

GEM

OF THE HILLS

FALL 2017

BURIED GEM:

APPLIED FORENSICS TEACHES
HANDS-ON CSI

VOLLEYBALL SERVES UP SUCCESS

HOMECOMING

JSU VS. SEMO

50 YEARS OF JSU NURSING



*Dr. Christie Shelton,
Dean of the School of Health
Professions and Wellness*



DEAR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS,

It's hard to believe that more than two years have passed since the first lady and I joined the JSU family. So much has happened on campus – from outstanding



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

athletic accomplishments to new academic programs and facilities.

This fall, we opened the doors to two renovated residence halls you might have lived in during your time on campus, Sparkman and Daugette Halls. We also opened a new financial trading lab (Page 16) and the Marching Southerners began using a new state-of-the-art practice field (Page 21).

As we celebrate 50 years of JSU Nursing this year (Page 4), we have enrolled students in our new Respiratory Therapy and Doctor of Nursing Practice programs this fall. We are also excited to announce a new bachelor's degree in applied forensics (Page 8), which is sure to be popular with students.

I have been busy the past few months taking a tour of the businesses and industries in JSU's 11-county region, in hopes of creating a strategic economic development plan for our area (Page 7). It is one

practices remind us it is always great to be a Gamecock!

Homecoming is right around the corner – Oct. 27-29 – and we hope you will be able to join us for a weekend full of activities. As always, we have some outstanding Alumni of the Year award winners this year. Read about their successes on Page 24. The Homecoming schedule of events is included on page 23. Be sure to follow our Facebook page at @JSUAlumniAssociation for the most recent information about upcoming events like Homecoming.

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 assist enrollment management efforts and welcome generations to come into our alumni family.

of the ways I am encouraging faculty and staff to be even better community stewards in our region.

It truly is an exciting time to be a Gamecock. I hope you will get involved on campus if you aren't already. Whether it's attending Homecoming (Page 23) or getting involved with the Annual Fund (Page 32) there are many ways you can connect with your alma mater. I hope to see you on campus soon!

Go Gamecocks!

John M. Beehler

John M. Beehler, PhD and CPA
President and Professor of Accounting

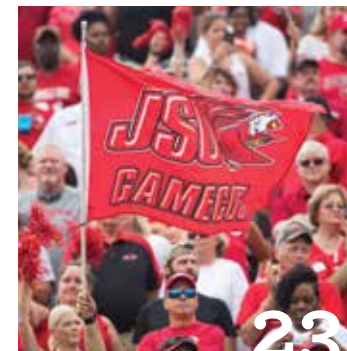
Check out our travel opportunities for next year on pages 12 & 34. We would love to have you join us. As always, we love to hear from you. Keep us informed on all the amazing things that are happening in your life and we will continue to keep you updated on all the amazing things happening with our alma mater. I hope to hear from you soon!

Go Gamecocks! Blow Southerners!

Kaci Ogle

Kaci Ogle, '95/'04
Director of Alumni Relations

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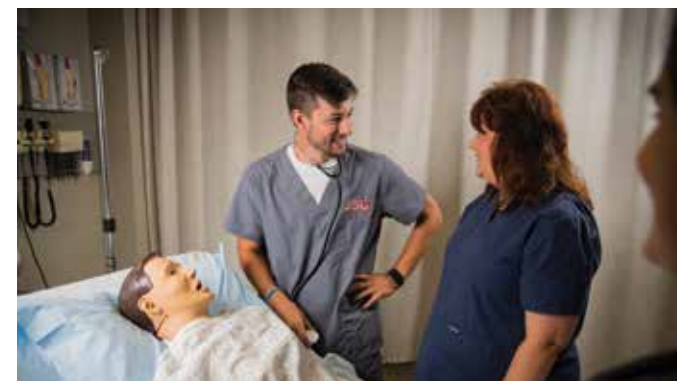
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JSU NURSING CELEBRATES 50 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE

by Brett Buckner

In 1967, newspapers across Alabama published stories detailing the “critical shortage” of nurses. Alabama had 13 registered nurses per 100,000 residents while the national average was 259. Only Arkansas had fewer.

Alabama received a shot in the arm on Sept. 6, 1967, when, the Anniston Nursing School was absorbed by JSU. With the move, JSU became the third university in the state to offer a nursing degree, following the University of Alabama and Tuskegee University. There were 10

students in JSU’s first graduating class of nurses in 1972. Since then, more than 5,200 students have graduated from the nursing program.

“From the time students arrive they’re building a legacy here,” said Dean Christie Shelton. “That legacy will propel

them into the future. JSU has an excellent reputation. It is our goal to protect that reputation.”

To celebrate its legacy of excellence, the JSU nursing program recently hosted a 50th anniversary gala. The program is also in the midst of a \$50 for 50 Years fundraising campaign, encouraging alumni and friends to give a \$50 donation monthly, yearly, or as a one-time gift.

“We’d love for all of our alumni to participate,” Shelton said. “If they only did the one-time \$50 gift, that’s like \$260,000.”

In August 1974, the \$1.7 million Lurleen B. Wallace Hall opened to the 250 students – including seven men – who were enrolled in the JSU nursing program.

“I feel we’re on the brink of something great,” Roberta O. Watts, then

assistant professor of public health, told the Anniston Star at the time. “Our effort here is not to be earth-shaking, but to be effective.”

The facility was equipped with a “futuristic” information retrieval system that gave students direct access to medical information with an instant response, according to a story in the Anniston Star. The “complicated computer system” also allowed students, while still in class, to “take a test by pushing a button next to the correct answer.” Responses were recorded by the computer and within seconds the student was informed whether his or her answer was correct.

Today, the JSU nursing program continues to keep pace with industry standards. Last year, it opened the 3,600-square-foot JSU Simulation Center

at the Brookstone Physician Building near the Jacksonville Medical Center. The “Sim Lab” is designed to teach students how to think critically during situations that are stressful and time-sensitive – situations that simply don’t allow for mistakes or poor decisions.

“The Sim Lab is certainly one of our hot ticket items,” Shelton said, “but all of the things that we do are aimed at moving students to the next level of education.”

For its first 25 years, the nursing program offered only the traditional Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) degree. But in the mid-1990s, Watts, who served as dean 1978-1996, initiated the distance learning RN to BSN – the Strategic Teaching for Enhanced Professional Preparation (STEP) program – that gave way to online education in 2005.

In 1998, JSU started the Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) degree program with a single major in community health nursing. It was the first MSN program to be approved by the Alabama Commission on Higher Education since 1984. To date, the program has awarded 210 MSN degrees.

This fall, the university began enrolling students in the Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) degree program, allowing

When Deborah Curry entered JSU’s nursing program in 1975, it surprised everyone.

“I must have fainted three times during the clinical experiences,” said Curry, who graduated from JSU in 1979. “My friends couldn’t believe that I chose nursing due to my queasiness. I decided that I had to do the ‘mind-over-matter’ thing and eventually worked through my issues with body fluids. There is absolutely nothing

which have been abandoned for advancements in diagnostics, charting, medications, and assistive devices that make for more efficient treatment.

But at its heart, nursing is about people. It’s the one thing that can’t be lost in the competition for the latest in medical technology.

When delivering commencement or senior recognition speeches, Shelton is known to use famous quotes for inspiration.

“They know excellence is an expectation. It’s been expressed so clearly and so consistently that it has set the culture. That’s the tradition of JSU nursing.”

students to move from the BSN to the DNP. Alumni have long requested the program be added and recent studies predict the number of nurse practitioners will need to double by 2020.

JSU is also now offering a Bachelor of Science degree in respiratory therapy, as well as concentrations in nursing education or emergency management for students pursuing a nursing master’s degree in population health.

“JSU has attracted men and women from all around the region because of an excellent reputation for quality education, friendly faculty and superb nursing graduates,” said Martha Lavender, who graduated from JSU in 1979 and served as dean from 1996-2004. “It is the dedication of the faculty and the administration that drives the demand for the program.”

Lavender is currently president of Gadsden State Community College. “JSU expanded my thinking, sharpened my skills, and prepared me for a nurse manager position,” she said. “I was promoted to a head nurse position before I completed my degree. I was 24 years old.”

ing that bothers me today regarding body fluids.”

Curry is now the dean of health sciences at Gadsden State and works as a nurse practitioner in correctional medicine. She said the friends she made and the faculty who taught her equipped her with the necessary skills to excel.

“It’s a bit like being in a foxhole together,” she said. “It’s very stressful, but you bond with the people in your class.”

Nurses in the 1960s witnessed history – vaccines for polio and the measles, dialysis for chronic renal failure, chemotherapy treatment for cancer, and the first lung and heart transplants were performed.

As nurses gained confidence in the workplace, they were also expected to do things that today’s RNs would find laughable, if not offensive. Most wore white dresses and starched caps. They were expected to stand when a doctor entered the room and give up their chairs, even in the nurses’ station.

Lavender remembers an emphasis on nightly back rubs, patients being admitted for “check-ups,” and paper charts – all of

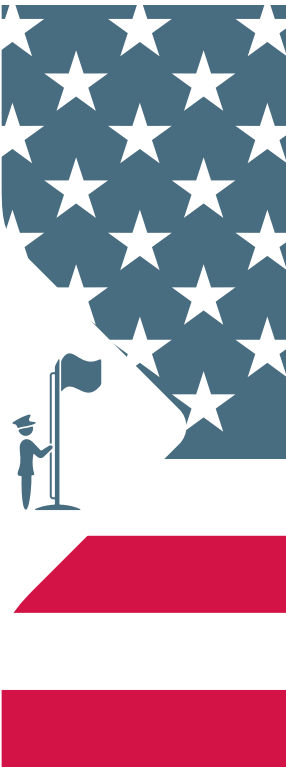
tion. One of her favorites is attributed to Theodore Roosevelt: “People don’t care how much you know until they know how much you care.”

“It doesn’t matter how quickly you can access something on your smartphone,” Shelton said. “Getting a loved one a blanket may mean more to them than anything else you do the entire shift.”

When looking to the future, Shelton does not worry about the legacy of JSU nursing. Every graduate and faculty member carries with them a mantra that’s been handed down since the program was founded.

“Maintain excellence in all that you do and never compromise that standard of excellence,” Shelton said. “They know excellence is an expectation. It’s been expressed so clearly and so consistently that it has set the culture. That’s the tradition of JSU nursing.”

BENEFITS THAT MAY BE AVAILABLE TO MILITARY-CONNECTED STUDENTS



WHAT BENEFITS MAY BE AVAILABLE TO MILITARY-CONNECTED STUDENTS

- ★ CHAPTER 33 (Post 9/11 GI Bill)
- ★ CHAPTER 30 (Montgomery GI Bill Active Duty)
- ★ CHAPTER 1606 (Montgomery GI Bill Selected Reserves)
- ★ CHAPTER 31 (Vocational Rehab)
- ★ CHAPTER 35 (Dependents Education Assistance Program)
- ★ ALABAMA GI DEPENDENT SCHOLARSHIP
- ★ TUITION ASSISTANCE (T.A.)

SERVICES

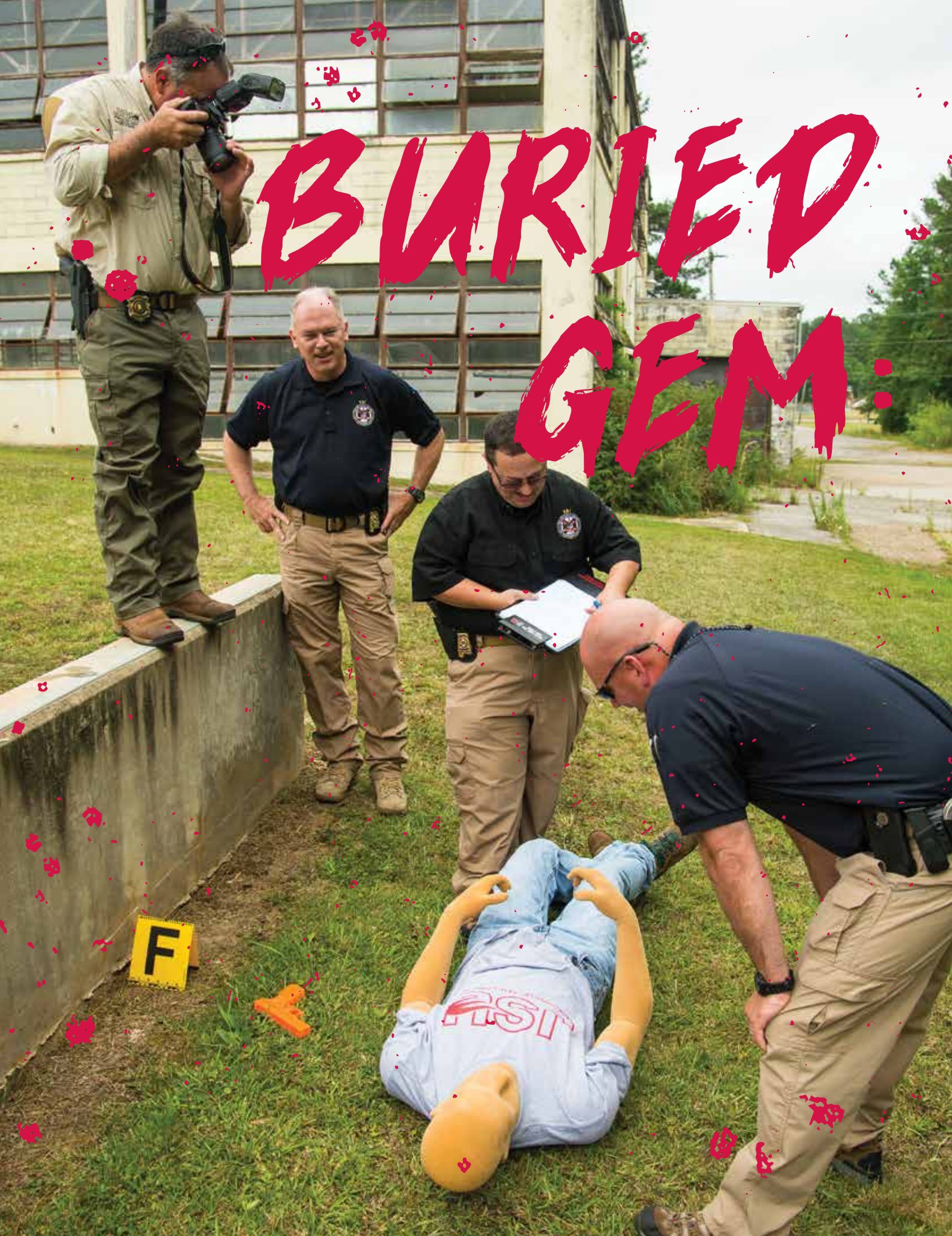
- VA Enrollment Certification
- General Academic Advisement
- Financial Advisement
- Wellness Sessions
- Readjustment Assistance
- Community Resources
- Computer Lab With Free Printers
- Disability Assistance Information
- Peer Support
- Recreational Area

CONTACT US

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Email: veterans@jsu.edu
Web: www.jsu.edu/veterans



WE ARE HERE TO HELP GUIDE OUR MILITARY-CONNECTED STUDENTS IN THEIR NEXT MISSION.



JSU Center for Applied Forensics Gives Students Hands-on Approach to Crime Scene Investigation

by Brett Buckner

Google has a lot to say about Jacksonville State University's Center for Applied Forensics. Just type its name into the search engine and the results will yield a plethora of homicides, double homicides, family shootings, bodies found in fields, suicides and disappearances.

Amid the mug shots and crime scene photographs that accompany these tragic stories, will be the mention – often near the bottom after the crime's grisly details and sheriff's or police department's statements – of how the JSU Center for Applied Forensics is "aiding in the investigation," "collecting and preserving evidence" or was simply "on the scene." There might even be a shot of the center's crime scene response vehicle, a Ford F-550 truck decorated with numerous graphics including a scanned image of director Mark Hopwood's fingerprint, somewhere in the background framed by yellow police tape.

"We've done a pretty good job of bringing national attention to ourselves," said Rick Davis, head of JSU's Department of Criminal Justice. "It's made a real difference because we're getting noticed."

Since the center officially opened in 2013 under the umbrella of the JSU Department of Criminal Justice, it has built a reputation in both academic and law enforcement circles for training police officers how to properly collect and document crime scene evidence.

"We've been one of the signature programs at JSU for some time, but we're still something of a hidden gem," Davis said. "Our goal has been to make JSU a destination school for criminal justice, and I think we're doing that."

This year JSU became the first school in the state to offer a Bachelor of Science in Forensic Investigation. It expands on the existing concentration in forensic investigation within the university's bachelor's program in criminal justice.

Traditional and online courses are offered, and students have the option to choose one of two tracks: Criminal Investigations or Forensic Laboratory/Technician. Criminal Investigations is for students who want to become an investigator or detective, while the Forensic Laboratory/Technician track is for students wanting to pursue a career as either a laboratory technician or forensic scientist.

"We're continually building and improving," Hopwood said. "It's been a real evolution, starting with, 'What are we going to call this?' to 'Well, what are we gonna do next?' For us, the sky's the limit with the advancement of technology."

In addition to training future law enforcement officers, the center provides continuing education to law enforcement agencies, particularly in rural, underserved areas – such as recently providing sterile crime scene kits and training to small agencies such as the Weaver Police Department in Weaver, Ala.

What makes the Center for Applied Forensics unique is the experience of its professors, many of whom still consult and assist law enforcement agencies. Among those professors is Mark Hopwood, who Davis considers "the best forensic investigator in the state – just don't tell him I said that," he added with a laugh.

In addition to serving as the center's director, Hopwood is a visible source of knowledge and experience for the law

enforcement agencies the center assists on a regular basis. Hopwood, according to Davis, knows what it's really like to handle an investigation, to gather evidence, to use the latest technology and to "pick the ticks off after working a scene deep in the woods."

Hopwood knows the challenges because he's been there.

"There's nobody who's actually seen everything at a crime scene," Hopwood said. "we try to incorporate a lot of hands-on practical exercises during training...you have to because forensics is advancing all the time and crime scene personnel need to be aware of the best method for collecting an item of evidence."

While traditional forensics takes place in a laboratory, applied forensics is gathering and processing evidence wherever it might be – a room in a house, the woods, a car, or along the side of a country road.

"The idea is that the best evidence comes from the crime scene," Hopwood said. "Everybody's got a forensic science department. We wanted to do something different. We want those first responders who roll up to the scene to have the right training. We wanted to take our knowledge of what it's like to be out there at 2 o'clock in the morning and apply it so that they can gather the best evidence to eventually submit to the forensics lab. So, we decided to call it applied forensics."

Another of the center's high-profile professors is Joseph Scott Morgan. While those outside of JSU's criminal justice department might not recognize his name, fans of true crime TV probably know his face. After a 20-year career in death scene investigation spent in New Orleans and Atlanta, Morgan retired and joined

the JSU faculty in 2014 as the distinguished scholar of applied forensics. Since then, Morgan has become the unofficial ambassador for JSU's Center for Applied Forensics, appearing as a forensics expert on PBS and ID Discovery.

Morgan has been the on-air forensics expert for CNN's Headline News and with Nancy Grace upwards of 50 times, discussing such high-profile cases as Jodi Arias/Travis Alexander and George Zimmerman/Trayvon Martin. While he doesn't get paid for these appearances, his goal is to inspire the future about the opportunities in forensics available at JSU.

"I always took the position that someone's daddy or mamma would be watching this show, and maybe they have a kid who was interested in true crime and wanted to major in forensics," he said. "Well, JSU's got one of the oldest investigative forensics programs in the nation, so if me being on these shows promotes JSU, it's all worth it."

For all the banner headlines and prime time guest spots, there's one case above all others that's garnered more national attention for the center than any other. The name Justin Ross Harris might not resonate in every household, but what he did became the very definition of heartless when, as prosecutors claimed, he murdered his son.

On June 18, 2014, Harris strapped his 22-month-old son, Cooper, into his rear-facing car seat and drove from their home in Marietta, Ga. Instead of dropping Cooper off at daycare after their breakfast at Chick-fil-A, Harris drove to the Home Depot corporate headquarters where he worked, intentionally leaving Cooper in the car according to prosecutors. Temperatures that day reached into the high 80s. Cooper died while sitting for about seven hours in the back seat of his father's vehicle.



Harris was convicted of three counts of malice murder on Nov. 14, 2016. While no one can comprehend why Harris left his son to die in that hot car, JSU experts Morgan, Davis, Hopwood and Shane Golden, provided forensic and law enforcement commentary on WXIA Atlanta 11Alive during the four-week trial that ultimately sent Harris to prison for life without the possibility of parole. The team played a key role in the station's coverage of the trial, helping host Vinnie Politan and 11Alive win a regional Emmy.

"The choices Harris made regarding little Cooper Harris set in motion a highly complex and layered crime scene," Morgan said at the time. "Not only were there standard forensic matters to be considered such as basic crime scene security and evidence collection, but in this case, scene re-creation was key. The data developed by investigators regarding temperature, both within the vehicle as well as outside of it, was critical. Ultimately, heat became the instrument of death."

True crime shows – both those based in fact and those of fiction – have become ratings gold. From the CSI franchise to Netflix's "Making a Murderer," to the

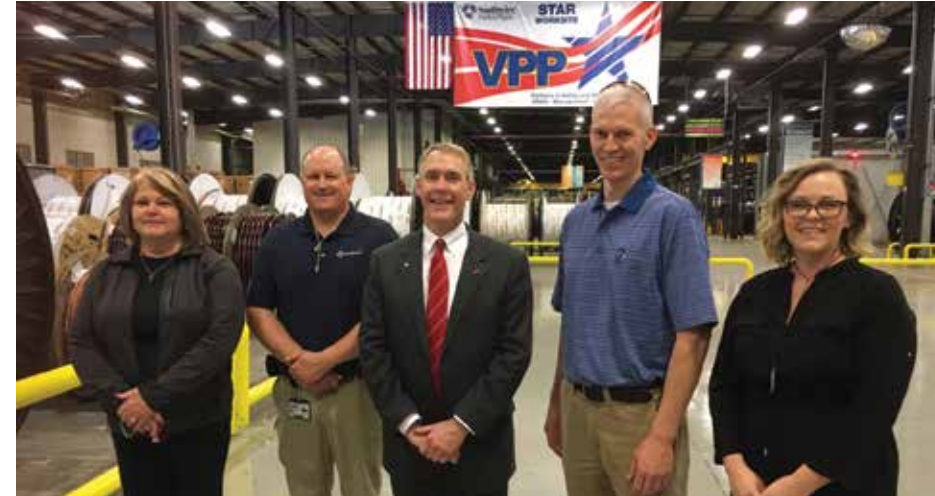
podcast "Serial" and the bestselling book "Killers of the Flower Moon," popular culture has made true crime cool, making forensics a popular program of study for college students

"I sometimes feel like a big part of my job is telling students that TV isn't real," Davis said. "Or they'll come in and say, 'I want to work in a crime lab.' So, I'll tell them, 'Great, you need to start by taking some chemistry classes,' and they'll invariably say, 'Oh, I'm not very good in science.' I love 'Star Trek' but nobody's gonna hire me at NASA."

Davis admits that he's not a "forensics guy." Instead, his passion is for crime prevention.

"We don't have any sexy TV shows about putting the right type of locks on doors," he said. "But all kidding aside, the NCIS shows and the 'Forensic Files' type shows – I hope they're around forever because I know they inspire kids to pursue something they wouldn't normally consider. And we're going to be around to teach them."

Learn more about the new Bachelor of Science in Forensic Investigation at www.jsu.edu/forensics/.



ABOVE: One of the stops on President Beehler's 11-county tour included Southwire in Heflin, Ala.

JSU Seeks to Grow Northeast Alabama's Economy

President John M. Beehler has been on the road again...and again...and again. The destination? A regional economic development master plan for Northeast Alabama.

With a team at Jacksonville State now focused on regional stewardship and community engagement, Beehler embarked on an 11-county regional tour in the spring. Counties included Blount, Calhoun, Cherokee, Clay, Cleburne, DeKalb, Etowah, Marshall, Randolph, St. Clair, and Talladega.

The goal was to first get acquainted with the region, explore what it might be lacking in terms of economic development and industrial recruitment, then determine how the university's resources could better support each county's growth. As Beehler has emphasized during each visit, "A rising tide raises all ships."

Beehler has had the opportunity to observe several manufacturing facilities in operation, including Honda, located in Talladega County; Goodyear, Etowah County; and Heil, DeKalb County. One

of the more fascinating stops on the tour was the marble quarry in Sylacauga, where some of the world's purest and whitest marble is found. The president also toured Wellborn Cabinet in Ashland, Tanner Healthcare in Wedowee, the Alabama State Veterans Home in Pell City, Blue Bell Creamery in Sylacauga and Keystone Foods in Gadsden.

Adding to the success of the county tours has been the assistance provided by local Chambers of Commerce throughout the region. Many of the local elected officials have met with Beehler as well, including mayors, county commissioners and city council members. The president has been particularly delighted to meet with the alumni and student interns employed at each business on the tour.

The tour was first announced in November, when the president hosted regional leaders on campus and encouraged them to join forces in attracting businesses to the region. The next step will be the creation of an economic development master plan for Northeast Alabama.

JSU DRAMA OPENS 2017-18 SEASON

The JSU Department of Drama is gearing up for another exciting season at the Stone Center's Carlton Ward Theater. From an Arthur Miller drama to a classic Broadway musical, this season is sure to entertain audiences while showcasing the talent of JSU's drama students. Mark your calendar for the following:

OCT. 27, 28 AND 30 AT 7:30 PM AND OCT. 29 AT 2:30 PM

"An Enemy of the People" by Arthur Miller, adapted from Henrik Ibsen's 1882 play

NOV. 29-30 AT 7:30 PM
JSU Student Showcase

FEB. 23-24 AND MARCH 2-3 AT 7:30 PM

FEB. 25 AND MARCH 4 AT 2:30 PM
"Guys and Dolls"

A musical fable of Broadway based on a story and characters of Damon Runyon. Music and lyrics by Frank Loesser, adapted from a book by Jo Swerling and Abe Burrows

MARCH 29-30 AT 7:30 PM

"Lillian Paula Carson" by John Barrow, winner of the 2017 Southern Playwrights Competition

APRIL 13-14 AT 7:30 PM

APRIL 15 AT 2:30 PM

"The Giver," adapted by Eric Coble from the Newberry Award winning book by Lois Lowry

For more information or to purchase tickets, visit www.jsu.edu/drama/boxoffice.

AMERICA'S COWBOY Country



Visit Yellowstone, Grand Teton National Park, Mt. Rushmore and the Crazy Horse Memorial on this great American adventure. Spend two nights in the cowboy town of Jackson Hole, Wyoming, the crown jewel of the Northern Rockies. Experience the Wild West as it once was at Yellowstone National Park, home to an incredible array of wildlife and Old Faithful. Search for free-ranging herds of buffalo in Custer State Park. Check off one of life's must-dos with the thrill of seeing Old Faithful erupt. Marvel at Grand Teton National Park's towering peaks, marked with mountain glaciers. Soak in stunning views of Mt. Rushmore and the Crazy Horse Memorials.

JUNE 4-11, 2018

8 Days • 11 Meals

\$4,879 single

\$3,779 per person, double occupancy

\$3729 per person, triple occupancy

(Price includes round trip air from Birmingham-Shuttlesworth International Airport, Air Taxes and Fees/Surcharges as well as hotel transfers)

**Not included in price is cancellation waiver and Insurance of \$290 per person*

**Round trip Air from Hartsfield Intl Airport also available- deduct \$30 per person from above rates*

**All rates are per person and subject to change based on air inclusive packages from BHM and ATL.*

- Your park guide sheds light on Yellowstone's history and future.
- Explore Yellowstone National Park, the first national park in the world.
- Visit rambling Deadwood, a National Historic Landmark.
- Embark on either a relaxing wildlife float trip or an exciting whitewater rafting adventure.
- The Wild West comes to life during a traditional chuck wagon dinner.



Contact Kaci Ogle at the Alumni Office to make your reservation.

Deposit of \$500 per person (plus optional insurance if desired) to secure reservation. Final payment due by March 26th.

Email: kogle@jsu.edu
Phone: 256-782-5405

YOUR TRIP AGENDA

DAY 1 JACKSON HOLE, WYOMING - TOUR BEGINS

Welcome to Jackson Hole, America's most famous cowboy town. Find yourself amid its rare blend of elegance and western charm. Get your first taste of the Old West at your welcome dinner* where your ride in a covered wagon takes you past the Cache Creek Canyon for a night of western hospitality at a chuck wagon dinner with entertainment. Dinner.

• High 72° Low 36°

• The Lodge At Jackson Hole

DAY 2 JACKSON HOLE

This morning the choice is yours. Enjoy a relaxing wildlife float trip or an exciting whitewater rafting adventure! Both paths take you along the Snake River and offer up dramatic views of a grand landscape complete with a picnic lunch. The rest of the afternoon is yours to experience all that Jackson Hole has to offer. Breakfast & Lunch.

•The Lodge At Jackson Hole

DAY 3 JACKSON HOLE - GRAND TETONS - YELLOWSTONE

Wind through Grand Teton National Park, home to the youngest peaks in the Rockies. Keep your camera ready. There are plenty of opportunities to take photos. Next, visit incomparable Yellowstone National Park, the first and oldest national park in the world. Yellowstone, a true symbol of the west, stretches across 3,470 square miles and touches three western states. Famous for its geysers, hot springs and incredible wildlife — including free-ranging herds of buffalo — Yellowstone lives up to its reputation. A park guide joins your group to discuss the past, present and future of the park as you observe the unspoiled natural splendor. Of course, no visit to Yellowstone would be complete without seeing its most famous attraction: Old Faithful. Watch in amazement as the geyser erupts, sending a fountain of steam more than 90 feet in the air! Breakfast & Dinner.

•Old Faithful Snow Lodge

DAY 4 YELLOWSTONE - CODY - SHERIDAN

Begin your day with a journey along Lake Yellowstone and over Sylvan Pass. From the mountains to the prairies, the scenery is simply astounding. Pass through Cody and visit the Buffalo Bill Center of the West — a tribute to one of the most colorful figures of the Old West. Before turning in for the night in Sheridan, make your way through the incredible Bighorn Mountains and cross through the territory of the Great Sioux Nation. Breakfast.

• Holiday Inn Sheridan

DAY 5 SHERIDAN - DEADWOOD - RAPID CITY, SOUTH DAKOTA

En route to Rapid City, stop in Deadwood, a rowdy, rambling western town that has been named a National Historic Landmark. Recreations of turn-of-the-century street lamps light the way through the restored architecture. A local guide introduces you to the history of the city, including a visit to Mount Moriah Cemetery, final resting place of Wild Bill Hickok, Calamity Jane and other figures from the Wild West. You'll also make a stop at Kevin Costner's Tatanka: "Story of the Bison." This interpretive center features large, awe-inspiring sculptures depicting the relationship of bison and the Lakota Native Americans. Enjoy some time to ramble through Deadwood where gold, gambling and gunpowder were once the order of the day. Later, return to Rapid City to enjoy leisure time for independent exploration. Breakfast.

• Alex Johnson Hotel

DAY 6 RAPID CITY - CRAZY HORSE - KEYSTONE - RAPID CITY

Today, learn more about this diverse region. Jump into the world of Black Hills gold on a tour through Riddle's Black Hills Gold and Diamond Factory. See skilled artisans handcraft South Dakota's official state jewelry. Then it is on to Custer State Park, where you'll ride into the park in search of the herd of approximately 1300 free roaming buffalo (or bison) that grace the woods of Custer, along with pronghorn antelope and elk. Your guide will fill you in on the history and fun facts about the park's wildlife. Next, prepare to be amazed by the Crazy Horse Memorial, the world's largest mountain sculpture still in progress. The memorial includes the Indian Museum of North America, Native American Cultural Center, the sculptor's studio, an orientation center and theaters. Many Native American artists and craftspeople practice their art at the memorial and are on hand to discuss the influence their culture has on their work. Make a stop in the Old West town of Keystone to have dinner on your own before stopping to see the illumination of Mt. Rushmore, one of the true icons of the West, during a sound and light show. Breakfast.

• Alex Johnson Hotel

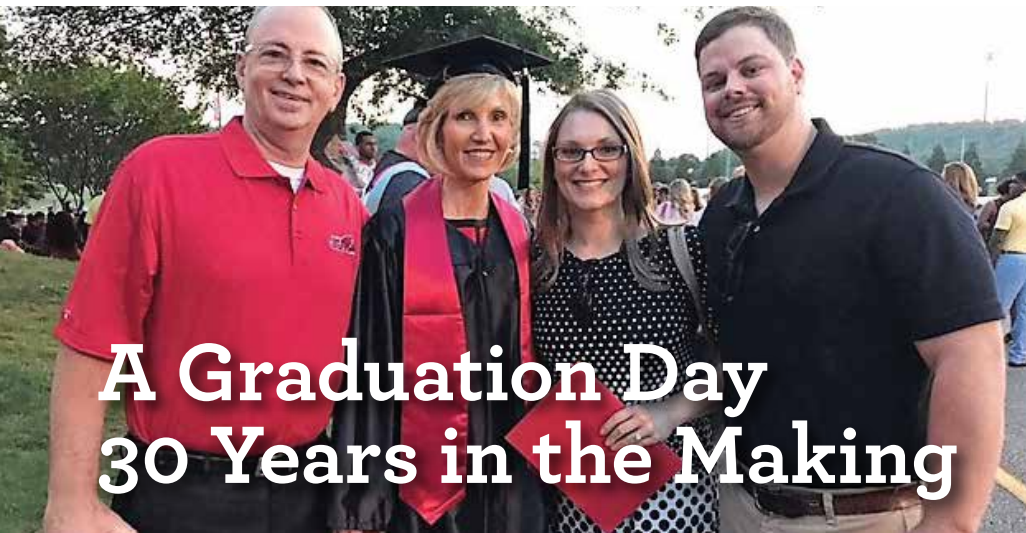
DAY 7 RAPID CITY - BADLANDS - WALL - RAPID CITY

Today you visit rugged Badlands National Park. Upon arrival at the visitor center, view its informative exhibits and displays and watch a film that introduces you to the area. Follow the Badlands Loop Road, a wonder of rock formations and vibrant colors caused by mineral deposits. Next, enjoy a stop at Wall Drug, a classic store from 1936, where there is time for lunch and browsing. This evening, a Lakota Native American will join you before your farewell dinner to discuss his dedication to his community and the Native American way of life, past and present. Breakfast & Dinner.

• Alex Johnson Hotel

DAY 8 RAPID CITY - TOUR ENDS

Your tour comes to a close today, leaving you with many pleasant memories.



A Graduation Day 30 Years in the Making

By Heather Greene

Graduation is a day most college students anticipate for four years, but for Jana Monday, it was a 30-year wait.

In the fall of 1980, at age 17, Monday enrolled as a political science major at JSU. However, she openly admits that her immaturity and “self-destructive” behavior led to academic problems. During her third year of college, her mother passed away suddenly, after which she turned to a life of partying as a “means to numb the pain.” Five years after enrolling, she dropped out of college and returned home to Albertville, Ala.

After leaving school, Monday enjoyed a successful career in business development and marketing – first in banking, and then with the civil engineering firm CDG Engineers and Associates for the past 14 years. At home, she and her husband of 30 years, Mike, have one child – her stepson, Tyler, an Auburn graduate who married JSU alumna, Jennifer Young Monday ’06.

But despite her happy home and work life, Monday didn’t feel complete. “I just always wanted to finish my degree,” she said. “I felt like something was missing.”

Over the years, Monday kept in touch with JSU by returning to football games

with the lifelong friends she made in Alpha Xi Delta in the 1980s. While perusing the JSU website in 2016, she stumbled upon the Integrated Studies degree and quickly met with the head of that department, Dr. Gordon Harvey, to see if it could be a pathway to her completing her degree.

“In about ten minutes, he told me that I could be done in eight or nine classes,” Monday said. “I melted into a puddle in his office. I cried like a baby. It was some of the best news I had ever heard.”

After receiving this news, Monday resolved to finish within a year. True to her word, she enrolled in a May term class the following month. All of her classes were online, which accommodated her work schedule, and her company even had a tuition reimbursement program to cover her cost of study. What Monday put off for 30 years turned out to be attainable.

“I found it to be very doable, and I found the university to be very user-friendly, helpful and encouraging to a returning student,” said Monday, regarding her process of transitioning back to JSU. “The fact that I was able to count most of my credits after 30 years was amazing.”

Dr. Gordon Harvey said Monday’s experience is fairly common.

“You’d be amazed how many non-traditional students show up in our office and think they are the only person who left early or who decides to come back to complete,” Harvey said. “This is very common. Sometimes life and career get in the way of completing. They are equally amazed when I tell them that there are so many former Gamecocks just like them who want that diploma for career or for pride. Integrated Studies has been a way for them to complete their degree without a great deal of extra time.”

For anyone wishing to return to JSU to complete a degree, he or she simply needs to submit the Update Student Status form on the JSU Admission’s website, www.jsu.edu/apply. There is no application fee, and once a student has been updated through Admissions, the student should contact his or her department of choice to be assigned an advisor. If close to graduating, a student can go ahead and set up an appointment with his or her certification advisor.

To anyone hesitating on returning to finish, Harvey encouraged, “Do it! You’re never too old. You’ve not been away too long. Some of the best students I’ve taught are those who come back after some time away. They are engaged, and they have a lifetime of experiences and questions. College is for everyone at any stage of their lives. Ask questions; explore your options. You’d be surprised what we have to offer and what you can contribute to university life.”

This spring, Monday was among the 727 graduates from JSU. “It was a dream come true,” she said. “It was one of the happiest days of my life.”

If you are one of the many JSU “alumni” who never quite finished their degree, contact us today to learn how you can re-enroll. Like Monday, that tassel may be much closer than you think! 🎓

Did you leave your name in STONE... AT YOUR ALMA MATER?

ALUMNI BRICK ORDER FORM

Please complete the following information and return to:
JSU Alumni Relations Office, 700 Pelham Road North
Jacksonville, AL 36265

Purchaser’s Name (please print) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (Home) _____ (Work) _____

E-mail Address _____

“I’m purchasing a brick as a gift for:”

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Yes, please notify recipient of my gift.



Make sure you left your mark at JSU for future generations to see! Purchase a brick to be placed at the JSU Alumni house for only \$50.

www.jsu.edu/alumni/alumniservices.html

\$50 per brick

☐ Method of Payment (please check one)

Check (make your check payable to: JSU Foundation)

☐ VISA ☐ Mastercard ☐ American Express

Account # _____ Exp. Date _____

Signature _____

BRICK SIZE: 4” x 8” Three lines, 16 characters or spaces per line (Indicate your engraving information in the boxes below)

THIS IS JACKSONVILLE STATE UNIVERSITY.



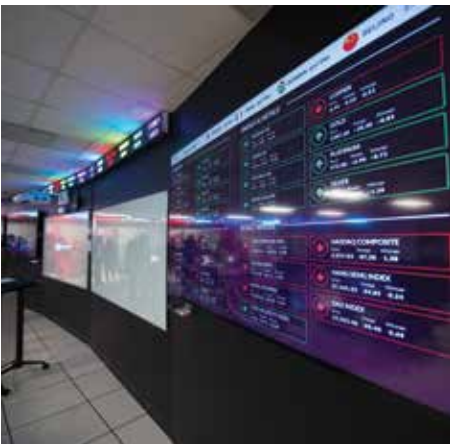
THIS MAKES IT AUTHENTIC.

Do not be fooled by imitations. Buy only authentic JSU products.



trading spaces, JSU STYLE

By Heather Greene



In the fall of 2017, the School of Business and Industry officially opened the newly renovated Finance Lab, which allows students to have a hands-on approach to the world market like never before.

Merrill Hall, Room 115, was originally used to house the computer mainframe for the entire university over 30 years ago. When technological advances outran the equipment housed there, the room became used as a storage space. However, as might only seem appropriate, it is now once again home to some of the most cutting edge equipment and perhaps the most intensive technology remodel in JSU history.

“This is probably, in all of IT, the biggest job, I would imagine, that we’ve ever undertaken,” said Andrew Higgins, the JSU IT systems consultant who worked with the department on the technology installation.

Faculty can now wirelessly project to a Smartboard with any device as they lecture, while students can pull up the instructor’s screen on one of 34” curved ultrawide monitors for an up-close view of the lecture. Instructors can also set the computers to collaboration mode, which facilitates class-wide discussions and projects.

Televisions on both sides of the room display the bond market and CNBC. The room is lined with tickers that display the New York Stock Exchange and NASDAQ, and the world clock creates a focal point in the room, which lets students observe almost instant changes in stock prices as the markets close, first in Hong Kong.

For Dr. Bill Fielding, dean of the School of Business and Industry, and Dr. Bill Scroggins, head of the Department of Finance, Economics and Accounting, this remodel has been a long-time dream for the department. Fielding credits JSU President John M. Beehler, a certified public accountant and former business school

Fielding calls the facility a “top notch training and educational tool”

dean, as being instrumental in making this dream a reality.

“I pray it provides students a real view of the markets, how markets are working continuously,” said Fielding. “It provides them with a better feel for what’s happening in the world.”

Fielding calls the facility a “top notch training and educational tool” and explains that it has impressed both parents and students alike this past summer. He even had three students in one day who were so impressed with the remodel that they changed their major to business.

For Scroggins, who teaches a course entitled “Investments,” his classroom will now be enhanced tremendously via this lab.

“I’ll be able to bring the financial markets into the lecture in much greater detail,” Scroggins said. “Previously, I’ve only ever been able to talk to them about trading, and now we’re actually going to be able to do it.”

Not only will the lab enhance learning, but Scroggins explains that having equipment like this enhances the students’ job prospects, as they will become even more marketable to future employers. The financial analytics platform used in the lab, Morningstar, is the same product used extensively in the financial services industry, which will be a valuable addition to a business major’s resume.

Another tool for students is the School of Business and Industry’s Student Managed Investment Fund (SMIF), a legacy of a retired finance faculty member. Students who are members of the Financial Management Association are able to make the decisions in how this

fund is invested. The lab is equipped with an “overflow” room for these students to meet and discuss how this money will be invested in the world market.

“A finance lab like ours has become more and more the trend, especially in AACSB accredited business schools such as this one,” said Scroggins. “The quality business programs more and more have implemented and built these finance labs like ours. It’s an indication of a very high quality program. Only the highest quality business programs across the world have these. They’re very expensive. We feel very very fortunate.”

The trading lab is not the only new space in Merrill. There has been a total of 14 classrooms renovated over the past year, as well as new furniture and a stock market ticker installed in the main foyer.

Be sure to stop by Merrill Hall for a visit next time you are on campus!

NEW ALUMNI ASSOCIATION LIFE MEMBERS

JANUARY-MAY 2017

Donna Lynn Elling ‘83

Larry Howard III ‘15

David “Bernie” McBurnett ‘15

Patrick N. Moore ‘93

THANK YOU FOR YOUR
SUPPORT!



JOIN TODAY AT
WWW.JSU.EDU/GIVING

volleyball serves up 40 YEARS of success

by Chris Brown

Abbey Breit pops in the DVD once-or-twice a year. The only three-time Ohio Valley Conference Volleyball Player of the Year in Jacksonville State's history wants to relive the Gamecocks' first OVC Volleyball Tournament championship. The match, which was broadcast on ESPNU, ended with a thrilling 15-12 score to cap JSU's fifth-set victory over Eastern Kentucky. Breit says she watches the match for "nostalgic sake."

The following year, in 2006, Breit, then a junior and coming off All-American honors from the season prior, and her teammates won their second-consecutive OVC Volleyball Tournament title with a 3-0 sweep against Southeast Missouri. Three years later and Breit having graduated, it was Brittney Whitten and Caitlin Vorbeck's time to help seize an opportunity.

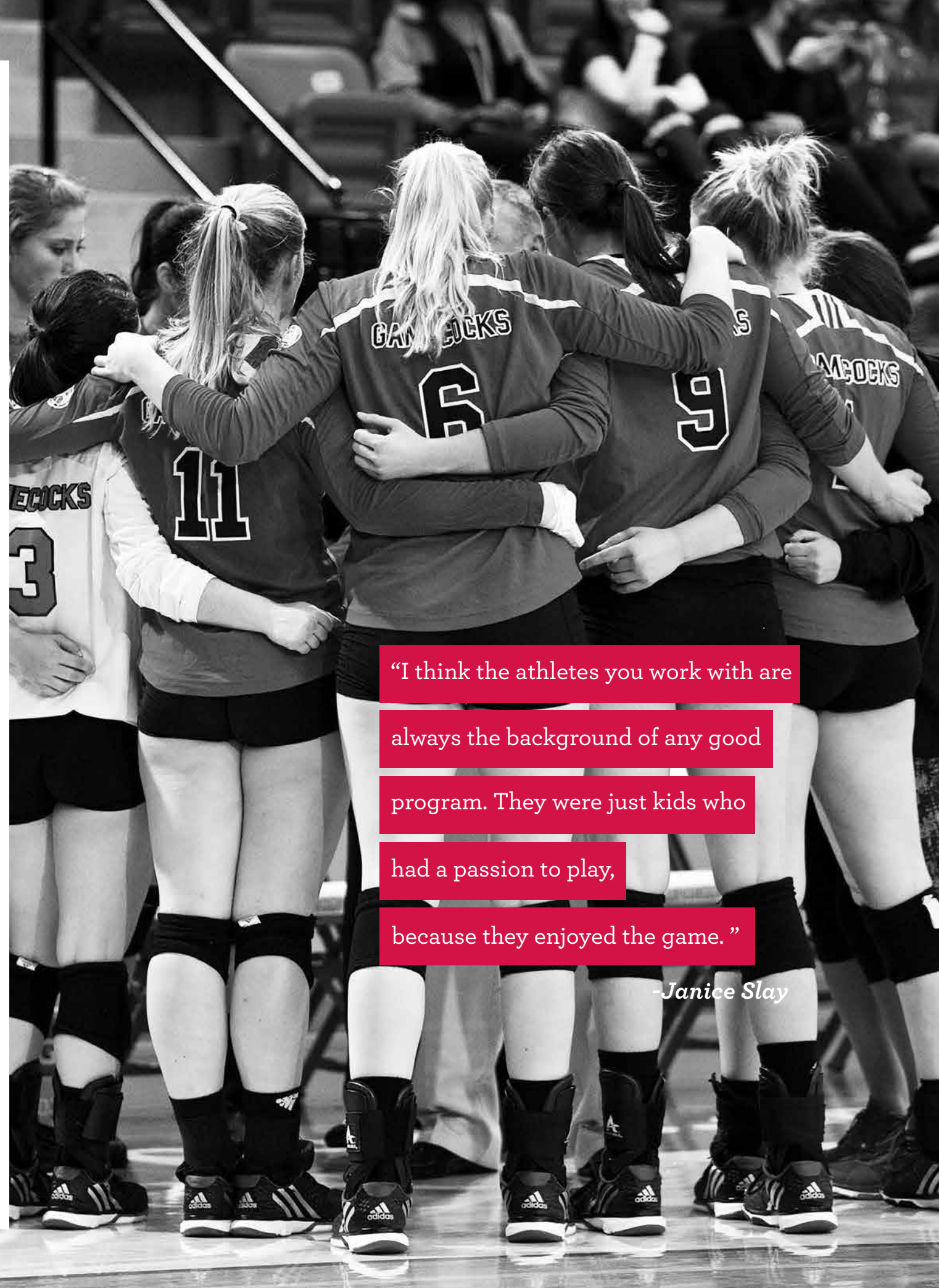
Whitten, the OVC Freshman of the Year in 2006, and Vorbeck, then a junior from Raytown, Mo., capped a perfect 12-0 record in games played inside Pete Mathews Coliseum during the 2009 season with a dominating 3-0 win over Morehead State for the school's third OVC Volleyball Tournament championship in five years. Two weeks later, the Gamecocks earned their first-ever NCAA Tournament win with a 3-2 victory over Florida A&M. To this day, that remains the last time an OVC volleyball team earned a win in the NCAA Tournament.

The dreams lived, the accolades earned, the memories created were years, decades, in the making. Long before the two-time OVC Coach of the Year Rick Nold guided Jacksonville State to a program-defining win over the Rattlers or Breit and her teammates passed around the 2005 OVC Volleyball Championship trophy in Charleston, Ill., the staple of the program was Janice Slay.

After Barbara Wilson led the Jacksonville State volleyball team to a 24-6 record in its first year of existence in 1978, Slay took over the reins and went on to coach the Gamecocks for 18 years, spanning from 1979 to 1996. Along the way, she earned two Gulf South Conference (GSC) Coach of the Year awards when JSU went 19-16 in 1984 and 30-17 in 1989. She was also named the Association of Intercollegiate Athletics for Women (AIAW) Coach of the Year after posting a 19-11 record during her first year.

Jacksonville State earned its first first-place finish in conference play in Slay's second year with a 35-12 record in the AIAW. Even though it took the Gamecocks 11 seasons to return to the top spot in their conference, it wasn't because of poor results. JSU finished second nine times in 10 years with a record of 234-147 from 1981 to 1990 and never had a losing season. Then a breakthrough happened.

Coming off a 24-17 season and its seventh-straight second-place finish in the



"I think the athletes you work with are
always the background of any good
program. They were just kids who
had a passion to play,
because they enjoyed the game."

-Janice Slay

GSC in 1990, Slay's Gamecocks posted a 27-11 record the next year before a 38-7 mark the following year. Both seasons were good enough to earn Jacksonville State its first two regular-season conference championships in school history.

"I just had really great girls to work with," Slay said when asked about the contributing factors to the foundation of Jacksonville State's volleyball program. "I think the athletes you work with are always the background of any good program. They were just kids who had a passion to play, because they enjoyed the game. When we started, it was mostly just local girls who weren't recruited. They just wanted to play volleyball. As time went on, we began to recruit a little more outside the area."

When Slay departed from the program before the 1997 season, she accumulated a 429-285 career record during her time at Jacksonville State. Her win total stands as the most in the school's history and 257 more than second place - Nold, who won 172 games from 2002 to 2010.

"When I sit down to think about it, I just feel incredibly fortunate to have spent so many years there," Slay said. "I definitely feel like the Lord led me here to be in this place. I feel very fortunate to have worked a job that I loved and what I wanted to do, which was coaching girls. Those years at Jacksonville State are very special to me. As I look back down now as I've gotten older, I don't remember the wins and losses as much as I do the girls that went through the program. They were all unique and special and fun. I think the girls helped me grow as a coach as much I may have helped the growth of the program."

Jose Rivera assumed the head coaching position and finished his first season with a 25-13 record, but unfortunately it was only good enough for a third-place finish in the West Division of the Atlantic-Sun (A-Sun). He went on to win 76 games

from 1997 to 2001, before Nold arrived from the University of Louisville.

“I was really interested in being a head coach at that time,” said Nold, who spent six years on the Cardinals staff. He spent the last four years as a full-time assistant coach when the Cardinals won four Conference USA titles and appeared in the NCAA Tournament five times, including reaching the Sweet 16 in 1996 and 1998.

“The job came open and, obviously, I talked with them and set up an interview. I went down to Jacksonville, without them knowing, and was able to get around town and notice it was a beautiful area. The surrounding area is just one of the most beautiful parts of the state.”

In 2002, his first year at Jacksonville State, Nold, now the head coach at Auburn University, went on to win the A-Sun’s Coach of the Year award and led the Gamecocks to their first .500 record (14-14) since 1997. The Gamecocks posted back-to-back 20-win seasons in 2003 and 2004 before achieving unprecedented heights with its first conference championship in its Division I history, which began in 1995.

“From my freshman to sophomore year, we didn’t graduate any seniors so we actually had the exact same team for two years,” Breit said. “That really helped us to grow and mesh and develop the chemistry as a team that I think was instrumental in us being able to capture that championship in 2005. Two-thousand and six was a dream. Every conference match felt like it was easier than we expected it to be, which is a testament to how well we played together as a team. It was just an amazing year.”

During Nold’s nine-year tenure, Jacksonville State posted a remarkable 107-42 record in OVC matches. In the ’06 season, the Gamecocks swept all but one conference match. At one point, JSU won 49-straight sets, which was the longest

active streak in the nation at the time. It was the first time in the school’s history the volleyball team won both the regular season and conference tournament titles in the same season. The accomplishment was achieved, again, in 2009 when the Gamecocks went 27-8, the most wins in a season in its Division I history en route to Nold being named the Midwest Region Coach of the Year by the American Volleyball Coaches Association.

“The pride I have is the type of people we brought through the program,” Nold said. “We brought not only a lot of great volleyball players through, but also a lot of people that others can be very proud of. I just like to think everyone looked at the program in a positive way.”

Nold describes his decision to leave after the 2010 season as “very tough, probably one of the toughest conversations I’ve ever had with a team for sure. There were a lot of tears. It was never an easy decision.”

Joseph Goodson assumed head coaching duties for a three-year stint, which resulted in the Gamecocks winning 38 games, before Terry Gamble was brought in before the start of the 2014 season. In just three short seasons, Gamble already became the fourth-winningest coach in Jacksonville State’s history. He’s also guided the Gamecocks to two OVC Volleyball Tournament berths.

“I think, from when I got here to where we are now, we are getting it back to what Coach Nold had it established to before he left,” said Gamble. “That’s nothing against the previous coaching staff, I just think we are taking it back to a level that, I think, will be extremely successful in the future.”

Prior to taking the head coaching position, Gamble “did his homework” on the program, but what really stood out to the school’s current volleyball coach was the people.



“When you meet the people here, from the president on down, everybody was family,” he said. “Everybody I talked to has been here for years and that speaks volumes.”

While players may come-and-go through the program over the years – coaches too – there have been two constants in the Jacksonville State volleyball program: people considered family and volleyball players with a passion for the sport. Even though the program turns 40 this year, the love for volleyball that flows throughout the 18 players set to wear the school’s red-and-white colors during the 2017 season is the same that was inside of Wilson and Slay’s players all those years ago. It’s the same love that will lay the foundation for the dreams, accomplishments and memories of players who will create their own legacy over the next 40 years in the Jacksonville State volleyball program. 🏐



MARCHING SOUTHERNERS

learn show in new home

This fall, join the Marching Southerners for an emotional journey of encouragement and hope with the band’s 2017 production, “Angels Among Us.”

Angels are not confined to the realm of the unknown. They are everywhere, right here among us. This season, the Marching Southerners will reflect on those people who appear in our lives when we need them the most. While some may no longer be with us, they continue to inspire us, comfort us, and give us hope. These earth angels lift us up on their wings with every smile, warm memory, and act of kindness. They remind us that miracles happen every day – if we only choose to see them.

In August, the Marching Southerners kicked off their practices in a new location. For the first time in the 60-year history of the program, the internationally recognized Marching Southerners and Ballerinas now have a dedicated practice facility. The intramural field near Paul

Carpenter Village has been renovated with new artificial turf that provides a state-of-the-art rehearsal surface for the 500-plus band and the numerous high school marching band camps the Department of Music hosts each summer. The new facility includes lights, restrooms, fencing and storage.

Previously, the band practiced on the parking lot of Pete Mathews Coliseum. In addition to the radiating heat of late summer and early fall, practicing for hours each day on the hard asphalt surface increases the likelihood of leg and ankle injuries.

“This is a 23-year dream of mine for the program that has finally come to fruition,” said Dr. Ken Bodiford, director of university bands.

Originally planned as a single use facility for the band using the old turf from the football stadium, the decision to install brand new turf offers optimal utilization of the facility by the campus community

and provides a safe surface for recreational use for all JSU students. When not used by the band program, the facility will be available for students participating in the recreational sports program through numerous intramural activities.

JSU President John Beehler stated, “The Marching Southerners and Ballerinas are a great point of pride for the university. I am very pleased that we have found an innovative way to reward the hard work of the students and faculty in a program that brings such acclaim to JSU, while at the same time creating a first class recreational venue that all of our students can enjoy.”

Be sure to check out “Angels Among Us” this fall and join us for the dedication of the new practice field during the Marching Southerners Alumni Reunion on Nov. 3-4. 🏐



GAMECOCK FOOTBALL KICKS OFF 2017 SEASON

The Gamecock football season is off to a smashing start, with the reigning Ohio Valley Conference champs opening college football season on Aug. 26 to a national television audience on ESPN as the network's inaugural Montgomery Kickoff Classic. Next, the Gamecocks traveled to Atlanta on Sept. 9 to face off against Georgia Tech.

If you missed these two big games, there's still time to be part of the action. JSU's home schedule begins under the lights on Sept. 23 with a 6 p.m. game against Liberty. The Flames will visit JSU Stadium in a return trip from the Gamecocks' win in Lynchburg, Va., last season. It will also be Band Day at JSU.

The Eastern Kentucky game on Oct. 14 will kick off at 3 p.m. and will wrap up Preview Day and Family Day on JSU's campus. Two weeks later, JSU will host Southeast Missouri for Homecoming, also a 3 p.m. kickoff. On Nov. 4, the Marching Southerners will hold their annual reunion during the Gamecocks' 1 p.m. game against Murray State.

The final game of the regular season will be a Thursday night game against Tennessee State. The 6 p.m. kickoff will mark the second-straight season JSU has hosted a Thursday night game, with the 2016 opener against North Alabama drawing over 22,000 fans.

Looking ahead to next football season, Jacksonville State will face Kennesaw State in the first football game at SunTrust Park in 2018, the start of a two-game series with the Owls that will also bring them to Burgess-Snow Field. The Gamecocks and Owls will meet on the gridiron for the first time on Nov. 17, the final weekend of the 2018 season, at SunTrust Park, the \$622 million home of the Atlanta Braves that opened in April 2017.

To purchase football tickets or get the latest news on the Gamecocks, visit www.jsugamecocksports.com. 

join us for HOMECOMING october 26-29

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 26

8 PM Homecoming Pep Rally, JSU Stadium

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 27

12 PM Class of 1967 50-Year Golden Gamecock Reunion, Houston Cole Library

5 PM 60s Group Annual Reunion, Zoe's on the Lake

6 PM ROTC Alumni Banquet, Houston Cole Library

7 PM JSU Volleyball vs. UT Martin with alumni recognition celebrating 40 years of the program, Pete Mathews Coliseum

7 PM Step Show, Leone Cole Auditorium

7:30 PM JSU Drama presents "An Enemy of the People," Stone Center

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 28

8 AM 1955 Refrigerator Bowl Team Breakfast, Alumni House

8 AM Gamecock Gallop, 5k Run

9 AM Alumni Association General (Open) Meeting, TMB Auditorium

9 AM to 2 PM Alumni Open House

10:30 AM Homecoming Parade
Delta Tau Chi 40th Anniversary Celebration

11:30 AM JSU Volleyball Alumni Tailgate

12 PM 1992 Football Team 25th Anniversary Reunion

12 PM Dept. Open Houses (Communication Dept., Self Hall)
(School of Business and Industry, Merrill Building)

12-2 PM Cocky's BBQ & Brew Fest, Alumni House
(Register/purchase tickets online at www.jsu.edu/giving)

Entertainment by Callista Clark and Southbound

3 PM JSU vs. SEMO with Halftime presentation of

Alumni of the Year and Homecoming Court winners

7:30 PM JSU Drama presents "An Enemy of the People," Stone Center

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 29

2 PM UN Day Tea, Clarence W. Daugette, Jr. International House

2:30 PM JSU Drama presents "An Enemy of the State," Stone Center

UPCOMING ALUMNI REUNIONS/EVENTS

OCTOBER 14

1977 Football Team 40th Anniversary Reunion
JSU Family Day Weekend
JSU Preview Day

OCTOBER 27-28

Class of 1967 Reunion
ROTC Alumni Banquet
60's Group Annual Reunion
JSU Volleyball Alumni Reunion
1955 Football Team Breakfast
1992 Football Team Reunion

NOVEMBER 3-4

Marching Southerners Alumni Reunion

NOVEMBER 17

Omega Psi Phi Alumni Banquet

For the latest homecoming information and updates, visit www.jsu.edu/alumni and follow us on Facebook @JSUalumniassociation.



ALUMNI

OF THE YEAR

AWARD WINNERS WILL BE RECOGNIZED AT HALFTIME OF THE HOMECOMING GAME ON SATURDAY, OCTOBER 28



Wayne Rowe '76/'78



Dr. Colleen M. Schmitt '81



Laura Lundy Wheale '10



Col. Michael Martel '93



Terry Casey '93/'94



ALUMNUS OF THE YEAR MR. WAYNE ROWE '76/'78

Mr. Rowe has earned two degrees from JSU: a BA in sociology in 1976 and a Master of Public Administration in 1978. He has served as chief executive officer of Quality of Life Health Services, Inc., since 1982. In his role as the CEO of the private, non-profit corporation, he is responsible for operation of a public housing program, which provides primary care services to residents of the Greater Gadsden Housing Authority. He led the development of one of the first school based health centers in Alabama and has more than 30 years of experience working with Congress to advance healthcare legislation. He is a member of the Alabama Primary Health Care Association, the National Association of Community Health Centers, the JSU International House Board, the Etowah County Kidney Foundation, Regions Bank Board of Directors, and the Industrial Development Authority. He previously served 12 years as a board member of the Gadsden City Board of Education and holds the distinct honor of serving as its first African American board president. He and his wife, Amelia, have five children and 12 grandchildren and the couple resides in Hokes Bluff, Ala.

ALUMNA OF THE YEAR

DR. COLLEEN M. SCHMITT '81

After Dr. Schmitt earned a BS in biology from JSU in 1981, she went on to earn a Doctor of Medicine degree from the University of South Alabama in 1986 after completing her internship and residency in internal medicine at Harvard's Beth Israel Hospital in Boston. She is a gastroenterologist and president of the Galen Medical Group - the largest, independent, multi-specialty physician practice in Chattanooga, Tenn. She was the first woman in independent practice to become president in the 75-year history of the American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy, representing over 14,000 gastroenterologists worldwide. She has worked in health and policy at the local, state and national levels. She serves on the board of the Chattanooga-Hamilton County Medical Society. She is a founding physician for Volunteers in Medicine and a volunteer for the Project Access - organizations that provide healthcare for the uninsured. She volunteers for local leadership programs, high schools and the JSU alumni Boots on the Ground initiative through the mentoring program. She served on the JSU alumni board from 2004-2009. At JSU, she was a Marching Southerner and a member of the A Cappella Choir. She and her husband, Clint, a former JSU music education major and saxophone section leader for the Marching Southerners reside, in Ooltewah, Tenn.

YOUNG ALUM OF THE YEAR

MRS. LAURA LUNDY WHEALE '10

Mrs. Wheale earned a BA in theatre from JSU in 2010, where she competed on the Gamecocks tennis team, including the 2010 undefeated and OVC Champion team, and received the OVC Academic Medal of Honor for the 2008-09 season. She was also a member of Phi Mu Sorority, Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society, and the Omicron Delta Kappa Leadership Society. Upon graduation, she attended the Cumberland School of Law at Samford University in Birmingham, Ala., where she was named the Scholar of Merit in Shakespeare and Trial Advocacy and was a member of Women in Law. During the summer months in law school, she attended classes in Los Angeles at the Lee Strasberg Theatre and Film Institute. She began her law career alongside her father with the law firm of Parker and Lundy in Cedartown, Ga. From there, she moved to Atlanta and joined the firm of Childers, Schlueter and Smith, where she currently serves as an associate attorney. She began auditioning for film roles as an actress and has landed parts in "Sully" with Tom Hanks, "Billy Lynn's Long Halftime Walk" and "A Larger Life," co-starring Fred Thompson. She plans to continue to pursue a career in law and acting. She and her husband, Patrick, reside in Atlanta, Ga., with their two dogs, George and Lucy.

MILITARY ALUMNUS OF THE YEAR COL. MICHAEL MARTEL '93

Col. Michael Martel earned a BS in computer science from JSU in Dec 1993 and was commissioned as a second lieutenant into the signal corps and detailed to the infantry for his first three years in the Army. He served in tactical positions as platoon leader, executive officer, communications officer, and commander at various levels in the 101st Airborne Division, 2nd Infantry Division, 82nd Airborne Division, 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment, 75th Ranger Regiment, and 35th Signal Brigade. He helped stand up the Army's first Cyber Protection Brigade and also served as the G6 and Chief Communications Officer for Allied Land Command, NATO. He is currently serving as the G6 and Chief Communications Officer for the US Army Special Operations Command. He has seven combat tours of various lengths in Afghanistan and Iraq. His awards and decorations include the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Bronze Star Medal (two oak leaf clusters), Army Meritorious Service Medal (three oak leaf clusters), Joint Commendation Medal (one oak leaf cluster), Army Commendation Medal (three oak leaf clusters), Army Achievement Medal (two oak leaf clusters), Combat Action Badge, Ranger Tab, Expert Infantryman's Badge, Master Parachutist Badge and Air Assault Badge. He holds a master's degree in telecommunications from the University of Colorado. He and his wife, Moi, have two sons, Cody (20) and Jacob (18).

OUTSTANDING FACULTY/STAFF MEMBER OF THE YEAR

MR. TERRY CASEY '93/'94

Mr. Casey began his career as an admissions counselor at JSU in 1995, after earning a BS in finance in 1993 and an MS in counseling with a concentration in student personnel in 1994 from the university. In 1996, he was named director of student life. Over the past 21 years, he has been instrumental in developing an award winning Gamecock Orientation program, implemented the First-Year Experience course for all first-year students, and helped create the campus tradition, Freshman Convocation. In 2016, he was named JSU's first dean of students in more than 20 years. He is responsible for overseeing Gamecock Orientation, the Student Government Association, Fraternity and Sorority Life, Freshman Forum and the Office of Community Standards and Student Ethics. His honors include the Southeastern Panhellenic Conference Fraternity and Sorority Advisor of the Year, Distinguished Service Award by the Southeastern Interfraternity Conference, JSU Faculty Advisor of the Year for Delta Chi Fraternity, and the Faculty Advisor of the Year by the International Delta Chi Fraternity. He resides in Jacksonville and has one son, Colin, who is a first-year student at JSU and a member of the Gamecock baseball team.

ALUMNI CHAPTER OF THE YEAR THETA ETA ALUMNI CHAPTER OF OMEGA PSI PHI FRATERNITY

The Theta Eta Alumni Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity is led by president, Mr. Royce Woodruff '94/'04. The chapter represents more than 90 JSU graduates across the nation. Mr. Woodruff resides in Flowery Branch, Ga., and will receive his Doctor of Emergency Management from JSU in December.

To nominate someone for the 2018 Outstanding Alumni of the Year Awards, complete the form online at www.jsu.edu/alumni by Feb. 1.

ALUMnotes

BIRTHS

2000-2010

1 Jason Eugene Clayton '05/'12 and his wife Heather, Gadsden, Ala., announce the arrival of their son, Xander Eugene Clayton, Jan. 20. Mr. Clayton is a teacher in the Calhoun County School System.

2 Tyler and Whitney Grimes announce the birth of their daughter, Hattie Grace, on March 6. Mr. Grimes '07 is employed at GEO Specialty Chemicals in Cedartown, Ga., as the safety health and process safety manager. Mrs. Grimes '12, a former Marching Ballerina, is a board certified family health nurse practitioner and is employed with Doctors Med-Care Inc. in Jacksonville. The couple has been married since 2011 and resides in Piedmont.

3 Audrey Deborah Stovall, daughter of Jeremy Stovall '03/'05 and Noelle Millirons Stovall '12/'15, was born on June 1. Mr. Stovall is assistant director of university bands at JSU and Mrs. Stovall serves as coordinator of the Marching Ballerinas and is an enrollment specialist for Gadsden State Community College.

4 Emily and Josh Lankford announce the birth of their second son, Graham Hayes, on July 2, 2017. Mrs. Lankford '16 is the graphic designer for Jacksonville State University.

WEDDINGS

2000-2017

Unice Kenkande “Ken” Washington '05/'07/'10 and Joi Melanesa Watts '07/'12 were wed this past spring. Mrs. Washington, a former athlete on the Gamecock volleyball team, is employed as a physical education teacher with the Calhoun County School System. Mr. Washington is a physical education teacher with Talladega City Schools.

Kimberly Webb Martin '06 and Jody Driver were married on April 15 in Heflin, Ala. Mrs. Driver is employed

as a nurse practitioner by CVS Minute Clinic and by Agape Hospice Care in Villa Rica, Ga.

Brandon Kyle Hollingsworth '08 and J. Amar Gambol, were married on July 25 in Knoxville, Tenn. Mr. Hollingsworth was news director and Morning Edition host for campus radio station WLJS from 2006 to 2008 and he is currently news director at NPR member station WUOT, Knoxville.

5 Kathryn Cleveland '13/'14 and Canaan Elkins, were wed on March 18. Mrs. Elkins is an instructor in the JSU English Department.

Derek Ryan McFarland '16 and Kendall McCall Stone '17, were married on March 18. Mr. McFarland is the college minister at Mt. Zion Baptist Church, Alexandria, Ala. Mrs. McFarland is employed at CARES Family Practice in Anniston/Oxford, Ala.

6 Nathaniel John Pierson '16 and Amanda Jane Wheeler '16, were married on November 12.

Brooke Nicole Wood '17 and Jonathan Andrew Ledbetter were wed in June.

OBITUARIES

(CORRECTION)

In the Spring GEM, we listed the wife of Floyd “Buddy” Tredaway '50 as Jane Tredaway. Her name should have been listed as Martha Tredaway. Mr. Tredaway was a member of the Wesley Foundation and not the Baptist Campus Ministry. We apologize for the errors.

FACULTY/STAFF

George LeBlanc Broussard, Greenville, N. Car., March 14, 2017. After teaching at JSU, he went on to teach trombone and jazz history and work with the Jazz Bones at East Carolina University School of Music. After retiring as a professor emeritus, he remained active, performing with the North Carolina Jazz Repertory Orchestra and other jazz groups in the area.

Gladiola Watts Dale, Birmingham, Ala., March 8, 2017. She was a retired professor from the Department of Math and Computer Information Systems.

ATTENDED ONLY/DATE OF GRADUATION UNKNOWN

Stephen Brent Batie, Glencoe, Ala., February 1, 2017. He had been a member of the Marching Southerners at JSU.

Ray Allen “Herbie” Carroll, Birmingham, Ala., April 29, 2017. He attended JSU 1971-76 and was a member of Delta Chi.

Michael Ernest Culberson, Anniston, Ala., June 8, 2017, from cancer. He was a cheerleader in 1979-80.

Charles Dansby, Bremen, Ga., May 3, 2014. He played football for the Gamecocks from 1966 to 1968.

Donald Gary Howell, Birmingham, Ala., May 13, 2017. The former Gamecock quarterback served in the Army and then the Reserves. He worked for Avondale Mills for 43 years.

Rev. Joseph Calvin Jones, Sr., Lincoln, Ala., June 29, 2017. He had served in the Army for more than 22 years before retiring. He was pastor for many years at Ohatcee United Methodist Church.

Ronnie Norton, Piedmont, Ala., May 14, 2017. An Air Force veteran, he owned and operated Norco Oil. He played baseball for the Gamecocks in 1966.

James Graham Price, Birmingham, Ala., July 21, 2017. He served in the Army National Guard and was retired from CSX Railroad. He played football for the Gamecocks from 1958-1960.

Benny Striplin, Boaz, Ala., January 21, 2017. He played football for the Gamecocks in 1964.

Charles Randall Studdard, Cedar Bluff, Ala., January 31, 2017. He played football for the Gamecocks in 1979 and was a Navy veteran.

Mary Ann Kelly Tuggey, Cullman, Ala., January 25, 2017. She worked in property management and took part in local theater.

Jesse N. Wood, Jacksonville, Ala., June 22, 2017. He was a longtime banker with 38 years of service with First National Bank of Jacksonville. He was a World War II veteran and served on the Jacksonville Hospital Board and the Civil Service Board.

1940-1949

Thelma Norton Edgar '41, Gadsden, Ala., June 23, 2017. Her 40-year teaching career began in Alexander City. During WWII, she was one of the famous “Rosies” who assumed jobs normally held by men when she coached boys’ athletic teams. She closed her teaching career as the Glencoe High School counselor in 1980. After retiring, she realized there were no services for retirees in the area so she organized the Senior Outreach Services and eventually raised enough money to build the George Wallace Senior Center. She oversaw and ran the many activities provided there for seniors, taking a \$1 salary a year. She also saw a need for housing for seniors and worked with the Sisters of Mercy at Holy Name of Jesus Hospital to build apartments behind the Senior Center. The complex was later named in her honor.

Mildred H. Davis '47, Centre, Ala., February 20, 2017.

Marguerite Stewart Santich '47, Knoxville, Tenn., April 16, 2017. She taught math and science for more than 40 years and was an active member of the Delta Kappa Gamma professional honor society. She and her late husband, Thomas '49, were married for 70 years.

Lonnie Childers Skipper '48, Pensacola, Fla., April 13, 2017. She taught school in Escambia County for 30 years.

Thomas Fred Santich '49, Knoxville, Tenn., February 15, 2017, passed just two months before his wife Marguerite. He was a WWII Army veteran and served as a guard at the Nurem-

berg Trials in Germany. He taught math and science, owned a clothing store, worked in several stores and spent the last half of his career with the Hamilton County Chamber of Commerce.

1950-1959

Emma John Cobb McGehee '51, Birmingham, Ala., April 8, 2017. She taught in the Birmingham area for more than 30 years, with the last 20 years at McElwain Elementary School.

Roy Dyer '54, Snellville, Ga., on March 5, 2017. He was a retired engineer with Bellsouth Telecommunications. His wife Helen Young Dyer '54, a retired school administrator, died on Feb. 15, 2011.

Nancy Johnson Harding '55, Birmingham, Ala., June 10, 2017. She had taught for 38 years in Birmingham, Jefferson County, Okinawa, Japan and finally in Leeds.

Leon Alvin Skelton '55, Arab, Ala., February 5, 2016. He had taught for many years at Grassy Junior High School. He was a member of the Baptist Campus Ministry at JSU.

Sue Doss Boozer '57/'70, Jacksonville, Ala., February 13, 2017. She was a retired Oxford High School counselor and had been a member of Alpha Xi. She was married to the late Paul Eugene Boozer '49.

Chlowe Harper “C.H.” Cardwell '57, Snellville, Ga., November 6, 2016. He was a retired teacher and had been married to Betty Porch Cardwell '51.

Robert Davis Coley '57, Glencoe, Ala., June 9, 2017. He played football for the Gamecocks from 1951 to 1954. His coaching and teaching career found him at Altoona, Glencoe and Hokes Bluff. In 1968 he entered management at Gadsden’s Republic Steel and worked there for 28 years. He also served the Etowah County Board of Education for 28 years. He was known for maintaining a Christmas tree farm for over 20 years.

Foy Nadine Morgan '57, Franklin, Tenn., June 11, 2017. She taught home economics at Johnston Junior High School, Anniston, Ala., for four years and at Alexandria High School in Alexandria, Ala., for 22 years.

Joe Wayne “Tubby” Roberts '57, Springville, Ala., July 7, 2017. He played football for the Gamecocks and was a member of the celebrated 1955 Refrigerator Bowl team. He was a coach and a teacher at Springville High School from 1959 to 1963 and retired from Southern Ready Mix with many years of service. An all-state football player, he was inducted into the Marshall County Sports Hall of Fame in 2011. He was married to Martha Terry Lawrence Roberts '56.

Zona Ann Edmonds Bishop '58, Grant, Ala., December 13, 2016.

Jimmy F. Haynie '59, Mount Pleasant, S. Car., January 28, 2017. An Air Force veteran, he had been stationed on Okinawa during the Korean War. He worked for numerous companies as a general accountant in the Southeast before moving to Charleston, S. Car., in 1980, where he was vice president of finance for Greer Drug Company. He later held various accounting positions in the Charleston area. He was married to Jackie Gilbreath Haynie '59.

Jerry Rufus Higginbotham '59, Lakewood, Wash., March 24, 2017. Commissioned through the JSU ROTC Program, he dedicated 29 years of his life to serving in the Army.

Wanda Hunkapiller Wheeler '59, Birmingham, Ala., January 30, 2017. She taught in public schools for 34 years, most of which were in the Birmingham City School System.

1960-1969

Ann Parker Lyda '60, Birmingham, Ala., March 15, 2017. She was married to the late Larry Lyda '56 and she had been a JSU cheerleader.

Lawrence R. Mitchell '60, Powder Springs, Ga., February 4, 2017. He was a veteran of the Air Force, having served from 1952 to 1956 as a medical technician. He was married to Sandra Scruggs Mitchell '62.

Mary Jo Sisson '60, Fort Walton Beach, Fla., March 22, 2017. She was a home economics instructor at Ruckle Junior High and later served as home economics supervisor for Okaloosa County (Fla.). She was subsequently named director of vocational and technical education for Okaloosa County and director of the Okaloosa Applied Technology Center. She received many awards during her career, including the

Distinguished Service Award from the Florida Vocational Association and was named to Outstanding Women of America in 1971. She was a member of the Baptist Campus Ministry at JSU.

Walter Vowell Wood '60, League City, Tex., February 28, 2017. Following his service in the Army, he had a career with NASA for 36 years, receiving countless awards and accolades for his work on the International Space Station, Hubbell Space Telescope Program, and the Space Shuttle Program.

James V. Doss '61, Anniston, Ala., June 12, 2017. He was an Army veteran and served during the Korean War era. He was retired from the Anniston Army Depot with 15 years of service. He was married to Frances Green Doss '51.

Ronald Paul Thompson '61, Albertville, Ala., February 19, 2017. He had been commissioned through the JSU ROTC program. He was a retired district attorney for the State of Alabama and was married to Patricia Keahey Thompson '75.

Gerald Grogan '62/'77, Eastaboga, Ala., March 10, 2017. He spent his entire career coaching high school football and took pride not only in his teams, but also in his program and its facilities – even cutting, fertilizing and mowing the grass. He played football and basketball for the Gamecocks, including the famous 1955 Refrigerator Bowl football team. He was married to the late Patricia Dooley Grogan '61.

Glenda Buttram Morgan '62, Lindale, Ga., April 12, 2017. She taught school in the Floyd County School System for 33 years and at Floyd College, Berry College and Shorter College.

Herald Dean Perry '63, Florence, Ala., March 14, 2017. The Army veteran served in the military police during the Korean War and was a crack pitcher for the Army softball team. After military service, he worked for the U.S. Post Office and then as a supervisor for Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company, Gadsden, Ala. An interest in photography led him to open his own studio, Dean Perry Photography, in Sheffield, Ala., where he spent 45 years as a professional photographer. He and his wife also operated Tiny Tot Portraits and Broadway Frame & Gallery.

Montgomery G. “M.G.” Hodges III '64, Gonzales, Tex., December 17, 2016. He played football for JSU from 1958 to 1961.

Jerry Randall Bowman '65, Pensacola, Fla., April 20, 2017. Though he started his career as a teacher in Anniston, Ala., after two years he began service with the Boy Scouts of America, which would become his lifelong career. He served the Boy Scouts in North Carolina and in Atlanta, Ga. He served as the scout executive for the Gulf Coast Council until his retirement in 1985, but continued his commitment to scouting as a member of the Gulf Coast Council advisory board. He was married to Margaret Anne Wilson Bowman '67.

Stanley Clayton Parrish '65, Gadsden, Ala., May 13, 2017. An Air Force veteran, he was a retired educator in the Gadsden City School System. He served for 30 years as principal at Walnut Park, Striplin and Floyd Elementary Schools. He was married to Carolyn Grant Parrish '76.

Rosemarie Maynor Bishop '68, Huntsville, Ala., July 6, 2017. She taught at Grissom High School and later became a librarian. She was also the coordinator/organizer for the Huntsville City Schools Academic Competition teams. She was a member of the Baptist Campus Ministry at JSU.

Betty Garrigus Waldrop '68/'72, Talladega, Ala., April 8, 2017. Dr. Waldrop taught in the English department at Talladega High School for more than 20 years. She enjoyed restoring older homes and many that she restored in Talladega’s Silk Stocking District have been featured in Talladega’s “Tour of Historic Homes” throughout the years.

Billy Gene Batey '69, Oxford, Ala., April 15, 2017. He worked as an accountant at FMC Corporation his entire career. He was married to Rubye Jane Hamric Batey '62.

Patricia Brown '69/'77, Jacksonville, Ala., July 27, 2017. She taught 2nd and 3rd grades for 35 years at Centre Elementary School and Wellborn Elementary School. She was a member of the Ballerinas at JSU.

Ernest Edgar “Sonny” Golden, Jr. '69, Helena, Ala., March 13, 2017. He was an Air Force veteran and had a career in food processing. He played saxophone in the Marching Southerners. He is survived by his wife, Nancy, son Mark, sisters Sandra and Rose '65/'73, and his brother Philip.



1. Xander Eugene Clayton
2. Hattie Grace Grimes
3. Audrey Deborah Stovall
4. Graham Hayes Lankford
5. Kathryn Cleveland '13/'14 and Canaan Elkins
6. Nathaniel John Pierson '16 and Amanda Jane Wheeler '16

1970-1979

Billy Joe Knight '71, Talladega, Ala., July 16, 2017. He served in the Army during the Korean War and was employed by Wehadkee Yarn Mills for 45 years. He was married to Betty Jean Robbins Knight '54.

Jimmy Dean Hill '72, Lincoln, Ala., February 21, 2017.

Robert Larry Smith '72, Southside, Ala., May 27, 2017. He was a decorated Marine Corpsman, receiving the Purple Heart and Silver Star after being wounded in 1966. He was also inducted into the Etowah County Patriots Hall of Fame. He retired from Modern Heating and Cooling.

Roger Newton Evans '74, Trussville, Ala., April 18, 2017. He played football for the Gamecocks.

Hugh Randall Gamble '75, Fort Payne, Ala., March 21, 2017. He had been the accountant/controller for WY Shugart and Sons Hosiery for many years.

Roger McKay Smith '75, Flower Mound, Tex., June 12, 2017, of cancer. Through his church, he started a homeless mission and, until his health declined, collected food from local restaurants to feed the homeless.

Eleanor McNutt Anderson '76, Oxford, Ala., March 30, 2017.

Alexander Douglas Baker '76, Vestavia, Ala., May 14, 2017. He had been employed by Blackwater Resources and had previously served as president and developer of AB Shopping Center Properties Inc. He played basketball for the Gamecocks, was a member of Sigma Nu Fraternity and a former JSU Foundation Board member.

Joseph Herbert Wood '76/'77, Albuquerque, New Mexico., May 2, 2017. He was an Army veteran and served in the Korean War. He was a certified public accountant and had a distinguished career with the U.S. Department of the Treasury.

Margaret Ann Potts '77/'78, Jacksonville, Ala., June 14, 2017.

William "Bill" Norris '78/'90, Jacksonville, Ala., June 6, 2017. He had a law enforcement career with the Jacksonville Police Department that spanned nearly 30 years. He was the

department's first D.A.R.E. officer, teaching drug resistance education, and was the first school resource officer at Kitty Stone Elementary School. After a brief retirement, he went to work in community corrections with the Calhoun County Sheriff's Department. He also coached several Parks and Recreation baseball and basketball teams, volunteered with Habitat for Humanity, and taught criminal justice courses at JSU as an adjunct professor. He was married to Pamela Jo Morguson Norris '79. While at JSU, he served as a resident advisor for the International House.

1980-1989

Rebecca Faye Hilbird Lee '80, Leeds, Ala., March 27, 2017. She was a retired accountant from Perry Supply, Inc.

Barry Glen Patton '80/'82, Vestavia, Ala., July 12, 2017. He held many banking positions over the years, and had been with Regions Bank for the last 22 years. His latest position was vice president of credit review. He had been a member of Kappa Sigma.

William David Reynolds '80, Delta, Ala., May 8, 2017. He was married to Susan Haynes Reynolds '80.

Ronald Keith Easterwood '81, Jacksonville, Ala., May 23, 2017. He was an Army veteran and served in Europe. He had been employed by General Dynamics.

Donald Glenn Young '81, Oxford, Ala., February 9, 2017. He played football for the Gamecocks from 1975-1978.

Nina Mae Swain '82/'92, Anniston, Ala., June 20, 2017. She was a retired teacher with the Anniston City Board of Education.

Donna June Eberhart Horne '83, Pensacola, Fla., June 12, 2017. She employed her nursing skills at East Alabama Medical Center, Opelika, Ala., and Baptist Hospital, Pensacola, Fla., before serving at Sacred Heart Cardiac Rehabilitation Center for the last 24 years. She had been a member of the Baptist Campus Ministry.

John Dalas Vance '83/'85, Memphis, Tenn., June 7, 2017. Dr. Vance was a member of the JSU Marching Southerners. He was married to Beverly Skidmore Vance '79. Lt. Col. Whitt L. Latham '85/'91,

Gadsden, Ala., February 18, 2017. Col. Latham was an Air Force veteran and had served several tours in Vietnam. He served in several commands during his career, retiring in 1980. After retirement, he taught school, worked with JP King Century 21 Real Estate as a realtor, and worked for the State of Alabama Pardons and Paroles as the officer in charge of Cherokee County for 25 years. After retirement, he and his wife Jeffie Burns Latham '89/'91 loved to cruise.

Patricia Dyan Warren Jester '87, Marietta, Ga., January 29, 2017.

Deborah Wagoner Kavanagh '88, Columbia, Md., February 23, 2017, from ovarian cancer. She had most recently worked for 19 years for the Department of Defense, Alexandria, Va. She was also active with the Big Brothers Big Sisters of America, with suicide prevention hotlines and youth competitive swim teams.

Jennifer Lee Smith Aguilar '89, Jacksonville, Ala., June 8, 2017. She taught in schools in Alabama, Florida, North Carolina and Boston, Mass. During her tenure at Kitty Stone Elementary in Jacksonville, she was honored as Teacher of the Year. While at JSU, she was a member of the International House Program and served as a resident assistant and as president of the International Student Organization. She received the Dr. James H. Jones Award in 1988. She was also a member of the first softball team at JSU.

Weyland Dwight Burton, Jr. '89, Evansville, Ind., February 24, 2017. He had been vice president of distribution for Shoe Carnival. While at JSU, he was a peer counselor and Student Government Association officer.

Crawford Todd Glassco '89, Rainbow City, Ala., April 17, 2017. He was employed by Gadsden Regional Hospital in the Cath Lab for the last 18 years.

Sylvia D. Haynes Morgan '89, Rome, Ga., October 26, 2016. She was an educator, child advocate and motivational speaker. She was a retired education supervisor at the Georgia School for the Deaf. She was a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority.

Brenda Watley '89, Columbia, S. Car., April 29, 2016.

HOW TO SUBMIT INFORMATION

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO SUBMIT INFORMATION CONCERNING A WEDDING, BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT, NEW JOB OR PROMOTION, AN OBITUARY NOTICE, AWARDS OR OTHER RECOGNITION, PLEASE EMAIL ALUMNI@JSU.EDU OR MAIL THE INFORMATION TO THE JSU ALUMNI RELATIONS OFFICE, 700 PELHAM ROAD NORTH, JACKSONVILLE, AL 36265.

1990-1999

Ronnie Kelley Russell '92, Fort Payne, Ala., July 17, 2017. He had been an environmentalist for the State of Alabama and then worked for the City of Fort Payne as golf course manager.

Everitte Eugene Freeman, Jr. '97, Piedmont, Ala., July 8, 2017. He was a union master electrician who served in the Navy.

2000-2017

Stephanie Jean Slone '01, Anniston, Ala., April 14, 2017.

Teressa Kittle Yates '02, Anniston, Ala., June 10, 2017. She had been a teacher in Oxford, Saks and Talladega County Schools.

Stephen Craig Prier '06/'07, Panama City, Fla., April 14, 2016. He had served as emergency management director for Bay County Emergency.

Joshua Paul Lumpkin '07, Ohatchee, Ala., April 19, 2017. He had been a teacher at Alexandria High School.

ALUMNOTES

(CORRECTION)

7 In the Spring issue of GEM, page 33, the alumna in Photo #11 was mistakenly identified as Cindy Kilgore Pharr '72. The person pictured is Cindy Lee Kilgore '06, Jacksonville, Ala., photographer and owner of Cindy's Photography and Fine Arts in Jacksonville. Her business is celebrating its 10th anniversary at its location on Broadwell Mill Road.

EMPLOYEE

Lilly Ledbetter, Jacksonville, Ala., was the 2017 Honoree of the National Women’s History Project. She is internationally recognized as a women’s rights and civil rights activist and sought after speaker. During her career she worked with the JSU financial aid department followed by being a district manager of 16 locations with H&R Block. In 1979, she got her dream job working as a manager at the local Goodyear tire factory. As the only woman working on the factory floor, she faced daily sexual harassment. Despite the discrimination, she worked hard and stayed at Goodyear, hoping it would eventually get better. After 19 years with the company, Ledbetter received an anonymous note informing her that she was paid significantly less than men doing the same job. In response, Ledbetter filed a sex discrimination case against her longtime employer. The case, Ledbetter v. Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co., was tried and found in Ledbetter’s favor, but Goodyear appealed and her win was reversed. But she kept fighting. The case went all the way to the US Supreme Court. In August 2008, she spoke about pay equity at the Democratic National Convention. On January 29, 2009, President Obama signed the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act into law. In 2011, Ledbetter was inducted into the National Women’s Hall of Fame. In 2012 Ledbetter released her memoir “Grace and Grit: My Fight For Equal Pay and Fairness at Goodyear and Beyond.”

1960-1969

George Martin Thomas ’63, Meridian, Miss., was recently elected unopposed to his 9th four-year term on the Meridian City Council. He is also serving as the chairman of the Lauderdale County Council of Governments. He is retired as professor emeritus and associate dean emeritus from Mississippi State University. He previously served as international president of Phi Delta Kappa educational society. At JSU, he was a member of the Marching Southerners and played tennis for the Gamecocks.

Judge Bobby M. Junkins ‘69/’72, Rainbow City, Ala., has been awarded the Aaron L. Brown Public Service Award for Community Service. The national award ceremonies were held in Chicago. Judge Junkins has been on the Quality of Life Health Board for more

than 20 years. He currently serves as probate judge for Etowah County.

1970-1979

Van Michael Deerman ‘70/’75, Jacksonville, Ala., was inducted into the 2017 Calhoun County Sports Hall of Fame. He was an all-district basketball player at Jacksonville High School and taught and coached at Weaver High School for 30 years. He was varsity basketball coach for 25 years and was Coach of the Year four times. His teams made eight postseason appearances. He also coached junior varsity and junior high basketball teams. Overall, his teams won more than 450 games. He was commissioned through the JSU ROTC program.

Steve Ricky Weems ‘73/’77, Anniston, Ala., has been inducted into the 2017 Calhoun County Sports Hall of Fame. He was a four-year starter and four-year letterman in football at Wellborn High School. He was first-team all-county and second-team all-state in 1967 as a senior and the Anniston Quarterback Club named him the county’s defensive Player of the Year. He played in the AHSAA North South all-star football game before beginning his football career at JSU, where he was a four-year starter and four-year letterman. He was all-conference as a junior and a senior and led the Gamecocks in tackles each year.

1980-1989

8 Harold Milton Dean ’83, North Little Rock, Ark., was selected director-at-large of the 2017 Board of Directors of the Association of Social Work Boards (ASWB) in November. He will serve a two-year term. He is a licensed clinical social worker and currently serves as the clinical social work program manager in the University of Arkansas Medical Sciences Myeloma Institute and has worked as a full-time oncology social worker for the last 23 years. He has also been employed as a field liaison for the University of Arkansas at Little Rock School of Social Work for the past 16 years. He was a member of the Baptist Campus Ministry at JSU.

1990-1999

Russell Thomas Waits ’90, Gadsden, Ala., has been hired by the Jacksonville City Board of Education as the new principal at Jacksonville High School. He previously served as principal at Emma Sansom Middle School in

Gadsden and has 26 years of experience in education. He has also worked as an elementary school principal and high school assistant principal. The former Marching Southerner is married to former Ballerina, Shannon Goforth Waits ’90/’96.

9 Eric V. Muth ’91/’93 and Ashley Teal Muth ’93/’96, Vincent, Ala., came together with family members from across the country to celebrate with Brenda Oberholtzer Gaskin’15 when she received her degree from JSU. PHOTO CAPTION: Pictured left to right: Doug Oberholtzer ’96 (inset), Fountain, Colo., Eric V. Muth ’91/93 and Ashley Muth ’93/’96, Vincent, Ala., Brenda Oberholtzer Gaskin ’15, Columbia, S. Car., Linda Oberholtzer ’91 and William Oberholtzer ’96/’98, Dixon, Mont.

10 Richard Ross Peterson III ’93/’98, Vidalia, Ga., plant manager at Trane (Div. of Ingersoll Rand) in Vidalia, recently received Ingersoll Rand’s 2016 Leadership Award. His leadership during 2016 generated top quartile employee engagement scores, the highest of any Ingersoll Rand manufacturing facility in North America.

Wesley Allen Carter ’94, Gainesville, Fla., was promoted to president of Loncala, Inc., in November 2015. He has been employed by Loncala for over 18 years. Loncala, Inc. is a cattle and timber company that owns 50,000 acres in Florida, Georgia and Texas. He played football for the Gamecocks.

Mark Anthony Sanders ’97, Pelham, Ala., head softball coach at Helena Middle School since 2008, just celebrated his 350th win, coaching the winningest team in school history. The team won the 2017 Southern League Championship with a 34-1 record. His teams of 2010, 2011 and 2016 also took the Southern League Championship.

Jeffrey Douglas Gordon ’96, Sharpsburg, Ga., has joined the Atlanta-based firm of Arnall Golden Gregory LLP as a partner in the employee benefits group. His practice focuses on representation of multiemployer pension and health benefit plans.

11 Robbie Michael Sims ’96, Henagar, Ala., has been appointed by Blue Cross Blue Shield of Tennessee to vice president and chief audit executive. He leads the corporate audit services division. He has been

part of the Blue Cross finance team for more than 10 years and has been recognized by the Blue Cross Blue Shield Association for exemplary strategies, techniques and practices. He is a certified public accountant, a chartered global management accountant and a certified internal auditor.

2000-2010

12 Janet Ruth Wisner Burton ’04, Gibsonton, Fla., has been inducted into the Tri-State Music Hall of Fame. She currently is an adjunct professor of music at Hillsborough Community College in Brandon, Fla. She has taught in 18 states throughout her career. She is an author, instructor and composer and has taught voice, piano, organ, clarinet and bass guitar. She has won national awards for ballroom dancing with the Fred Astaire Studios and is listed in the 2006-2007 edition of “Who’s Who of American Women.”

Lt. Col. Will Cambardella ’00, Birmingham, Ala., just completed a tour at US AFRICOM. He pooled all of the tribal masks – about 32 from 14 different African countries, picked up throughout his extensive military travels on that continent. He and his wife, Tara Michelle Luther Gambardella ’98, traced the masks to tribe, region and country of origin, assembled them at a local African Fair-Trade Store KANZI in Homewood, Ala., and then brought in local students from elementary schools and from Birmingham-Southern College to educate them on these masks in African culture. Col. Cambardella was commissioned through the JSU ROTC program. He was a member of Kappa Alpha.

Judson David Cox ’02, Lindale, Ga., recently became the assistant principal at Coosa High School. He previously served as head of the special education department at Pepperell High School, Rome, Ga. He is married to Stephanie Croy Cox ’01.

Shannon Anthony Finley ’01/’14, Jacksonville, Ala., was recently named principal of the new Alexandria Middle School. She previously served as assistant principal at Alexandria High School.

2010-2017

Kenneth Clinton Decker ’11, Rome, Ga., recently became head boys’ basketball coach at Armuchee High School in Rome, where he also teaches social studies.



7. Cindy Lee Kilgore ’06
8. Harold Milton Dean ’83
9. Eric V. Muth ’91/’93 and Ashley Teal Muth ’93/’96
10. Richard Ross Peterson III ’93/’98
11. Robbie Michael Sims ’96
12. Janet Ruth Wisner Burton ’04

JSU Launches Annual Fund Campaign

Amy G. Schavey,
Annual Fund Coordinator

JSU launched its new Annual Fund program on Aug. 21, making annual giving a new emphasis for the university’s fundraising efforts and setting a goal of \$1.5 million in 2017.

The JSU Annual Fund is the cornerstone for philanthropy at JSU. Through various means, the JSU Annual Fund solicits gifts annually from alumni, friends, corporations, foundations and government entities to support and enhance the various schools and programs at the university. The JSU Annual Fund is part of the JSU Foundation, a 501-c3 corporation, which raises funds for all aspects of Jacksonville State University, including student scholarships, university programs, faculty advancement, new facilities, upgrades to the campus, and much more.

For the first time, The JSU Office of University Development has a dedicated annual fund coordinator. In addition, University Development director, Earl Warren, has established a group of volunteers to serve as the first ever Annual Fund Board of Directors. The Annual Fund Board consists of four committees: Government and Foundation Relations, Corporate Relations, Special Events and Recognition and Millennials and Parents Relations. Each committee is made up of successful, influential individuals who are enthusiastic about supporting fundraising efforts at JSU.

JSU President John M. Beehler thanked the board members for their commitment during the kickoff event.

“We are clearly on the move,” Beehler said, highlighting the exciting things happening across campus that are made possible through donor support, including residence hall and classroom renovations,

a new Finance Lab, the baseball stadium project, new degree programs and more.

“At JSU, we have many great ideas for improving our campus and our programs for the benefit of our students,” said President Beehler. “The only thing that poses a challenge is how to fund these great ideas. Our new Annual Fund represents a way to help fund JSU moving into the future.”

Coach John Grass, JSU’s head football coach, also addressed the crowd and the importance of annual gifts to athletic programs on campus. He said, “We don’t make it without annual gifts. If we don’t have annual gifts, there’s no way we can operate.” He also thanked those who have faithfully supported the university with their annual gifts and assured them that their gifts do make an impact. “We do a great job of managing our budget,” Grass said. “We spend the money wisely to benefit, number one, first and foremost, the student athlete.”


Christie Shelton, dean of the School of Health Professions and Wellness, spoke about the importance of annual giving to the academic programs on campus. She said, “All of us will deal with a nurse at some point in our lives, and we want them to be competent and safe.”

JSU Nursing is celebrating 50 years in 2017, and the program has launched a \$50 at 50 fundraising campaign.

Charles Lewis, vice president of University Advancement, closed the kickoff event by saying, “The Annual Fund at any university is really the foundation of all fundraising. I’m confident we can meet, and eclipse, the \$1.5 million goal.”

With the introduction of the Annual Fund Board, the office also unveiled new

annual giving societies to recognize those who make annual gifts to JSU. Gifts qualify individuals and organizations for membership in one of JSU’s recognition societies depending on the level of the gift. Donors play an important role in preserving JSU traditions and continued success of the university.

Giving is simple, secure and important to the success of the university. Gifts, no matter the size, make a difference. Donors can give tax deductible gifts towards the greatest needs of the university, or designate the dollars to a particular school, project or team. To make a gift online, visit www.jsu.edu/givejsu, or text **GIVEJSU** to 91999. 

GIVING SOCIETIES

Annual giving is so important that JSU has established giving societies to honor loyal annual donors. Each giving society member will be bestowed a lapel pin recognizing their gift society membership as follows:

Century Club: \$100-249

Patrons’ Club: \$250-499

Benefactors’ Club: \$500-900

Magnolia Society: \$1,000-2,499

Mimosa Society: \$2,500-4,999

Founders Society: \$5,000 or more

President’s Society: \$10,000-24,999

1883 Society: \$25,000 or more

Jim Kirksey Honors Parents with Planned Scholarship to JSU

Jim Kirksey has always wanted to help students. He recognizes the difference a university education has made in his own life and now is in a position to give back to future generations.

After graduating from JSU in 1971 with a degree in biology, he went on to a career in medical technology and eventually found himself in pharmaceutical manufacturing with Alabama Cosmeceutical Labs, LLC. He gives credit to his parents and the university for his success in life.

“My parents put me in the right direction and gave me a great philosophy,” Kirsey said. “They advised me to get the best education and to apply it for everyone’s benefit. I am thankful that Jacksonville State University gave me the necessary tools to be able to give back. It is a great feeling to provide an education and change the life and future for students I don’t even know.”


Kirksey has remained active with JSU throughout the years through his fraternity, Pi Kappa Phi, for which he was a charter founding member. Because of this involvement, he understands that the cost of an education at JSU is now much more than when he attended.

“My first year in 1962 cost me \$125 per semester,” he said. “Rising costs could very well cause the loss of important brain power and talents being available to make the world a better place.”

Kirksey worked with University Development to establish the James Macon Kirksey Endowed Scholarship, which will benefit students in perpetuity. The scholarship was designed to be awarded to a junior or senior majoring in the sciences with a 2.25 or better GPA. “A down-to-earth, practical, creative person who has the personality to push through new ideas and stay on the creative edge

of his/her chosen science is the ideal candidate,” Kirksey said. First consideration will be given to members of Pi Kappa Phi, the fraternity that has meant so much to him over the years.

His advice to others about a scholarship gift to JSU is, “Don’t put it off. Go now to University Development and discuss it. They will make it simple and you will be happy you made the move. It is not complicated and will give you a great feeling of accomplishment and pride that you will be helping students succeed.”

Earl Warren, JSU director of University Development, said, “My thanks go out to Jim Kirksey for his generous gift. Because of Jim, students for decades to come will receive a quality higher education at Jacksonville State University.” 

Welcome New Development Officers


University Development welcomes two new officers to its team: Amy G. Schavey and Paige Burton.

Schavey has been named annual fund coordinator. The Jacksonville native grew up on the JSU campus, as her parents – both alumni – taught in the School of Business and Industry. She earned a BS from Auburn University in agricultural business and economics with a concentration in management and marketing. She

has enjoyed a successful marketing career in the agricultural industry with roles ranging from statistics and data management to marketing operations.

Burton is the new major gifts officer for the School of Science and the School of Human Services and Social Sciences. She received a BA in communications from JSU in 2010. The former Gamecock has spent the past four years working in media sales in the Birmingham

market. While at JSU, she was active in Alpha Omicron Pi, the Public Relations Organization (now PRSSA), and was an editor for The Chanticleer.

Welcome aboard, Amy and Paige! 



Lush forests and stunning waterfalls.. rumbling volcanoes and endless coastlines.. Costa Rica is a paradise teeming with exotic plants and incredible animals. Luxuriate at a resort for two nights in Tamarindo Beach, known for its breathtaking beauty and fine sandy beaches. Spend two nights in Monteverde's lush cloud forest. Travel Costa Rica and experience the forest canopy on your choice of a hanging bridges nature walk or an exhilarating zip lining tour. Explore part of the 20,000 acre nature preserve of Cano Negro on a river boat adventure. Relax in the mineral-rich waters of a hot springs with views of Arenal Volcano. Explore San Jose's Plaza de Cultura and view the magnificent National Theatre. You will find a slice of paradise and so much more.

JULY 21-29, 2018

\$ 3,599 single occupancy

\$ 3,049 per person, double occupancy

\$ 3,019 per person, triple occupancy

(Price includes round trip air from Birmingham-Shuttlesworth International Airport, Air Taxes and Fees/Surcharges as well as hotel transfers)

**Not included in price is cancellation waiver and Insurance of \$290 per person
*Round trip Air from Hartsfield Intl Airport also available- deduct \$150pp from above rates
All rates are per person and subject to change based on air inclusive packages from BHM and ATL.

- Climb high into the trees for your choice of a “Hanging Bridges” tour or Zip Lining in the cloud forest.
- Discover the charming town of Zarcero and its whimsical topiary garden.
- Enjoy the breathtaking scenery surrounding Arenal Volcano.
- Spot indigenous wildlife while on a Cano Negro riverboat cruise.
- Learn about Costa Rica's vegetation on a guided walk in the cloud forest.
- Discover the history of coffee in Costa Rica during your visit to a coffee plantation.



Contact Kaci Ogle at the Alumni Office to make your reservation.

Deposit of \$500 per person (plus optional insurance if desired) to secure reservation. Final payment due by March 26th.

Email: kogle@jsu.edu
Phone: 256-782-5405

your trip agenda

DAY 1 SAN JOSE, COSTA RICA - TOUR BEGINS

Explore lush forests and stunning waterfalls..exotic wildlife and endless coastlines. Your tour opens in the colorful capital city of San Jose, the perfect place to relax and soak up the sights as your adventure begins.

- High 77° Low 62°
- Doubletree Cariari Hotel

DAY 2 SAN JOSE - COFFEE PLANTATION - GUANACASTE

Welcome to the Central Valley. We start with a tour of a local coffee plantation highlighting the history and cultivation of this driver of the Costa Rican economy. This afternoon, arrive in breathtaking Guanacaste, known for its fine sandy beaches. Settle in for a relaxing 2-night stay at your resort and take in the mesmerizing ocean views. Breakfast & Dinner.

- Esplendor Tamarindo (Hotel)

DAY 3 GUANACASTE

Fun in the sun is in store. Spend a free day exploring the nearby town and beaches, or simply relax by the pool and take advantage of the resort's lovely amenities. Breakfast.

- Esplendor Tamarindo (Hotel)

DAY 4 GUANACASTE- MONTEVERDE

You won't believe your eyes. It's off to the secluded Monteverde Cloud Forest, where trees grow to heights of 100 feet! Set off on a nature walk through this spectacular ecosystem. Along the way you are sure to encounter many incredible species of flora and fauna. Keep your eyes peeled and you may be lucky enough to spot the elusive quetzal! Breakfast & Dinner.

- El Establo (Hotel)

DAY 5 MONTEVERDE

It's your choice! Explore one of the world's largest butterfly gardens and a dazzling gallery containing more than 100 beautiful hummingbirds. Then, join an expert for a leisurely paced “Hanging Bridges” walking tour to gain a different perspective of the cloud forest's lush ecosystem. Or you may take an exhilarating ride on one of the longest canopy zip-line tours in Costa Rica. This evening, take part in an expert-led discussion about the migratory birds that flock to Costa Rica. Breakfast & Dinner.

- El Establo (Hotel)

DAY 6 MONTEVERDE - LAKE ARENAL CRUISE - ARENAL

Uncover the importance of conservation in Costa Rica during a visit to a tree nursery. Learn about indigenous trees and Monteverde's reforestation efforts. Cross through the beautiful mountainous landscapes to Arenal, where spectacular views of the famous volcano await. Enjoy a delightful cruise on Lake Arenal, the largest and most important lake in Costa Rica. Later, check in for another 2-night stay at a lodge overlooking the majestic Arenal Volcano. Breakfast & Dinner.

- Arenal Springs Resort (Hotel)

DAY 7 ARENAL - CANO NEGRO - ARENAL

What's next? Embark on a Cano Negro guided riverboat trip in a panga (covered canoe). These 20,000 acres are home to the largest viewable collection of indigenous wildlife in all of Costa Rica. Go in search of crocodiles, river otters, sloths, river turtles, exotic birds and rare butterflies. Later, we return to Arenal for the chance to relax during an optional spa visit. Breakfast .

- Arenal Springs Resort (Hotel)

DAY 8 ARENAL - ZARCERO - SAN JOSE

Today we get a little whimsical as we journey to the charming town of Zarcero to explore its fanciful topiary garden. Continue to San Jose to see the treasures of the city on a panoramic tour. We will see the bustling Plaza de Cultura and the National Theatre, a magnificent building of post-Baroque splendor. This evening, it's time to say farewell to paradise during a wonderful dinner with your fellow travelers. Breakfast & Dinner.

- Doubletree Cariari Hotel

DAY 9 SAN JOSE - TOUR ENDS

Today you depart for home with fabulous memories of your Costa Rican adventure. Breakfast



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PARENTS: If this issue is addressed to a son or daughter who no longer lives at home, please send the correct address to alumni@jsu.edu. Thank you.

