU, he was a member of the Marching Southerners.

Col. James L. Burson '79, Dadeville, Ala., May 6, 2016. He retired in 2002 after more than 32 years of military service with the Alabama National Guard and the Army. During his 36 years in education, he served as a special education instructor at Dadeville High, as well as principal of the Dadeville Annex Alternative School. He also served as assistant principal at Horseshoe Bend School and at Edward Bell.

Elias F. Joubran '79, Jacksonville, Ala., December 30, 2015. He is best known for his fabulous fried chicken recipe, serving it up each day at the Village Inn, the restaurant he owned for many years off the Square in Jacksonville.

1980-1989

Robert Lee Wagers '80, Southside, Ala., April 26, 2016. A professional diver and Vietnam veteran, he was owner of Wagers Kawasaki, Wagers Construction Company and a security company.

Orman Lee Chandler '81, Guntersville, Ala., October 24, 2015.

Jerry Keith Bullard '84, Rockford, Ala., March 13, 2016. During his career, he served as a teacher, coach, assistant principal and principal for the Coosa County School System with over 27 of his 29 years as an educator. He was married to Lori Hilyer Bullard '85.

Cynthia Michelle Thomas Nelson '84, Montgomery, Ala., January 25, 2016.

Carolyn Campbell Oliver '84, Gadsden, Ala., March 2, 2015. She had taught at Sand Rock and was retired from the Cherokee County Board of Education with 20 years of service.

Lisa D. Wells Williamson '84, Talladega, Ala., April 17, 2016. She had been a member of the JSU Marching Southerners.

Robert S. Driskill '85, Jacksonville, Fla., December 4, 2015. He was originally from Gadsden, Ala.

Kaye Clark Bryant '86, Heflin, Ala., February 21, 2016, from cancer. She was a retired office manager at Talladega Primary and Urgent Care.

Tami Leigh Duckett Estep '86, Cumming, Ga., September 15, 2014, of cancer. She was a JSU cheerleader and member of Zeta Tau Alpha.

Glenn Wade Thompson '87, Quinton, Ala., September, 2015.

Robert R. Corfman '88, Ohatchee, Ala., January 5, 2016.

1990-1999

James Madison Foshee III '90, Jacksonville, Ala., March 27, 2015. He served in the Army and was a Vietnam veteran.

John Adron Rose '90, Huntsville, Ala., May 7, 2016. He was an avid traveler and enjoyed experiencing new things. He was always very close to his parents, Drs. Harry and Maxine Rose '70 (both retired JSU faculty). He and his mother formed a very successful limited liability company to trade stocks and he and his dad enjoyed visiting libraries and museums around the world together.

Thomas Guy Beall '91, Rome, Ga., August 24, 2015. An accomplished musician, he was a founding member of Roman Festival Brass and was a member of the 8th Regiment Band. He had been employed with Mohawk Industries, Calhoun, Ga. At JSU, he was a member of the Marching Southerners and Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia.

Andrew V. Nazareth '91, Orlando, Fla., July 5, 2016. He was a member of the JSU International House Program.

John David Swinford '91, Gadsden, Ala., July 29, 2014. The Army veteran was a computer programmer for Sun-gard for over 20 years.

Karen Lynn Dickinson '92/'94, Ragland, Ala., February 13, 2016. A Navy veteran, she was previously employed by the Anniston City Board of Education and Duval County (Fla.) School System.

Anthony Waymon Dial, Jr. '94, Oxford, Ala., June 15, 2016. He was employed by Koch Manufacturing, Gadsden, Ala.

Heather Gillie Hagan '95, Douglasville, Ga., April 18, 2016. She had worked as an emergency room nurse at WellStar Douglas Hospital for most of her career. At JSU, she was a member of Delta Zeta.

Gwendolyn Renea Abernathy Morris '95, Jacksonville, Ala., May 20, 2016. She had been employed by the Alabama Department of Human Resources.

Gloria Lott Turner '95, Decatur, Ga., April 19, 2016.

Holly Harrelson Berkshire '97, Ringgold, Ga., October 22, 2012, of cancer. She had been a member of the Marching Southerners and Ballerinas and Alpha Omicron Pi at JSU. She was married to Jarrod E. Berkshire '99.

James Eric Gunnells '98, Wedowee, Ala., December 20, 2015. He had worked as a certified nurse practitioner for Tanner Medical Group/Woodland Clinic.

Susan Renee Beck Dixon Priest '98, Albertville, Ala., July 14, 2015.

2000-2016

Renae Turner McGill '06, Tuscaloosa, Ala., July 5, 2016. She had been a dental hygienist at John and Marshall Dentistry in Tuscaloosa.

Kristin Page Kilgore Jenkins Abernathy '12, Gadsden, Ala., October 22, 2015, from complications of leukemia. She had recently obtained her real estate license.

Karen Michelle Haddock Myrick '12, Glencoe, Ala., February 6, 2016, of cancer. She was a middle school educator at Coosa Christian School for nine years, where she also served as cheerleader sponsor.

Brian Alan Onkst '14, Jacksonville, Ala., June 23, 2016, from complications from diabetes. He was married to Paitra Economou Onkst '16.

Veleta Brooks Sharp '15, Ohatchee, Ala., March 24, 2016.

ALUMNOTES

**pictured below*

1940-49

Dr. Jack D. Street '49/'50, Beloit, Wis., (University of Alabama, Ph.D. and University of Iowa '64), professor emeritus of Beloit College, was

awarded the French Academic Palms in February 2016 by the French government. Established in 1808 by Napoleon, the Academic Palms is the oldest non-military medal in France and is awarded in recognition of the recipient's promotion of the French language and culture.

1970-1979

*Cecil Jenkins Snow '72, Teresa Cheatham Stricklin '79, Tammy Little Haynes and Heather Whitestone McCallum were on hand recently at the Miss Alabama Pageant held at Samford University in Birmingham. Each of these ladies is a former Miss JSU and Miss Alabama with Mrs. McCallum, of course, becoming Miss America!

*William Edward Horton '73, Birmingham, Ala., has been named head of the commercial banking group for Regions Bank. He is a member of the company's operating committee and has served as regional president of the south region since 2014. He joined the management training program at Regions in 1974 and has served throughout the bank's branch system.

F. Richard Spencer '73, Washington, D.C., is an auxiliary bishop of the U.S. Archdiocese for the Military Services in Europe and Asia. When Pope Francis held an audience with members of the military on April 30, 2016, he received a small gift with a tradition, and obligation, attached. Bishop Spencer gave the pope a military challenge coin with a prayer from St. Francis of Assisi stamped on it. He explained to the pope that it is a long-standing tradition for leaders to 'coin' a person as an outward sign of appreciation and admiration for their actions and service. The next time the two people meet after being 'coined,' the person who received the coin must show that coin from the original presenter. If they don't have it with them, then they owe you a beer. The pope then asked if Bishop Spencer would accept wine instead! Bishop Spencer began his military service as an Army officer in 1973.

*Winston Mark Fagan '74, Fairhope, Ala., has published "The Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail: Its History and Economic Impact," commemorating the silver anniversary of the development of the trail. Dr. Fagan retired from JSU in 2012 after 31 years of service in various capacities as professor, social work program director and department head. He also worked with JSU's Center for Economic Development, where for 30 years he researched and published on the subject of attracting retirees to the area for economic development. He was selected the JSU National Alumni Association's Outstanding Faculty Member of the Year in 1999.

L. Gordon Sumner, Jr. '75, Springfield, Va., was recently appointed by the secretary of veteran's affairs to serve on the Advisory Committee for Cemeteries and Memorials. Dr. Sumner was commissioned through the JSU ROTC program. He was a member of the Marching Southerners and the Baptist Campus Ministry. He was selected the National Alumni Association's Military Alumnus of the Year in 1993.

*Linda Brown Johnston '76, Fort Payne, Ala., conducted a seminar in June for students in education at Ludwigsburg University in Ludwigsburg, Germany. She recently retired as director of the School of Education at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga. She was invited by the international office to present topics in the area of special education related to inclusion and accessibility for students with a diagnosed disability. Emphasis was placed on assistive technology. The students attending were from various countries including Germany, Israel and Bulgaria. Dr. Larry Beard, JSU professor of curriculum and instruction, joined her via Skype on June 10 in presenting a lecture. Ludwigsburg University is primarily a teaching institution located in the southwestern part of Germany.



Left to right: Teresa Cheatham Stricklin '79, Tammy Little Haynes, Cecil Jenkins Snow '72, and Heather Whitestone McCallum, William Edward Horton '73, Winston Mark Fagan '74

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Samuel Eddy Peacock '78, Crossville, Ala., retired in January 2016 from Auburn University with 40 years of service. As unit supervisor at the 500+ acre Sand Mountain Research and Extension Center in Crossville, he was involved in agricultural research in Northeast Alabama. In retirement, he now enjoys restoration and preservation of Jeep and AMC vehicles and volunteering with city government and local education entities. He has been involved with the Dixie Youth baseball program for 17 years. He is looking forward to traveling and riding his motorcycle.

1980-1989

*Bob Crook '85 and Don Bennett '85/'88, former 20J players for the Marching Southerners, traveled to Ireland with Huntsville's Twickenham Winds in June. See photo on page 34 of them under the shadow of the Blarney Castle in Ireland kissing their tubas instead of the Blarney Stone.

Brent N. Heard '84/'87, Williamsburg, Va., is a NASA mathematician and a college math instructor who, in his free time, enjoys storytelling. He was among the top 10 finalists at the Better Said Than Done storytelling festival in

May. He also writes a weekly column, "Cranks My Tractor," that appears in newspapers and magazines in Alabama and Florida. At JSU, he was a member of Kappa Sigma. He was named the JSU National Alumni Association's Alumnus of the Year in 1992.

*Michael D. Hartline '86/'87, Tallahassee, Fla., has been named dean of Florida State University's College of Business, where he joined the faculty in 2001. Before coming to FSU, he served at Samford University, Louisiana State and the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. He is married to Marsha Wood Hartline '89.

Richard Selby '87, Woodstock, Ga., was named a runner-up for Teacher of the Year at Campbell Middle School in the Cobb County School System, where he serves as band director. At JSU, he was a member of the Marching Southerners.

1990-1999

*Charles "Chuck" Buxton '91, Duluth, Ga., has been president of the JSU ROTC Alumni Chapter for the past two years. Under his guidance, the chapter was selected as the JSU National Alumni Association's Chapter of the Year in 2015. He is a colonel in



the Alabama National Guard, most recently serving as the assistant chief of staff, G-3, 167th Theater Sustainment Command, located at Fort McClellan. In his civilian life, he has been employed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention since 2000. On March 6, he took command of the 111th Ordnance Group of the Alabama National Guard based in Opelika. At JSU, he was commissioned through the JSU ROTC program and was a member of Sigma Phi Epsilon. He is married to Maya Lenox Buxton '93.

Jean Ann Simpson McMurrey '93, Gadsden, Ala., has been named chief nursing officer by Southern Tennessee Regional Health System. She began her nursing career in Gadsden, where she worked for 18 years before becoming chief nursing officer at Jacksonville Medical Center, Jacksonville, Ala. During her tenure in Jacksonville, the hospital was named to Modern Healthcare's "Top 100 Places to Work" for three consecutive years.

Lori J. Owens '93, Centre, Ala., was awarded a fellowship to the Sultanate of Oman on the Arabian Peninsula. She is a professor of political science at JSU and director of the Honors Program. She teaches a course on the Middle East and has served as the faculty advisor for the PSC Model Arab League Debate Team for 17 years. As a student, she was a member of Sigma Alpha Iota. In 2008, she was named the JSU National Alumni Association's Outstanding Faculty Member of the Year.

Kimberly L. Mitchell '97, Munford, Ala., has been selected as one of nine educators from across the US to serve as a National Leadership Fellow for the Association for Career Technical Education (ACTE). She is the first fellow from Alabama and the first named for the ACTE Family & Consumer Science Division. She currently serves

as president-elect for the Alabama Association for Career Technical Education, as well as awards chair for the ACTE Family & Consumer Sciences Division Policy Committee. She is the family and consumer sciences teacher and FCCLA advisor at Talladega City Career Technical Center/Talladega High School.

Carol Hall Pleasant '97, Memphis, Tenn., is a physical education teacher at Hickory Ridge Elementary and has received several awards and grants that help enhance her students' everyday learning experiences. In October 2015, Hickory Ridge was awarded a \$13K Marathon Kids Running Grant as a result of her grant proposal. With this grant, she has started a marathon and running training program that helps increase students' physical activity throughout the school day. She has been a teacher for more than 18 years.

*Rosalyn Leavell-Rice '99, Chattanooga, Tenn., was recently promoted to regional program administrator with the Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth, which entails the supervision of three regions and/or 35 counties out of the 95 counties in Tennessee. The commission works to improve the quality of life for children and families and provides leadership

and support for child advocates. Ms. Leavell-Rice has worked for the State of Tennessee for 10 years. She currently serves as president of the JSU National Alumni Association's Greater Chattanooga/North Georgia Alumni Chapter.

*Tanya Denise Lee '99, Boaz, Ala., was named the 2016 Public Health Social Worker of the Year by the Alabama Department of Public Health. She has been employed by the Marshall County Health Department for the last 10 years.

2000-2016

*Mamta Jha Mishra '04, Gadsden, Ala., has written a book on autism, "Autism: Our Journey and Finding Happiness," sharing her experiences in teaching her son, Parag, who has autism. It is hands-on, practical and full of real-life experiences that have worked for her. She said she hopes that by reading her book, many other parents and caregivers will find hope and happiness as well, despite the challenges of autism.

Jake Monroe Green '13, Jacksonville, Ala., is in his third year of teaching at Piedmont High School, where he has been named Teacher of the Year.

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Natalie Stahr Cornwell '14, Woodstock, Ga., was named a runner-up for Teacher of the Year at Dickerson Middle School in Georgia's Cobb County School district, where she teaches health.

NEW ALUMNI ASSOCIATION LIFE MEMBERS

JULY 2015 – AUGUST 2016

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VIRGINIA VENTRESS ELLIS '63

ELLEN A. TIBBETTS HURST '91

DONNA BENEFIELD JONES '88

JOE THOMAS JONES III '88

KEITH RYAN JONES '94

MARJA LEE JONES '06

DAVID MATTHEW LOGAN '10

NATALIE SLOANE MARTIN '85/'91

MELANIE BRADFORD NEVELS '88

MELISSA ANN PARRIS '11

EDWARD L. PARRIS

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