

This is a copy of our Alumni newsletter that is sent monthly to our alumni.

If you wish to receive these emails, please let us know at alumni@jsu.edu.



January 2026 Edition

FEATURED EVENTS



UPCOMING EVENTS



Happy New Year, Gamecocks! We hope your holiday season brought peace, joy, and time to relax, reflect, and cherish those around you.

December provided fun opportunities for fellowship with the Jax Jingle 5K, Fall 2025 Graduation Toast, and Retiree Holiday Luncheon. We ended the semester with the IS4S Salute to Veterans Bowl Tailgate and Game in Montgomery, where Jax State met our long-time rivals, Troy State. **[To see photos from the past year, click here.](#)**

We hope you will join us this spring for our Alaskan cruise! With a \$125 deposit, you can still reserve a cabin. Final payment is due by January 30. View full details at **www.funvacationstravel.com/alaska-2026-trip**.

We are working on our spring programming and events and will have a calendar ready shortly! We do plan to visit Troy, Auburn, and Huntsville/Madison to support our Jax State Baseball team, and we'll support our Softball team in February at the West Georgia game, so be on the lookout for registration. We also plan to visit the Nashville, Fairhope, and Mobile areas, and we hope to connect with many of you as we travel to keep you updated on all things Jax State!

In addition, alumni, friends and family can sign up to travel with the Marching Southerners for their performance in the **2027 Rose Bowl Parade** presented by Honda. To learn more and **[sign up for the trip, click here.](#)** Use the code JSUFFROSEPARADE2027 to login.

Check back **[here for upcoming events.](#)**

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT



Mamta Mishra, a 2004 alumna, has been fostering autism awareness for more than twenty years. She received her master's degree in special education from Jax State and is the founder and president of the Autism Foundation of Gadsden, Alabama (AFGA).

COCKY BUSINESS



Jax State alumna **Kristin Hurst ('14 and '18)** knew she wanted to be a counselor since her 11th grade. She began working with her current business partner, who already had a thriving practice, in 2022, and together they felt they could help the community even more. They formed Brooks and Hurst Counseling in Anniston, Alabama, offering counseling services for all ages.

"Many professors at JSU encouraged me to share my story and journey with my son, Parag," Mishra said. "Their encouragement planted the seed for my book, which I eventually wrote eleven years after graduating from JSU, to help other caregivers of loved ones with special needs. I credit JSU with inspiring me to use my experiences to benefit others in similar situations."

It is through her caregiving journey that she is actively involved with the AFGA and has written two books to provide encouragement to others.

[Read more here.](#)

When deciding where to attend college, Hurst said she had heard amazing things about the Jax State Counseling Program. "Jax State is such a beloved place not only for locals, but for those who come from out-of-state and other countries," Hurst said. "I felt like my education would mean more in Calhoun County and the surrounding areas if it came from our local university."

Pictured above is Kristin with her husband.

[Read more here. Submit your own](#)

[Cocky Business to be featured](#) in one of our upcoming newsletters here!

ALUMNI CONNECTION



Did the new year bring about career changes or new mailing addresses? If so, please make sure your information is up to date in Alumni Connection so that our office can ensure your records are correct.

Additionally, if you moved, utilize the map in Alumni Connection to connect with Gamecocks in your area.

Sign up for the **[Alumni Connection](#)** and keep in touch!

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION



As you ring in the new year, we hope you'll continue your membership with us or join the Alumni Association today. Keep in mind, all alumni are invited to our alumni events, but members receive special perks and Jax State swag. Interested in becoming a member? **[Click here!](#)**

Jax State Oral History Project

The alumni office is working with PCI to update your information and capture your favorite memory of your time at Jax State. You'll receive a yellow postcard in the mail from PCI, asking you to contact them and tell your story, in your own words. This is a

remarkable opportunity to reminisce and have your voice captured on audio and your words captured on paper. They'll work with us to produce a beautiful book full of your stories and memories. We hope you'll participate!

GROWING GAMECOCKS



Enroll your young fan this year in the Growing Gamecocks program!

They'll enjoy a birthday card or annual gift from Cocky to make their big day even more special.

[Click here for details and to sign up today!](#)

AROUND CAMPUS

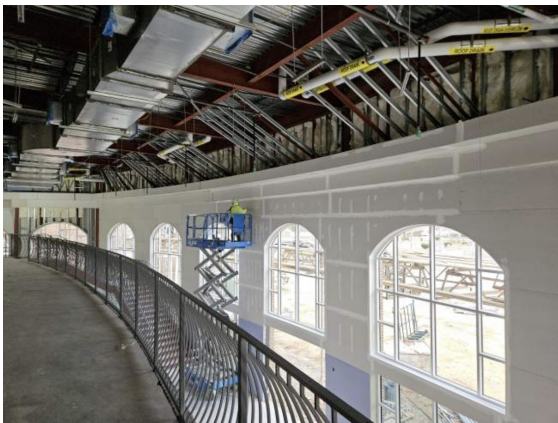


Dr. Kenneth Bodiford looks back on his 32 years as director of the Marching Southerners, as **Dr. Jeremy Stovall** is announced as new director of bands at Jax State. "It's going to be one of the smoothest transitions that could ever take place," Bodiford said. "The Marching Southerners are in great hands for the future."

[Read more here from Dr. Bodiford.](#)

[Read more here from Dr. Stovall.](#)

COMING TO THE ROC



GAMECOCKS GIVE BACK



Want to be one of the first to know and have access to tickets at the ROC in 2026? Donors to the ROC get presale access, so whether you **name a seat or a pew**, **name a space**, or **give an ongoing gift** for construction and programs, you, too, can be added to the exclusive list.

These notifications will be distributed via email, so make sure your **Paciolan account** (used by Arts & Athletics) and password are up-to-date.

Exciting news! The Red Tie Gala is now a ticketed event - and you're invited!

For the first time, the 1883 Red Tie Gala is open to all through ticketed entry — and we'd love to see you there on **February 6**. Your attendance directly supports the 1883 Fund, which provides critical resources for students and campus priorities. **Reserve your tickets or explore sponsorship opportunities today.**

Learn more online or contact Bethany Dryden at **bdryden@jsu.edu**.

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