

A Message from the President



Dear Alumni and Friends,

At the Homecoming game, Jim Epik and I enjoyed a chat in which he expressed a conviction that many alumni want to know more about how to get involved in chapter building and other important work. Jim reinforced what I already knew: that alumni are enthusiastic and willing; they just need some specific ideas.

Jim (Class of 1983, with a BS in law enforcement; '87, with a master's in public administration with a concentration in criminal justice) is the founding president of our Washington DC alumni chapter. He joined efforts with Gordon Sumner (Class of '75, music major), LTC Mike Lentz (Class of '83, computer science) and others to organize the robust DC chapter. Thanks to Jim's remarks that day, we have followed through with an article on page 4 that is full of specific ideas our alumni can use.

Alan Grady of the Class of 1982 credits JSU's Dr. Glen Browder for sparking his life-long interest in southern political history and classmates Rick Bragg (formerly of the New York Times) and Stacey McCain (Washington Times) for his interest in writing.

Grady went on to write his master's thesis on John Patterson, the former Alabama attorney general. And, most recently, he wrote a book, *When Good Men Do Nothing: The Assassination of Albert Patterson*. You'll find the story on page 2.

How is the nationwide nursing shortage affecting our College of Nursing? Student staff writer Kelly Milam found that nursing applications are up as students enter this highly competitive field. Dean Martha Lavendar says the shortage also challenges the University in the area of faculty recruitment. Kelly's story is on page 10.

Alma Ingram Clinkscales, age 98, has fond memories of the State Normal School, from which she earned her teaching certificate in 1928. Staff writer Victoria Oxley paid a visit to Mrs. Clinkscales home recently and captured thoughts for the interview on page 15.

Many other stories await you, and I hope you will enjoy this issue of your magazine.

Sincerely,

William A. Meehan, President

EDITOR: Kaci Beatty

COPY: Al Harris
Kelly Milam
Victoria Oxley

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Stacy Wood

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ON THE COVER



JSU's Child Development Center at McClellan is now open for business. Kristi Triplett gives an overview of the state-of-the-art facility.



Visit our web site at www.jsu.edu/alumni
E-mail address: alumni@jsucc.jsu.edu

in memory of



Reprinted with permission from *The Jacksonville News*

Sixty-five years of Mrs. Clifford Sharpe Coffee's 102 years were spent with either pen in hand or seated in front of a typewriter.

Her stories were published by *The*

Jacksonville News and the News Bureau of Jacksonville State University.

Mrs. Coffee died peacefully on Aug. 23. Her services were August 26 - her 103rd birthday - at First United Methodist Church.

At the age of 96, she was still driving herself to First United Methodist Church, social events and the beauty parlor in her 1970 Chevrolet, along with cooking and seeing to her household chores.

Mrs. Coffee met her late husband, Raymond "Red" King Coffee while teaching piano in her hometown of Hartselle. He died 39 years ago.

It was her devotion to him that led the Athens College graduate from a career as a piano teacher into his world of newspapers.

In 1937, they bought *The Jacksonville News* for \$150.

As her husband busied himself with advertising, she did much of the typesetting, wrote most of the articles, editorials and created her column, "By the Grapevine," which she continued to write for many years, even after at least three retirements. She also taught piano lessons to local children.

"She was very energetic," Consolidated Publishing Co., president Phil Sanguinetti said, "She had to be."

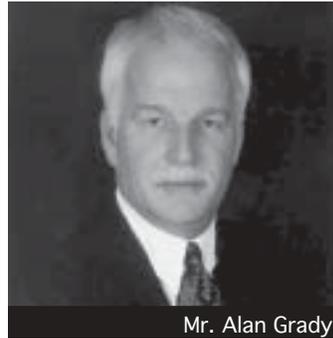
He remembers her as hard working and devoted to her church.

Mrs. Coffee walked several miles a day until she was at least 90. After that she walked at least one mile a day. She was an avid reader and an avid fan of the Atlanta Braves. At night, she sang herself to sleep, reciting aloud the many hymns she had memorized throughout her life.

Survivors include a daughter, Marion Currier of Jacksonville; a sister, Mrs. John Harrison of Miami; two grandchildren, Tyler Currier and his wife Sharon of Jacksonville and Constance Harrington and her husband Jim of Staunton, Va.; and three great-grandchildren, Amy Nicole, Todd and Kate.

"When Good Men Do Nothing" The Assassination of Albert Patterson

by Alan Renfroe, '88



Mr. Alan Grady

Alan E. Grady applied for admission to Jacksonville State University almost at the last minute in the summer of 1975. The only dorm available at that late date was Albert Patterson Hall, which had no air-conditioning and was not nearly as nice as it is today. "At that time, I had no idea who Albert Patterson was," admits Grady.

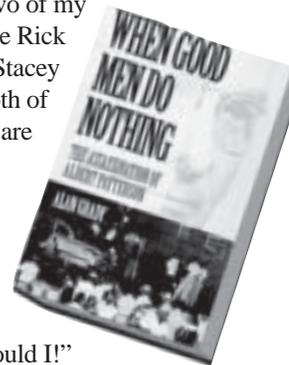
These days, Alan Grady is an authority on the life of Albert Patterson. Patterson, (who graduated from Jacksonville State Normal School in 1921), is the subject of Alan Grady's new book, *When Good Men Do Nothing: The Assassination of Albert Patterson*. The book documents the murder of the former state senator in 1954, as he ran for state attorney general, pledging to clean up Phenix City, Alabama as his primary campaign promise.

At that time, Phenix City was known as "sin city" for its reputation of prostitution, gambling, bootlegging and political corruption. With millions of illegal dollars flowing through the city, the question surrounding Patterson's murder was not why, but rather who.

Grady's book is the result of over a decade of research. "The roots of this book go back to 1991, when I wrote my Master's Thesis on John Patterson's years as Alabama attorney general," recalls Grady. A section of his

paper was the basic story about John's father, Albert and his assassination. Through the private papers of John Patterson, material from the Office of Alabama Attorney General, and more than 40 interviews with survivors and eyewitnesses, the research has been assembled into a gripping, controversial account of the crime. Jacksonville State University's Dr. Harvey H. Jackson says, "The research is impressive and well-organized. Mr. Grady has a sense of the dramatic and the story a real page turner."

While at JSU, Grady worked as a DJ and news director for campus radio station, WLJS. "Two of my cohorts were Rick Bragg and Stacey McCain, both of whom now are prominent writers," he says. "I figured if they could write for a living, so could I!"



Alan Grady is a 1982 graduate from Jacksonville State University with a B.S. in Education/Political Science and has his Master's from the University of Alabama in Huntsville. Grady is a contractor for NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville and is an avid state and local historian. He is married to Gloria Sosa Grady, also a 1982 JSU grad, and they have a 17-year-old daughter and a 12-year-old son.

When Good Men Do Nothing: The Assassination of Albert Patterson is published by The University of Alabama Press and copies may be ordered at www.uapress.ua.edu.

Medders is a "Star"



Robbie Medders, a 1974 graduate of Jacksonville State University and associate director of the JSU Small Business Development Center, has been named the Association of Small Business Development Centers' 2003 Alabama State Star.

Robbie got her start at the SBDC in 1982 and quickly demonstrated an uncommon talent and drive for helping small business owners overcome obstacles to success. During her JSU career she again became a student, and in '94 completed her MBA at JSU.

Today Robbie also directs the SBDC Government Procurement Technical Assistance Program, which helps businesses gain government contracts.

The Small Business Development Center is a program of the Jacksonville State University College of Commerce and Business Administration. The SBDC operates as a division of the Center for Economic Development (CED).

The Association of Small Business Development Centers (ASBDC) recognizes an outstanding SBDC employee from each state at their annual conference in San Diego, CA. These "State Stars" are all described as "commendable per-

formers" who have made significant contributions to their state programs and have demonstrated a strong commitment to small businesses.

"It was an honor to even be nominated," Robbie said. "It was very special to me to have been selected."

Ninety percent of Alabama companies are considered small businesses, and 75 percent of all job growth comes from small businesses.

Robbie went on to say that one of her greatest sources of

satisfaction is helping small business owners who, in turn, improve the economic climate in Alabama. "Our success is the success of the people we help," she said.

Alabama SBDC State Director Bill Campbell, who nominated Robbie as the 2003 Alabama State Star, said, "Robbie Medders is a great individual with the ability to make things happen. She is positive, and has been with us since day one of the JSU SBDC."

Carolyn Minerich, president of Carmin Industries in Jack-

sonville and Alabama's Small Business Person of the Year for 2002, credits JSU's SBDC for helping her begin her business. She said Robbie Medders and others at the SBDC helped make innovative ideas become a reality.

SBDC offers assistance in the following areas: Business startup, licensing, business structure, recordkeeping, taxes, insurance, business plans, cash flow, financial statements, and government procurement services.

For more information about SBDC call **256-782-5271**.

David F. Hale Receives Life Sciences Legend Award

CancerVax Corporation President and CEO David F. Hale (Class of '70) was honored in June, 2003 with the Life Sciences Legend Award at the third annual BioFUSION Life Science Achievement and Innovation Awards ceremony.

The ceremony, which is sponsored by *The T Sector* and BIOCOM/San Diego, recognizes innovators and leaders who have contributed significantly to the growth and success of the San Diego life science industry.

"Our judges selected David Hale for the Life Sciences Legend Award because of his lifelong commitment to the San Diego life science community," said Katherine Harrington, publisher of *The T Sector*, a magazine, Web site, email newsletter and events company focused on San Diego's high-tech and biotech industries. "For more than 20 years David has provided leadership and inspiration to the companies, industry organizations and individuals in our thriving local biotech industry."

In addition to his position as President, CEO and Board member of CancerVax Corporation, Mr. Hale currently serves on the board of directors for biotechnology companies Santarus, Inc., Metabasis Therapeutics, Inc., Xcel Pharmaceuticals, Inc., and SkinMedica, Inc. He is also Chairman of the board of directors for LMA North America, Inc. and BIOCOM/San Diego (formerly the Biomedical Industry Council), of which he was a founder.

An experienced biotech executive, Mr. Hale previously served as President of Hybritech, Inc., San Diego's first biotechnology company, which was acquired by Eli Lilly & Co. He was also previously Chairman, President, and CEO of Gensia, Inc. (now Sicor, Inc.), a co-founder and Chairman of Viagene, Inc., and President and CEO of Women First HealthCare, Inc.

Mr. Hale is a founder of the UCSD CONNECT Program in Technology and Entrepreneurship. Mr. Hale received his B.A. in biology and chemistry from Jacksonville State University.

CancerVax Corporation is a privately held biotechnology company focused on the research, development and commercialization of biological products for the treatment and control of cancer.



Mr. David F. Hale

Staying Involved: An Alumni Checklist

Alumni who stay involved in JSU after graduation serve as an inexhaustible pool of wise counselors and experienced “ambassadors” who are eager to help others.

We need alumni to step forward and take the initiative to build chapters. The Alumni Office can show you how – all you need to do is let us know you are willing to help. JSU also needs a strong base of alumni interested in student recruitment.

Alumni are needed to help JSU maintain a presence in local communities, where they can engage in specific activities – as individuals or as a team in local chapters — that can assist the transition of graduating high school seniors to JSU.

To find out your nearest chapter, its leaders, and the latest news, go to your alumni web site at <http://www.jsu.edu/alumni> or call **256-782-5404**. If you are interested in starting a chapter in a geographic or interest area, where one does not exist, please contact us for guidelines and support.

Other Specific Ways Alumni Can Help:

- ✓ Talk to prospective or recent high school graduates through career networking and career counseling opportunities.
- ✓ Volunteer to represent your company at JSU’s Career Day events and encourage your company to hire qualified JSU graduates. To find out more, call JSU’s office of Career Placement Services at **256-782-5482**. Also, contact the office of your major discipline to find out whether they will be holding separate career fair events for their students, as done by the Department of Sociology and Social Work and the Department of Criminal Justice.
- ✓ Become a member of the JSU Alumni Association and recruit others to become members.
- ✓ Form your own network of JSU alumni friends and stay in touch.
- ✓ Help raise money for chapter scholarships.
- ✓ Host events that bring alumni together and promote the continued relationships between the university and its alumni and friends.
- ✓ Give testimonials to individuals or groups of high school students in specific geographic areas or fields of study.
- ✓ Keep your personal information in our alumni database up-to-date so that information may be passed along to you regarding specific events or news about JSU.
- ✓ Support JSU’s affinity programs – which means buying a JSU car tag and applying for a JSU credit card.
- ✓ Provide products or services for silent auction items to raise scholarship funds at alumni events.
- ✓ Participate in alumni events such as dinners, golf tournaments, athletic events, on-campus events such as Homecoming, and other gatherings.
- ✓ Act as an informal “ambassador” of Jacksonville State University among your friends and professional contacts. “Talk up” JSU every chance you get.
- ✓ Promote JSU’s continuing education program. For more information, call the Office of Continuing Education at **256-782-5918**.
- ✓ Visit campus whenever possible.
- ✓ Send news, photos and story ideas via e-mail or regular mail to the Alumni Office for inclusion in the Gem of the Hills.

The Alumni Office can assist anyone who would like to volunteer time or resources. Please contact the Alumni Office at **256-782-5405** and let us know your particular interests so we can help.

Help us
GROW!

If you know of someone needing information about JSU, please visit our web site at www.jsu.edu/alumni and fill out the “Get Involved” form.



Get
Involved
and help us
GROW.

Bennett Named Chairman of the Board of Trustees

Jim Bennett (Class of ‘62) of Homewood recently succeeded Pete Mathews as chairman of the JSU Board of Trustees.

Mathews, who stepped down as chairman, served on the board for 37 years and was a member of the institution’s founding board created in 1966.

As a fifteen-year legislative veteran and two-term Secretary of State, Bennett joined the Riley Administration as commissioner in the Department of Labor and chairman of the Governor’s Commission on Constitutional Reform. Bennett’s responsibilities included overseeing the enforcement of labor legislation and promotion of peaceful settlement of labor disputes at the Department of Labor.



In 1962, Bennett received his Bachelor of Science degree in biology from Jacksonville State University. He also obtained a Master of Arts degree in higher education administration from the University of Alabama in 1980.

Bennett is married to the former Luan Atkins of Birmingham and has two grown children, one step-child and three grandchildren. He is a member of Trinity United Methodist Church in Homewood.

Chapter News

Welcome aboard the following new or "renewed" chapters to the JSU National Alumni Association:

The **Greater Washington D. C. Area Chapter**, President **Jim Epik '83/'87**

The **Northwest Georgia Area Chapter**, President **Brad Butler '95**

The **Talladega County Chapter**, President **Beth French '93**

scheduled this spring. Watch your mail/email for survey results and information on their inaugural event in 2004.

What are the chapters in your area up to?

Calhoun County, led by **Ellen Cole '91/'93** will be off and running in 2004 with business after hours socials in Jacksonville and Oxford/Anniston as well as some special events.

The **Atlanta Area Chapter**, led by **Shane McGriff '91** is

May. Watch your mail for more information.

The **ROTC Alumni Chapter**, led by **Bruce Pickett '68** has been working hard over the past year to secure thousands in scholarships. Way to go gentleman and ladies! Our students appreciate your efforts!

The **Etowah County Chapter**, led by **Grover Kitchens '87/89** was revitalized last fall with a chapter pre-game

as a year to get the chapter on a roll. Future activities may include professional sports outings as well as dinner and family activities.

The **Greater Birmingham Area Chapter**, led by **Wayne Cummings '69** has had an incredible year with two very successful events in the last six months. They are looking for continued support this spring with possible dinners/sporting events/business after hours/and theater events.

The **Black Alumni Chapter** Annual Banquet/Networking Reception is planned for **Saturday, February 28, 2004** on the 11th floor of the Houston Cole Library. The event is scheduled to begin with a reception at 5:30 pm, followed by an annual meeting with the banquet beginning at 7pm. Please contact the office of Multicultural Services to make your reservations at **256-782-5275** or by email at dzeigler@jsucc.jsu.edu.



Alumni from the Greater Washington D.C. area join Jacksonville State University cadets at the chapter's inaugural event at Ft. Belvoir, VA.

The **Washington D.C. Area Chapter** held its inaugural event on Oct. 3, 2003 at Ft. Belvoir, VA and raised over \$700 in scholarship funds which were matched by the alumni association to bring a grand total of \$1440. Way to go!!! Watch your mail/email for information on the next event this spring.

The **NW Georgia Area** is looking forward to 2004 and having a great start to reunite all the alumni in the area. Stay tuned for upcoming sporting events including a Lookouts game in Chattanooga and a pre-game event in the fall when JSU takes on UTC

The **Talladega County Chapter** has sent out surveys to determine what events will be

trying to secure a date with award winning author Rick Bragg for speaking event this spring and the annual golf tournament will be held again in late spring.

The **Greater Rome Area Chapter**, led by **Carla Patterson '89/99** has already started off the new year right with an alumni networking/prospective student reception on Jan. 13th at the Greater Rome Convention and Visitors Center. Stay tuned for another Rome Braves Outing this spring.

The **Hunsville Area Chapter**, led by **Heather Johnson '97** will try not to get rained out this year and host the Show Choir for an evening of dinner and entertainment in

picnic at the alumni house. The event was well attended and we look for great things this spring.

The **Central Tennessee Chapter**, led by **Maria Amado '94** is looking at 2004

If you have any questions about Alumni Chapters in your area, visit the JSU alumni website at www.jsu.edu/alumni or call the office at 800-231-5291 ext. 5404.

ATTENTION

all A Cappella

Choir

Alumni:

Reunion/concert set for April 3rd, 2004. If you have not received information in the mail about the event, please contact the alumni office at alumni@jsucc.jsu.edu or by phone at 800.231.5291, ext. 5404.



Dr. McDade Presents Research at Oxford University



Jacksonville State University's Dr. Claudia McDade, director of Learning Services and professor of psychology, recently went to England to take part in a session of the Oxford University Round Table, where she presented a paper on philanthropy.

The Round Table's purpose is to promote human advancement and understanding through the improvement of education. Oxford is the oldest English-speaking university in the world and lays claim to eight centuries of continuous existence.

The following was excerpted from Dr. McDade's discussion of her trip:

QUESTION: What did you gain from your Oxford experience that will help you at JSU?

MCDADE: I have told my students about the differences in institutions like Oxford versus American schools like JSU. And I will be doing a luncheon speech at a state conference in November, where I will discuss the status of developmental education in England. I also brought back better presentation skills.

QUESTION: Your research paper was titled, "Philanthropy and the Human Right to Health: In the Business of Enhancing Life." What were your main points?

MCDADE: That the most basic of all human rights is the right to health. If you are not healthy you can't live up to your potential — you can't get educated, you can't work, you can't do anything. And if we look at the AIDS pandemic in Africa as one of the most glaring of failures of Western Society, we can see that the entire African continent is in dire need of medical education and care. In the next six to eight years 80% of the people who live in Africa will be dead from

AIDS. And the United States is only now beginning to do something about it. The European Union has already assisted with more money than we were even talking about giving, and it has only made a dent. Of the money that the U.S. has been talking about giving, through President Bush's plan, only 10% is earmarked for education and prevention — the rest is for treatment. If we put all the money into treatment, then all we're doing is continuing the lives of people who are going to die anyway, verses getting people there to understand the causes.

QUESTION: What were some of the conclusions you reached in your research on philanthropy?

MCDADE: The foundations in our country are becoming more interested in their bottom line in terms of finding ways they can affect their parent company positively. We're in the middle of a major change in the way corporate philanthropy is handled, and I think — especially with leading drug companies and computer companies — that's going to make a major difference in global health care.



Special Thanks

Charlie Waldrep '71, Head Football Coach Jack Crowe (center) and Kaci Beatty, Director of Alumni Affairs enjoy a reception hosted by Mr. Waldrep and the law firm of Emond, Vines, Gorham & Waldrep, P.C. in Kansas this past September. Mr. Waldrep and the firm also helped to co-host the Pre-game festivities in Birmingham when JSU played (and defeated) Samford in November. Thank you for giving back to JSU!

**Now
Accepting
Nominations!**

**The Alumni
Affairs Office is
now accepting
nominations for
alumni of the
Year Awards for
2004. Contact
the alumni office
to nominate
someone.**

GOING, going, gone...



JSU is now the only University in the region to offer an auctioneering school to help students become licensed auctioneer apprentices.

JSU's Auctioneer School will open its first session beginning January 30, 2004, continuing through February 8. The school will consist of 10 days of training, starting on a Friday night and ending on the following Sunday with a graduation ceremony.

Students will conduct a live auction and attend 85 hours of training. Candidates must successfully complete a practical and written examination in order to graduate.

It all began when JSU received inquiries and a list of needs from seasoned auctioneers who were looking for continuing education opportunities. In response, JSU created an advisory council consisting of practicing auctioneers. The council established a curriculum, which JSU submitted to the State Board of Auctioneers for approval. JSU then established the school through the Office of Continuing Education.

Continuing Education Director Ann Wells says, "JSU is committed to the view that learning is a lifelong process. We are pleased this process now includes the auctioneering school, which is rich in tradition and will provide quality education for the profession. The school will promote the highest ethical standards."

Wells says auctioneering is a fast-growing industry.

"Auctioneers are highly respected for their professionalism and expertise in their chosen field. Many auctioneers specialize in such areas as antiques and collectibles, automobiles, business liquidations, charity auctions, machinery and equipment, livestock, real estate, and more."

Wells adds that one of the school's goals is to see the auctioneering industry evolve to higher levels of expertise using qualified and seasoned auctioneering professionals to deliver the training.

She says instructors include practicing auctioneers. There will also be teachers from the JSU music department to assist in teaching voice and breathing techniques. Experts from JSU's Small Business Development Center will also assist.

Rita Smith, coordinator of the Auctioneering School, says, "Auctioneering is another employment option and a way to improve quality of life."

Wells says, "The Auctioneering School will bring people onto campus who would not ordinarily come to JSU."

She added, "Auctioneers are not born — they are made. They will learn to chant even if they think they can't."

The cost will be \$575 and the Auctioneer School will serve surrounding states.

For more information call **256-782-5022** or **1-800-634-7199**.



CALENDAR *of Events*

January 13

Rome Area Alumni Chapter to host alumni networking/prospective student recruiting reception at 6 pm at the Rome Greater Convention and Visitors Center

January 31

Former Women's Basketball players, coaches and support staff reunion from 2-4 pm on the 11th floor of the library

February 2

JSU Scholarship application deadline

February 14

On the Brink

February 21

Preview Day at JSU

February 21

Northeast Regional Basketball Tournament

February 26

Higher Education Day in Montgomery

February 28

Black Alumni Chapter Banquet

March 4-6

OVC Basketball Tournament in Nashville

March 13

Preview Day

March 22-26

Spring Break/JSU Campus Closed

April 1

Student Athlete Senior Banquet at Leone Cole Auditorium

April 3

A Cappella Choir Alumni Concert

May 4

May term/marathon classes begin



Go Gamecocks!

For the latest information on upcoming events, visit www.jsu.edu/alumni



New Faces and Promotions



Mr. Jarrod Dudley



Mr. Clint Carlson



Ms. Karen Davis



Ms. Melanie Delap



Dr. Marvin Jenkins



Mr. David Dagostino



Mr. Terry Schneider



Mr. Kevin Hoult



Dr. Cynthia Harper

Mr. Jarrod Dudley has been named JSU's new cross country coach.

Mr. Clint Carlson has been named vice president of administrative and business affairs.

Ms. Karen Davis of Jacksonville is the new director of human resources.

Ms. Melanie Delap, CPA, of Jacksonville, is the new director of institutional development.

Dr. Marvin Jenkins, a Jacksonville State University graduate faculty member and associate professor of counselor education, has been named acting associate vice president for student affairs. Dr. Jenkins assumes the role following the retirement of Dr. Alice Cusimano.

Mr. David Dagostino has been named Head Coach for Women's Basketball.

Mr. Terry Schneider has been named Jacksonville State University's new director of public safety.

Dr. Cynthia Harper '71/74 of Anniston, has been named acting dean of the College of Education and Professional Studies.

Mr. Kevin Hoult '97/99 has been named director of University Housing.

Alan Renfroe Named Assistant Director of Alumni Affairs

Mr. Alan Renfroe '88, JSU's new Assistant Director of Alumni Affairs is excited and enthusiastic about his new position. "It is such a pleasure to be able to serve my alma mater in this capacity," says Renfroe. "I've always hoped my career would bring me back to Jacksonville State University."



Mr. Alan Renfroe

Mr. Renfroe had previously served as Assistant Director of Annual Giving for the Alabama Institute for Deaf and Blind, and commuted from Jacksonville to Talladega for more than four years. "I'm grateful for the opportunity to work in the alumni department and assist with JSU's advancement efforts. I see so much potential and I can think of nothing better than working with my fellow JSU alumni. It's great to be so close to home, and it will give me the opportunity to pursue my Master's degree." Except for a six-month period, Renfroe has been a resident of Jacksonville for the past 20 years. He and his wife, Elizabeth, who also attended JSU, have a 7-year old son who attends Kitty Stone Elementary and a 4-year old girl who attends JSU's Preschool program at Mason Hall. Renfroe serves on the board of the Jacksonville First United Methodist Church and is president of his New Beginnings class. He and his best friend and fellow JSU alumnus, Tracey Tucker, play and perform acoustic music on the weekends. Tracey and Allen, as they are called, have been playing music together since the days when they were roommates at JSU.

Dr. Cusimano Retires



Dr. Alice Cusimano

Dr. Alice Cusimano recently retired from JSU after nearly 35 years of service.

A JSU alumni, Dr. Cusimano received her B.S. of Secondary Education in Biology in 1970 and her Master of Education in 1972. She then went on to earn a Doctor of Education at the University of Alabama in 1981.

She began her teaching career in the Anniston City school system, became a JSU Career Counselor and eventually began teaching biology courses for JSU.

Later on she left her teaching position at JSU to become a Graduate Administrative assistant for the University of Alabama, but she continued to counsel students at JSU.

After leaving her position as a Career Counselor at JSU, Dr. Cusimano became the Director of the Introduction to the University Experience and Director of Student Development for the University of Montevallo. She then decided to return to JSU as the Director of Student Development. In 1996, she became the Associate Vice President for Student Affairs and Affirmative Action Designate at JSU. She served in this position until her retirement in July of 2003.

For the latest campus news and events, visit www.jsu.edu



a passion for acting

by Victoria Oxley

Just a few of the highlights of Dr. Steven J. Whitton's 30 years at Jacksonville State University include:

- conducting workshops at the Alabama Shakespeare Festival's Theatre In the Mind,
- traveling statewide as a scholar advocating the "Read Alabama" program,

- co-authoring the play "The Late Mr. Shakespeare," and
- writing over 150 book reviews.

And Dr. Whitton did all that while serving as a popular but demanding professor of English.

"It started out 25 years ago when a student asked me if I was going to audition for a JSU drama production. I didn't

◀ *Acting has become a passion for Dr. Steve Whitton. He has performed in nearly 50 productions since 1977, most recently in the JSU production of "Proof."*

Photo by Jan Rhodes.

have any experience, but I auditioned anyway. I was cast and I really enjoyed myself. Performing has ended up helping my teaching as well. Through the years, I taught a number of dramatic literature courses. I have been cast in some of the plays I've taught. That's really helped me with my class work. It gives me a fresh perspective," says Dr. Whitton.

When preparing for an upcoming role, Dr. Whitton becomes a student and does a little research of his own.

"I tend to try to put out of my head any movie or play version that I have seen. I try to research aspects of the character that I know nothing about. Beyond that, I really believe that if the playwright has done his work properly then it will all be there in the words. I rely on how other people react in rehearsal and on clues in the script."

Dr. Whitton also helped establish JSU's annual Holocaust Education project, and he participates in the JSU Writer's Bowl. He served as chair of the JSU Chapter of the Higher Education Partnership Council and now chairs the English Department Honors Composition Literature Committee. He organized the English Department Lecture Series.

Dr. Whitton finds time to help the community by serving on the Board of Visitors of the Calhoun County Community Foundation, and he has been a tutor with the Literacy Volunteers of America.

Dr. Whitton was recognized for his achievements as recipient of the Cleo and Carla Thomas Award for Outstanding Community Education and Service in 2001 and the Anna C. Grace Professorship of English in 1994.

No matter how busy he may be, Dr. Whitton always has time for his students. He donates his time and theater skills to student productions. He recently starred in "How I Learned to Drive" and "Visiting Mr. Green," both directed by JSU students.

"One of the real treats for me is being directed by students because roles change. I am not their professor at that moment; I am one of their actors. In one play "Proof", I worked with three wonderful students and a director, JSU drama faculty's Susan McCain, who kept pushing me in the right direction. Those are good times to me."

Dr. Whitton says he does not intend to slow down any time soon and is eager for new challenges.

"I have played every type of role in Neil Simon's plays. I'd like to try something like Death of a Salesman just to see if I could do it. Whether it's theater, competing athletically or excelling academically, just go for it. Have great fun because you can't have that time back. It's amazing what you can find time for when you're enjoying yourself."



Nursing Shortage

by Kelly Milam

A nursing shortage, which began in the mid-1990s in California, has migrated eastward, causing Alabama to experience a serious nursing shortage as well. Jacksonville State University's Dr. Martha Lavender, dean of the College of Nursing and Health Sciences, says the shortage has an impact on JSU, as nursing majors find themselves in demand.

Last year, some of the state's hospitals had many unfilled nursing positions.

When asked about the reason for the nursing shortage, Dr. Lavender replied, "One is that there has truly been a demographic shift in the United States. If you look at the baby boomer population, you'll find that that group is much larger than the Generation X and Generation Y groups that are coming up behind them; therefore, we actually have more people that are over forty in the nursing profession than we do that are under forty."

"Also, nursing is predominately a female profession; about ninety-four to ninety-five percent of registered nurses are female. For a young woman today, there are so many educational opportunities. Women choose from medicine, to being an attorney, to being an engineer. They choose fields that typically, in the past, have not been female career paths, but now they are. That has really made a difference."

"The third factor that has made a difference is salary. The starting salaries for registered nurses are not what they tend to be in other fields. Starting salaries for registered nurses in northeast Alabama range from \$26,000 to \$32,000 a year."

The College of Nursing and Health Sciences admits students based on the school's faculty and clinical resources.

Lavender said, "I negotiate with all of the area nursing schools for clinical placement of students. Space is highly competitive. Since nursing is an applied science, quality clinical learning experiences are crucial to a successful transition into practice. The availability of clinical space and the ability to recruit qualified faculty is a challenge. From the beginning of enrollment into the upper division of nursing, our students go to clinicals in their courses. They do a wonderful job."

Due to the nursing shortage, JSU's College of Nursing and Health Sciences has received more applicants than usual. In fact, its admission rate rose 21 percent this year.

Media have drawn attention to the fact that there is a need for additional people to enter the nursing workforce. Another reason for the increase in the number of applicants is that the Gallup poll that was released in February 2003 shows that nursing is ranked number one as the most trusted profession.

The nursing shortage phenomenon is predicted to be present until the year 2030, which means that nursing is an excellent career option for everyone.

"I anticipate that our graduates will continue to be heavily recruited. Only about 10.4 percent of all nurses in America have a master's or doctoral degree. About forty-three percent of all nurses have a baccalaureate or higher degree, which puts them in a tremendously competitive job market," said Lavender.

When asked if there is a specific type of nursing that is in higher demand, she replied, "Many people believe that nurses specialize at the baccalaureate level. They don't; a graduate of our BSN program is prepared to work in any specialty area as an entry-level registered nurse. What happens is that they enter a baccalaureate program, which is an entry-level program, and they come out as a registered nurse



generalist. They have been exposed to all of the specialties. Specialization occurs at the master's level. JSU has faculty that represent all of the specialty practices."

Lavender added, "An important factor that the public needs to be aware of is that the shortage of nursing faculty is even more severe than the workforce shortage. That is a factor for consideration as we address the workforce problem. A master's degree is the minimum degree required for teaching in a university. The pool of potential faculty is tremendously small at the local and national levels. In fact, the HRSA (Health Resources Services Administration) has recently released a call for a program that provides

a fast-track option for nurses to receive advanced degrees so that they can teach. The faculty shortage is very serious."

"The average age of a full-time professor in a university in this country is fifty-five. The average age of a faculty member any rank is fifty-one. We have to replace faculty (as they retire). Many folks hear about the nursing shortage and think, 'we need to produce more nurses,' but if you don't have appropriately qualified faculty, you can't increase your enrollment in your programs. You hear about when people go into a health care facility and they ring the call button and nobody comes; but as we're trying to address that problem, we do it through education, and we do have an issue with that."

The nursing shortage is real, dynamic, and dangerous. Recent studies have validated the positive impact of baccalaureate prepared nurses in the health care setting.

Lavender said, "At JSU, we will continue to strive for high quality, well-prepared nursing graduates to serve as the next generation of caregivers and nursing leaders."

Jacksonville State's Master of Science in Nursing Degree

JSU provides you the opportunity to obtain a Master of Science in Nursing with a major in Community Health Nursing. This degree will prepare you to assume roles in advanced clinical practice, education, management, consultation, and research. These five roles offer abundant opportunities to work within all types of settings: adult health, pediatrics, administration, nurse manager, nurse educator, or pursue national certification as a clinical nurse specialist.

The CNHS offers a flexible schedule and a course of study that allows you to choose your population of interest. You will individualize your advanced practice experiences in settings compatible with your career goals.

Contact the College of Nursing and Health Sciences at 256-782-5428.



OMAR'S BLUES GOT THE



Blues Artist got his start at JSU.

Omar Cunningham, a former member of Jacksonville State University's Gospel Choir, is a fast-rising blues singer who's just released his first album, "Hell at the House," landing in Billboard Magazine's Hot 100.

Billboard says Cunningham is the first black artist whose first blues CD has made its national chart. Billboard also listed Cunningham's CD in its Top 20 Blues category.

Cunningham's first recording of the title song was made in a friend's acoustic-friendly bathroom, and then it was burned to a compact disk and sent unsolicited to blues stations. It became an instant hit among listeners nationwide, and Cunningham soon found himself needing an agent and record producer.

The song is about a man who's fed up with all the hassle he's catching from another woman. Cunningham writes his own lyrics, and quickly points out, "These songs are not about me – they are from stories I've heard or made up."

Other titles include "Paycheck to Paycheck," "Older Love," "Used and Abused" and "What Makes a Man."

"I'm working full time in law enforcement and also still going to JSU to finish my degree, so it's not like my breaking into the entertainment world has to happen or anything, but if I make it as a singer, then that's okay too," he said.

Cunningham, 33, a sergeant with the Ochatsee police force, recently pulled over a trucker from Mississippi who recognized him as a blues artist.

"And I told him, 'You've now got my autograph right there on your ticket.'"

As if his recording success wasn't enough, Cunningham has also become a successful author. He recently published a book, *You Be the Judge* (Trafford, 2002), about his experiences as a cop.

Cunningham said he got his start singing in JSU's Gospel Choir in 1989. He sang at a friend's wedding and met someone who offered to record "Hell in the House."

"We put up towels and sheets in his bathroom, and the recording stuff was in the kitchen, and I sang the whole album in the bathroom at his house. Actually, part of it was in the bathroom, and part of it was in the closet.

"A promoter came to a club where I used to work security, and I gave her a copy of the CD. The next day she called me back and said, "Hey, you've got something here."

Cunningham's label is On Top Records.

After four more courses, Cunningham will graduate from JSU and is planning on law school. His goal: entertainment law.

Performing the Blues may seem ironic for a gospel singer, but Cunningham said the switch was a natural progression.

"Everybody has, at one point in time, had the blues, so if you make it through the blues you've got to be thankful to God that He brought you from one point to another. So, I sing blues but I've got to say that my first love is gospel music and everything that I'm able to do comes from God. In my songs, I'm just telling some of the hardships that I've been through and some hardships that my friends have been through, and I'm thankful to God that I made it."

Cunningham says he writes his best songs by talking into a tape recorder while patrolling at night.

"I have two tape recorders in the car, and I just pick one of them up and sing a melody. I sometimes end up with them on both machines, so I get off the tapes what I need and leave the other."

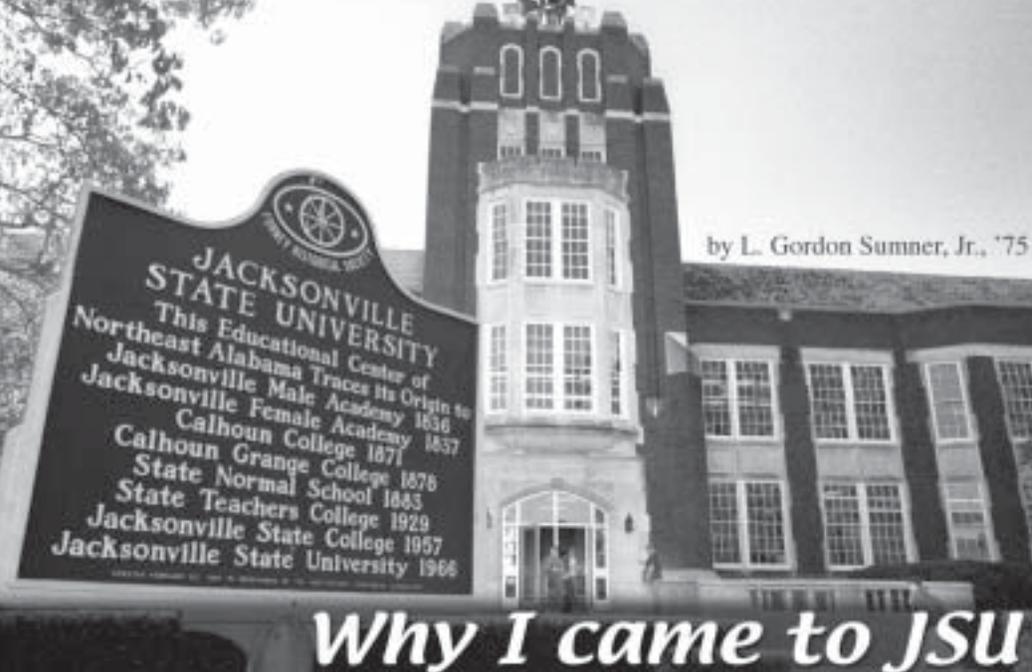
He says his inspiration "comes from living..

"I've seen a lot of things, I've been through a lot of things — this is really just a way for me to mend."

For more information...

Cunningham's CD (as well as bookings for performance appearances) is available by calling 205-444-1199. You can write to Cunningham at cunohm@aol.com.





During Homecoming a year or so ago, I told JSU President Bill Meehan how it was that I decided to attend Jacksonville State University. Bill then asked me to put pen to paper and tell my story: why I came to JSU as an undergraduate in 1971.

Growing up in what was then the very small town of Alabaster, Alabama, I decided my ambition was to continue my studies in music with a focus on piano and education. After visiting many colleges and universities, including attending summer classes at Auburn University, I thought my decision was fairly solid as to my selection regarding a university. My choices were especially driven by the fact I had been offered some degree of scholarship funds from four major universities before visiting JSU.

Then one day my high school band director suggested I visit JSU and see what the University had to offer regarding music and band. So, on a bright, shiny morning I headed off to visit what I'd heard was the "Friendliest Campus In The South."

First, I visited the Admissions Office where I was met by a very friendly lady, whose name unfortunately escapes me. She was extremely kind and helpful as I inquired about various aspects of the University.

As we finished this short but helpful conversation she asked, "Are you busy?"

I replied, "No ma'am, not really."

Next thing I knew I was meeting Dr. Lawrence Miles, dean of admissions. He spent quite a bit of his time explaining in further detail the advantages of attending

JSU. Dr. Miles even provided an 8" x 14" paper outlining my entire college life for the next four years, should I pursue a degree in both music and education.

As we finished our discussion, Dr. Miles asked, "Are you busy?" to which I replied, "No sir, not really." Next thing I knew he was on the phone and I was headed to the science building to meet Dr. Rueben Boozer, dean of Arts and Science. We, too, discussed the pros of attending JSU, and he further convinced me that "JSU is a great institution of higher learning" and how much they, (the people of JSU) would like me to be a part of it!

Well, "this is great," I thought, thinking I was done. However, the tale doesn't end there. Suddenly, Dr. Boozer asked, "Are you busy?" By now I had my reply well rehearsed. "No Sir, not really!" Next thing I knew he was on the phone talking with someone. Then I was off again, this time to Mason Hall to visit with the head of the music department.

Dr. John Finley, head of music, met me at the door of Mason Hall. After a short conversation in his office he toured me around Mason Hall explaining the facilities that the department had to offer in my quest to obtain a music and education degree. After the tour we returned to his office, where he asked, "Are you busy?" (I know by now that you're thinking I'm making this up, but, honestly, I'm not.)

This time, before I could reply, he was already on the phone asking someone if she could come to his office. In a few seconds Ms. Susie Francis, now Dr. Susie Francis Dempsey, one of the piano in-

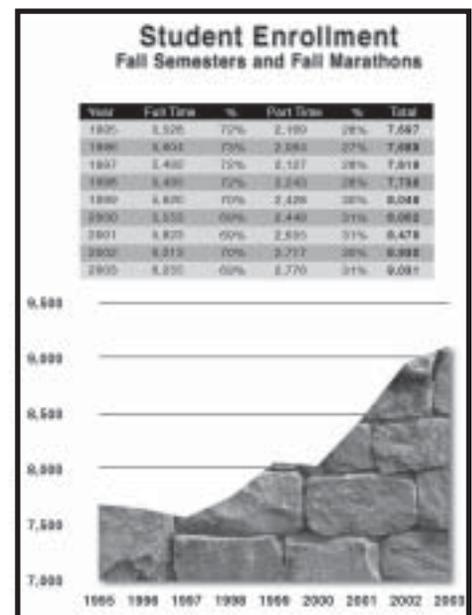
structors arrived and chatted for just a few seconds before we were off again.

Then, before I knew it, we were on the top floor of the Performance Center where they sat themselves by the piano and asked me to play something for them. So, thinking quickly, I sat down and attempted to play Chopin from memory. (That must have been a good laugh!) What was amazing to me, however, wasn't that I was playing something from memory on such short notice. It was that while playing I was not thinking of the music but of the events that day and how surreal it was for me to be playing the piano in the Performance Center, when actually all I really wanted that day was a copy of the JSU catalog!!

Then, to my surprise, as I struck the final chord, Dr. Finley stated that if I would come to JSU I would be admitted to the music department. Susie Francis then stated that she would be my instructor.

I thanked them both, shook hands and departed Mason Hall for the walk back to Bibb Graves and my car. Along my way I continued to think about what had transpired that day. I thought of just how friendly the staff had been to me .

To this day, I believe that attending JSU was the smartest decision I made regarding my college career. Why? Because when I left that day, and then when I left on my last day after graduation, I knew that JSU's slogan was not, nor had ever been, just empty words. Those words were, indeed, fact. Then, as now, JSU is truly the "Friendliest Campus In The South." And I hope that never changes!



Teaching is a PASSION



Every teacher is a special education teacher, according to JSU's Blanche Colley, instructor of special education and advisor to the Council for Exceptional Children.

"In the classroom there is a mixture of students, and as a teacher you have to know what to do when you have a child who has difficulty comprehending or a child with auditory or visual processing or with dyslexia. There are no perfect classrooms," she says.



For more than 25 years Colley has been working to improve educational outcomes for individuals with exceptionalities, students with disabilities, and also gifted individuals.

"When we speak of children with exceptionalities, we mean children who are learning disabled, mentally retarded, autistic, and children identified as having ADHD (Attention Deficit Hyper-Activity Disorder), speech impairments, and multiple handicaps, and also children who have on-going health problems like being diabetic or having cancer. Special education is a whole array of exceptionalities."

"The beauty about what is going on in special education now is that most of the children are in the regular classroom. The regular classroom teacher and the special education teacher are working together as a team trying to meet the needs of those students who have been identified as special education candidates."

"The beauty of both (regular teachers and special education teachers) being in the classroom is that they can work together to meet the needs of children having academic difficulties."

QUESTION: What is the Council for Exceptional Children all about?

COLLEY: We encourage all of our education majors to become members of this international organization, which serves as advocates for children with special needs. We are also advocates for governmental policies. We are also visible in the community. We often work with The Ark of Calhoun County. We are in the process

now of collecting books for children. Just recently, we sponsored an autism workshop on campus. Periodically we sponsor workshops to help children and would like more people to be involved. We want the children to be the best they can possibly be when they leave Jacksonville State University.

QUESTION: How is the Council for Excellence connected to the community?

COLLEY: We volunteer in the schools and volunteer for Special Olympics when they are in the area. We try to make ourselves very visible because most of the students will hopefully become teachers in some of the surrounding schools.

QUESTION: What activities have you planned for this year for the Council?

COLLEY: We held food drives in November and in December. In the midst of these activities we are also planning a book drive to collect books. One of the goals of the Council, especially at the international level, is to encourage reading. Some of the children do not have books in their homes, so our students are collecting books for them. We are involved in activities one would not normally associate with a council for children. Don't be surprised to see us doing a variety of activities here on campus.

For more information about special education or the Council for Exceptional Children, contact Ms. Blanche Colley at 256-782-5183.



Normal School Grad Still Spry

An interview with Mrs. Alma Ingram Clinkscales by Victoria Oxley

A graduate of the Normal School Class of 1928, Alma Ingram Clinkscales of Jacksonville is one of Jacksonville State University's earliest graduates.

At 98 years old, Mrs. Clinkscales remains spry and remembers JSU fondly. We caught up with her recently and inquired about these past 75 years.

Question: Where are you originally from?

Mrs. Clinkscales: I'm from Pell City, St. Clair County. Actually, I am from Easonville. I moved to Pell City after it flooded. The whole town was flooded and they built Lake Logan Martin over it. Everything was gone. I get sad every time I look at the water now because my grandfather's farm is underneath there.

Question: Why did you decide to come to JSU?

Mrs. Clinkscales: It was close to home. I had never been away from home and I didn't want to go too far, even though coming home to Pell City was difficult in the 1920s. I had heard many good things about JSU and a lot of my friends were going there. And I wanted to teach. JSU gave out teaching certificates. Teaching was all I had ever wanted to do. I love children. I thought about teaching all my life. I'm glad I chose it. Teaching

runs in my family, from my granddaughter to her parents to me and all the way up to my great-granddaddy.

Question: How many children do you think you taught over the years?

Mrs. Clinkscales: Oh, I don't know. I started teaching first through sixth grade in a one-room schoolhouse. I taught a lot of children. A lot. Thousands.

Question: Do you know of any students that you taught that went on to attend JSU?

Mrs. Clinkscales: Oh, sure. I know lots. I still hear from some of them. I keep in contact with one boy I taught when he was in first grade but he is 75 years old now.

Question: Do you think you influenced any of them to attend JSU?

Mrs. Clinkscales: Oh, who knows. I don't know. Maybe. On my 98th birthday a lot of my old students called, some sent pictures of themselves now. It was nice.

Question: What type of degree did you earn while attending JSU?

Mrs. Clinkscales: Normal. I went when it was just a normal school. I never earned a degree. I just took classes so I could teach.

Question: What type of career did JSU help you to achieve?

Mrs. Clinkscales: Just teaching. I taught for 44 years. I



Mrs. Clinkscales enjoys quilting in her spare time.

was an elementary school teacher. I taught at St. Clair County for 24 years and then Pell City for twenty more. I retired from Pell City but still substituted. I enjoyed every minute of teaching. I still miss it, even at 98, but I helped teach my three grandchildren too so that helped. I just love to teach. I taught my daughter to read at age three.

Question: Did anyone in your family attend JSU after you?

Mrs. Clinkscales: Yes, my daughter, Dr. Sue Granger, graduated from JSU and got her master's. My granddaughter got her master's there too. I have another granddaughter who is a senior at Auburn. Sue and her husband, Dr. Parker Granger, both taught at JSU, too, but they are retired now.

Question: Did you participate in any JSU activities?

Mrs. Clinkscales: Not really. I tried to just focus on my studies. I wanted to teach and I was kind of a homebody. I'm a little shy.

Question: Do you keep in touch with anyone you went to JSU with?

Mrs. Clinkscales: Oh, honey, they are all gone now. I'm the only one left. I did keep up with a few though.

Question: What is your best memory of Jacksonville State?

Mrs. Clinkscales: Dorm life! I loved living in the dorm. I had never been away from home before, so I liked having my freedom. I loved it! I always enjoyed the surroundings as well. Very pretty.

Question: How has JSU changed since your graduation?

Mrs. Clinkscales: Well, I don't really know. I haven't been there in a long time. I don't get around very much. I just like to go on vacation with my family and knit on my quilt. JSU is still pretty. I moved back here in 1978 and I have lived here for 25 years now. I'm sure it's very different.



Just 4 Kids

When Kristi Triplett '82/'03 decided to attend JSU, she never dreamed how much the University would be a part of her life. Meeting her husband, Jim Triplett' 82 while in school and marrying shortly after graduation, Kristi automatically was thrown into the mix of generations of JSU grads. Jim's grandmother, Madge Grogan Boozer graduated from JSU in 1921 when it was the State Teachers College. Jim's father Ken Triplett also graduated from JSU in 1970. Kristi's family also brought more grads into the Triplett family with her sister Karol Lei Cox Hanson graduating in 1990 and 1995. Lei followed in her sister's footsteps by meeting and marrying her first husband at JSU, Chris Maynard Cox '89/90. Chris was diagnosed with a brain tumor at the age of 32 and passed away.



Mrs. Kristi Triplett '82/03

Not long after graduation, Kristi and Jim moved away from Jacksonville to begin their lives together, not knowing that 15 years later they would be back. While Kristi was attending graduate school at JSU, she learned about the Child Development Director's position. She was encouraged by others because of her background in education and soon landed the job. Kristi says that her strong ties to Jacksonville have only helped her in her current position. Immediately after college, Kristi taught at Kitty Stone Elementary and Sacred Heart. Today, one of her teacher's assistants at the Development Center was a kindergarten student of Kristi's at Kitty Stone. She also taught the aunt of one of the 4 year old students in the program.

The Triplett family resides in Graham, AL. Jim is in municipal government in Carrollton, GA. So each morning, the husband and wife part separate ways to go to work while Kimberly, their oldest daughter, takes herself, sister Kelly and brother Drew to school. It is about an hour drive for Kristi each morning to get to work but she says it is a very rewarding job and she looks forward to seeing the children at the center each day. She gives the following overview of JSU's new state-of-the-art facility.



"All of our lessons are based on research, tried and true — developmentally appropriate practices."

—Kristi Triplett, Director, Child Development Center, Jacksonville State University

QUESTION: What is the purpose and location of the Child Development Center?

TRIPLETT: The JSU Child Development Center is an extension of JSU's learning environment. We are a child care facility that provides quality child care to the surrounding community and gives JSU students an opportunity to participate in practicum experiences offered at our center. We are opened Monday thru Friday 7:00 am till 6:00 pm. We provide services for children ages 6 weeks old through 12 years of age. We are located at 415 Castle Ave. Anniston, at McClellan.

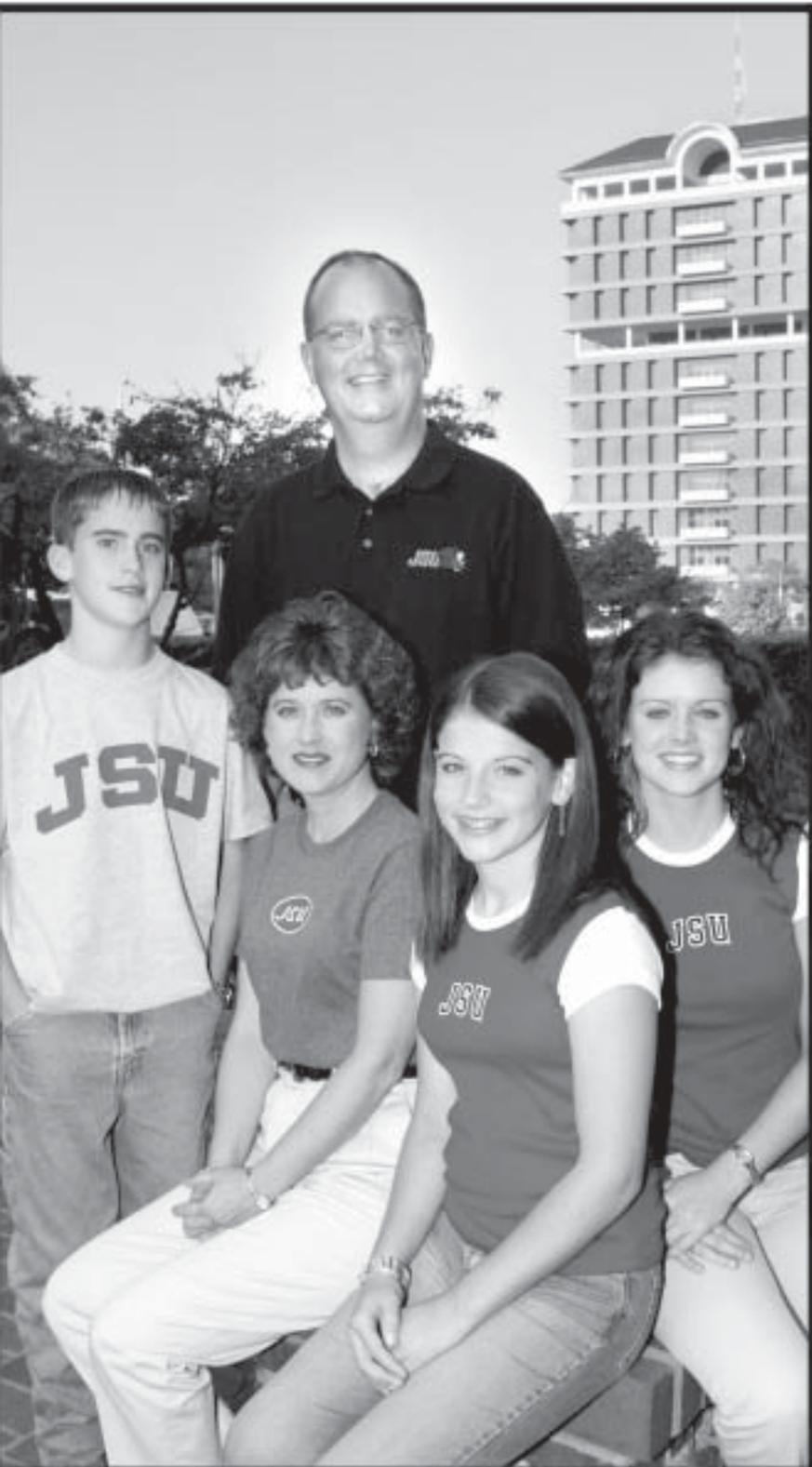
QUESTION: Tell us about the teachers that are employed at the Child Development Center.

TRIPLETT: Each classroom has a certified lead teacher and two teacher assistants. We have on staff a teacher that teaches Spanish and gives music instruction. We also have a signer that teaches the children sign language. We are in the process of hiring an L.P.N. She will be giving the children lessons and units on health and nutrition.

QUESTION: What kind of curriculum do you use?

TRIPLETT: We use the "Creative Curriculum" as a framework for our lesson planning. All of our lessons are based on research, tried and true — developmentally appropriate practices. We feel that it is very important to give our children choice. The classrooms are





set up with learning stations or centers. Children are allowed to select a learning center and have fun learning. Routine is another component of our curriculum. Children at this age need to understand and learn about basic concepts that must be done daily, such as cleaning up and brushing our teeth after a meal.

QUESTION: Tell us about your facility and any unique features.

TRIPLETT: We are housed in a state-of-the-art facility that has child centered bathrooms, low water fountains and sinks and age appropriate furniture. It is a colorful facility where the children feel right at home. All of our classrooms have security cameras for monitoring in our administrative area and we are working to provide Internet access for our parents to be able to pull their child up on their computer at home or work. We also have cameras located outside for security on our playgrounds and external entrances. All visitors must show identification before they are allowed through our front security door.

QUESTION: What are your immediate goals for the center?

TRIPLETT: One of our most important goals is to obtain accreditation from the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC). This is an organization that promotes quality developmental resources and initiatives to enhance efforts of others trying to improve the practices of early childhood professionals. We are currently going through the self-study phase of the accreditation process. We are striving to meet state standards and continue toward national standards. We are examining research provided by the NAEYC organization to ensure that we are providing students and the community with the best childcare available and providing the necessary tools needed to be leaders and proactive professionals.

For further information about JSU's Child Development Center, check out the center's web site at www.jsu.edu/depart/edprof/cdc or call 256-782-8600.

◀ *L-R, clockwise: Son, Andrew Triplett, 13; Husband, Jim Triplett; Daughter, Kimberly Triplett, 16; Daughter, Kelly Triplett, 14; Kristi Triplett*





15th nationally and set a conference and JSU record. A first team All-OVC selection, Cary has hit .500 or better in eight contests this season, committing a total of 103 errors in 801 attempts, and has recorded 24 double-figure kill efforts in 31 outings, including a career-high 24 kills versus Tennessee Tech.

Weyer, a 6-foot-4 native of Ferdinand, Indiana, is the first middle blocker to be named OVC Freshman of the Year. A second team All-OVC pick, she sports the league's second-highest attack percentage (.364) while also ranking third in block average (1.04 bpg) and fourth in total rejections (117). Weyer has registered five or more blocks in 11 contests this season, including a season-high nine against Davidson.

"It was an unbelievable honor for Chrissy (Cary) to be recognized for her accomplishments," said JSU head coach Rick Nold. "We revolve our offense around her and Shari (Weyer) and it is an honor for our team as well for giving them that opportunity by passing the ball well and giving them that support. It is also great for Shari and Jessica (Starck) to be recognized as two of the top players in the conference as freshmen, when they have so much to learn."

Weyer was also named to the All-OVC Second Team, while Starck was named to the All-OVC Freshman Team and the All-OVC Second Team.

The Gamecocks finished the season with an overall record of 23-8 and finished the regular season second in the OVC. This year marks the best win percentage in JSU volleyball history.



JSU Players Receive Honors

Jacksonville State's Christina Cary was chosen the 2003 Ohio Valley Conference Player of the Year, edging out Morehead State's Cherelle Lampkins in voting by the league's volleyball coaches. Cary's Jax State teammate, Shari Weyer, was selected 2003 OVC Freshman of the Year.

Cary, a 5-foot-11 senior outside hitter/middle blocker from San Francisco, Calif., was the first person to earn volleyball's OVC Player of the Year honors in her institution's first year of OVC membership. She ended the season 10th in the OVC in kills (3.68 kpg) while hitting at a league-high .395 clip, which ranks

ALL-CENTENNIAL TEAM ANNOUNCED

As part of the celebration of 100 Years of Gamecock Football, 43 individuals have been named to the Jacksonville State University Centennial Football team by the Football J-Club.

Among those selected include seven former coaches, including Ben Harris, Don Salls, Jim Blevins, Charley Pell, Clarkie Mayfield, Jim Fuller and Bill Burgess.

The list includes 15 former All-Americans, 19 professional football signees, eight JSU Hall of Fame Players and five Hall of Fame coaches. It includes JSU's all-time leading rusher (Boyce

Callahan), passer (Ed Lett), punter (Gregg Lowery) and receiver (Joey Hamilton).

OFFENSE ENDS:
Rusty Fuller, Butch Barker, Terry Owens

TACKLES:
Calvin Word, Bruce Nichols, Tom Langston

GUARDS:
Joe Billingsley, Jodie Connell, Jim Glasgow

CENTER:
Keith Henderson

QUARTERBACKS:
Dieter Brock, Ed Lett, David Gullede

RECEIVERS:
Donald Young, Joey Hamilton

RUNNING BACKS:
Bubba Long, Boyce Callahan, John Williams, Billy Hicks

DEFENSE ENDS:
Jesse Baker, David Radford, Ray Burgess

TACKLES/NOSE GUARDS:
Sam Johnson, Keith Martin, Alvin Wright, Bull Bailey

LINEBACKERS:
Gary Godfrey, Ja Karl Barnett, Eric Mims, Greg Robinson

BACKS/SAFETIES:
Eric Davis, Ray Vinson, Terry Harris, Terry Shaky Hodges

SPECIAL TEAMS

PUNTER:
Gregg Lowery

PLACE KICKER:
Chris Hobbs

RETURN SPECIALIST:
Danny Lee

COACHES:
Ben Harris, Jim Blevins, Don Salls, Charley Pell, Clarkie Mayfield, Jim Fuller, Bill Burgess

Reunion Planned

Attention all former women's basketball players and support staff. Join us for a reunion just for you on Saturday, January 31, 2004 from 2-4 pm on the 11th floor of the Houston Cole Library. The JSU women's team plays E. Illinois at 5 pm and all former players and support staff will be introduced at halftime. The JSU men's team will also play E. Illinois at 7:30 pm.

Please contact the alumni office at **256-782-5404/ 800-231-5291 ext. 5404** for more information or to reserve your seat! Hope to see you there!

Soccer Team Fairs Well in First Ohio Valley Conference Season

The Jacksonville State soccer team made a lasting impression on the Ohio Valley Conference during the 2003 season going 11-5-4 and earning a third-place finish in the conference race during the team's initial season in the league.

The Gamecocks went 5-1-3 in conference play, including a 2-0 OVC tournament win over Tennessee Tech on November 4th at home to advance to the Final Four round in Birmingham. JSU fell to eventual

OVC champion and NCAA tournament participant Eastern Illinois in the semi-finals to close out the season.

Beginning the 2003 campaign in a new conference was not the only new experience for the Gamecock soccer team. JSU officially moved into the new JSU Soccer Complex located between Rudy Abbott Baseball Field and Pete Mathews Coliseum on the JSU campus.

The new facility provides the Jax State soccer program with a state-of-the-art 120x75-yard playing surface with sub-surface drainage and Bermuda grass. JSU head coach Lisa Howe said the soccer program should greatly benefit from the setup from the previous facility.

"I think the new field will



▲ Members of the JSU soccer team warming up on their new field.

make an impact on our program," said Howe, who completed her ninth season with the Gamecocks, compiling a 79-77-15 record at the school. "The field we have played on in the past was 104 yards long and playing on a larger field has made a difference in the way we play. The new field also gives the team something they can call their own."

Playing on a new field produced several positive results for JSU this season. The Gamecocks went 7-1-1 at home this year, with the only loss coming to the University of Alabama in the season opener. After one year of play in the OVC, JSU still has an unbeaten record at home against conference foes with a 4-0-1 mark.



2004 JSU Baseball Schedule

2/18	vs Alabama	6:30 p.m.
2/20	at LSU	6:30 p.m.
2/21	at LSU	2:00 p.m.
2/22	at LSU	1:00 p.m.
2/27	vs Middle Tenn.	3:00 p.m.
2/28	vs Middle Tenn.	2:00 p.m.
2/29	vs Middle Tenn.	1:00 p.m.
3/2	vs South Alabama	6:30 p.m.
3/3	vs South Alabama	3:00 p.m.
3/5	at Louisiana roe	7:00 p.m.
3/6	at Louisiana roe	3:00 p.m.
3/7	at Louisiana roe	1:00 p.m.
3/9	vs Toledo	6:30 p.m.
3/12	vs NW Louisiana	6:30 p.m.
3/13	vs NW Louisiana	2:00 p.m.
3/14	vs NW Louisiana	1:00 p.m.
3/16	at UAB	6:00 p.m.
3/19	vs Purdue	6:30 p.m.
3/20	vs Purdue	2:00 p.m.
3/21	vs Purdue	1:00 p.m.
3/24	vs Alabama A&M	3:00 p.m.
3/27	vs Samford (2)	1:00 p.m.
3/28	vs Samford	1:00 p.m.
3/30	at Alabama A&M	2:00 p.m.
3/31	at Alabama State	1:00 p.m.
4/3	vs SE Missouri (2)	1:00 p.m.
4/4	vs SE Missouri	1:00 p.m.
4/6	at B'ham-Southern	6:00 p.m.
4/7	vs Alabama State	3:00 p.m.
4/9	at Eastern Illinois (2)	1:00 p.m.
4/10	at Eastern Illinois	1:00 p.m.
4/17	vs E Kentucky (2)	1:00 p.m.
4/18	vs E Kentucky	1:00 p.m.
4/20	vs Troy State	6:30 p.m.
4/24	at Morehead State (2)	2:00 p.m.
4/25	at Morehead State	1:00 p.m.
5/1	vs Tennessee Tech (2)	1:00 p.m.
5/2	vs Tennessee Tech	1:00 p.m.
5/8	at Tennessee-Martin (2)	1:00 p.m.
5/9	at Tennessee-Martin	1:00 p.m.
5/11	vs UAB	6:00 p.m.
5/15	vs Murray State (2)	1:00 p.m.
5/16	vs Murray State	1:00 p.m.
5/18	at Troy State	6:00 p.m.
5/21	at Austin Peay (2)	4:30 p.m.
5/22	at Austin Peay	2:00 p.m.

2004 JSU Softball Schedule

2/18	vs Alabama State	4:00 p.m.
2/21	at TBA / Hornets Classic	
2/24	vs UAB	4:00 p.m.
3/6	vs Lipscomb	1:00 p.m.
3/7	vs Alabama A&M	2:00 p.m.
3/9	vs B'ham Southern	5:00 p.m.
3/10	at U. of Alabama	6:00 p.m.
3/12	at TBA / Winthrop Tournament	
3/17	vs Tulsa	4:00 p.m.
3/18	vs U. of Tenn.-Chatt.	4:00 p.m.
3/20	Rebel Spring Games	
3/27	at Austin Peay	12:00 p.m.
3/28	at Austin Peay	12:00 p.m.
4/3	vs Eastern Kentucky	1:00 p.m.
4/4	vs Eastern Kentucky	1:00 p.m.
4/7	vs Samford	5:00 p.m.
4/9	vs U. of Tenn. Martin	3:00 p.m.
4/10	vs U. of Tenn. Martin	12:00 p.m.
4/13	vs Samford	6:00 p.m.
4/17	at SE Missouri	1:00 p.m.
4/18	at SE Missouri	1:00 p.m.
4/20	at Lipscomb	2:00 p.m.
4/21	at Tennessee State	2:00 p.m.
4/24	at Eastern IL	12:00 p.m.
4/25	at Eastern IL	12:00 p.m.
4/28	vs Tennessee State	3:00 p.m.
5/1	vs Tennessee Tech	1:00 p.m.
5/2	vs Tennessee Tech	1:00 p.m.
5/8	at Morehead State	12:00 p.m.
5/9	at Morehead State	12:00 p.m.

For the latest JSU sports information, visit jsugamecocksports.com

JSU Softball Player Dies in Accident

The JSU Athletic Department is sad to announce that softball player Tera Marie Ross passed away in an automobile accident on her way home to Florida for the holidays.

Ross, 22, was a native of Cooper City, Fla., and was a three-year starter for Coach Jana McGinnis and the Gamecock softball team. She was also the president of the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee and was inducted into the Scholar-Athlete Hall of Fame.

Ross was driving a 2000 Ford Explorer south on the Florida turnpike when the vehicle crossed the median and collided head-on with a northbound 2002 Volvo freight truck, according to Florida Highway Patrol officials.

Ross earned Atlantic Sun Conference Pitcher-of-the-Week honors once last season and finished the year with a 19-6 record, 142 strikeouts and a team-best 1.17 ERA.



Scholar Athletes

On Saturday, December 6, 2003, the Athletic Department inducted 36 student athletes into the 2002-2003 class of the Scholar Athlete Hall of Fame.

The ceremony took place at halftime of the men's basketball game, JSU vs. Tennessee Temple.

To qualify, the student-athlete must earn a cumulative grade point average (GPA) of at least 3.5 or have at least 28 hours and a 3.5 GPA during the previous school year (Fall 2002, Spring 2003, and Summer 2003). The student-athlete must have been a participant during the previous school year.

2002-2003 Scholar-Athlete Hall of Fame Inductees:

Matias Anselmo	Golf	Buenos Aires, Argentina
Nathan Applebaum	Rifle	Hazel Green, AL
Gabriela Baca	Tennis	Quito, Ecuador
Jennifer Brenneman	Volleyball	Minier, IL
Clint Carroll	Baseball	Tuscaloosa, AL
NcKell Copeland	Basketball	Marietta, GA
Rachel Countryman	Softball	Steele, AL
James Denson	Basketball	Walnut Grove, MS
Rachel Doak	Cross Country/Track & Field	
Amber Dudley	Cross Country/Track & Field	
Michelle Dushner	Tennis	Savannah, GA
Kristen Fleeger	Soccer	Kingwood, TX
Josh Forrest	Baseball	Heflin, AL
Jeremy Franklin	Rifle	Jemison, AL
Josh Gibbs	Rifle	Eightmile, AL
Kim Halbach	Volleyball	Burlington, Wisconsin
Brian Haskins	Baseball	Hokes Bluff, AL
Elizabeth Hendricks	Soccer	Des Moines, WA
Ruben Herrera	Tennis	Caracas, Venezuela
Shanelle Howell	Golf	Freestate, South Africa
Jason Horn	Baseball	Montgomery, AL
Somer Leathers	Tennis	Jacksonville, AL
Cecelia Louder	Soccer	Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada
Ashley Martin	Soccer	Sharpsburg, GA
Heather Miller	Tennis	Gadsden, AL
Krista Miller	Soccer	League City, TX
Breanne Milne	Soccer	N. Vancouver B.C.
Kelly Nye	Basketball	Brentwood, TN
Kim Peterson	Soccer	Laurel, Maryland
Tate Robbins	Rifle	Bellingham, WA
Tera Ross	Softball	Cooper City, FL
Stacey Smith	Softball	Oxford, AL
Allie Simons	Softball	Columbia, SC
Christina Simpson	Soccer	Glenbrook, NSW, Australia
Sarah Taylor	Volleyball	Nashville, TN
Kisha West	Volleyball	New Castle, IN



Kory Chapman



Levet Jones



Richie Rhodes



Mark Tibbs



Jonathan Crutcher



Steven Lee

Six JSU Players Earn All-OVC Honors

Six Jacksonville State players were named to the All-Ohio Valley Conference football team.

Senior runningback **Kory Chapman** (Batesville, Miss.) earned first-team honors after rushing for 1,285 yards, just the third player in JSU history to rush for more than 1,200 yards in a single season.

Senior offensive lineman **Levet Jones** (Prichard) and junior two-time All-American punter **Richie Rhodes** (Alexander City) were also both named to the first-team.

Rhodes, a four-time OVC Player-of-the-Week, led the Ohio Valley Conference in punting with an average of 41.2 yards per punt, including a season-long punt of 68 yards. The junior also had 15 punts downed inside the 20-yard line.

Jones anchored an offensive line that led the Ohio Valley Conference in rushing with 254.64 yards per game and finished nationally ranked seventh.

Senior **Mark Tibbs** (Panama City, Fla.) and junior **Jonathan Crutcher** (Huntsville) each earned second-team honors. Crutcher led the Gamecock in tackles with with 60 tackles and had three fumble recoveries. Tibbs helped the Red-Bandit defense to lead the OVC in rushing defense and ranked No. 9 in the country.

Steven Lee (Citronelle) was named to the honorable-mention team after kicking the three longest field goals in school history this season, including a 52-yard field goal against Murray State.

Gamecocks are OVC Champions

Jacksonville State (8-3, 7-1 OVC) won the OVC Title with 22-17 win over Southeast Missouri State (5-7, 5-3) on Saturday, November 22 in Cape Girardeau, Missouri. The win gave the Gamecocks an automatic berth to the NCAA playoffs.

JSU made their 11th NCAA Play-off appearance. The Gamecocks advanced to the NCAA post-season in: 1977, 1978, 1980, 1981, 1982, 1988, 1989, 1990, 1991 and 1992. This was JSU's first post-season appearance since moving to I-AA in 1995.

The OVC Championship was the first for Jax State and the first conference championship since 1992. JSU now has 17 Conference Championships. The Gamecocks won 10 Gulf South Conference Championships, five Alabama Collegiate Conference Championships and one Mid-South Championship.