

THE MAGAZINE OF JACKSONVILLE STATE UNIVERSITY

GEM

OF THE HILLS

FALL 2015



MEET THE BEEHLERS
JSU'S 12TH PRESIDENT AND FIRST LADY



DEAR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS,

Greetings from Bibb Graves Hall! I am honored to join the Gamecock family as 12th president of Jacksonville State University.

From the first moment I stepped foot on the JSU campus, I knew it was a special place. From its beautiful setting and friendly people to its excellent programs and strong traditions – JSU is truly a “GEM” for our state and nation.

It is a blessing and a privilege to serve you as your president. On page 4, you can learn more about my background and perspectives on higher education and the

university. I look forward to working with you and the entire Gamecock family as we strive to bring JSU to even greater levels of excellence. Thank you for your continued support.

Go Gamecocks!

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



GREETINGS GAMECOCKS!

It is an exciting time here on campus as our new freshman class begin their journey as Gamecocks! We hope you will join us for our Halloween Homecoming on Saturday, October 31! The schedule of events is included on page 43.

I would like to thank those of you who completed our recent online survey. Your feedback is important to us. I want you to know that we heard you and are looking at ways to incorporate your ideas and suggestions.

We always want to hear from you! Let us know about all the amazing things that

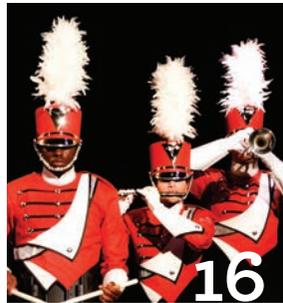
are happening in your life so we can share your successes. Thank you for all you do to promote JSU. I hope to hear from you soon.

Go Gamecocks!

Kaci Ogle '95/'04
Director of Alumni Relations



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phone: (256) 782-5404 or 877-JSU-ALUM
fax: (256) 782-5502
email: alumni@jsu.edu
web: jsu.edu/alumni

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Meet Dr. John Beehler

JSU's 12th President.....

BY BUFFY LOCKETTE
PHOTOS BY STEVE LATHAM



MAGICAL THINGS HAPPEN ON A COLLEGE CAMPUS. LIKE THE ROGUE SNOWBALL THAT CHANGED JOHN BEEHLER'S LIFE.

“One day, while I was walking across campus after a snowstorm, out of nowhere a snowball hit me in the chest,” Beehler said. “I looked up and there she was with a great big smile on her face. She got my attention and the rest is history.”

Beehler is now Dr. John Beehler, the new president of Jacksonville State University. The woman who threw the snowball – then a collegiate softball and basketball player – is now Dr. Pamela Beehler, JSU’s new First Lady.

There’s rarely snow on the campus of Jacksonville State, but Beehler says he feels at home here. A graduate of Penn State, he grew up in the foothills on the other side of the Appalachians. The first in his family to attend college, he feels a strong connection to what he calls the “soul” of JSU.

“To me, there is something very spiritual about JSU,” Beehler said. “It has a very important mission that is uplifting to all its constituents and will lead to the growth and development of the region and its citizens. Simply stated, the friendliness is deeply rooted in JSU’s culture and reflects a loving, caring attitude in developing students for their future careers and life.”

4 : GEM OF THE HILLS



Beehler took over the reins as 12th president of the university on July 1, following a nationwide search led by Atlanta-based firm Diversified Search. He follows Dr. William A. Meehan, who retired after 40 years of service to the university, 16 as its president, on June 30.

The new president comes to JSU with 34 years of higher education experience, 20 years in leadership roles. Most recently, he served as dean of the School

that provided an ideal family environment. We were taught that everything was possible in America with hard work and faith. As the first born, it was expected that I would do well in school and extracurricular activities and would go to college. Since my parents never graduated from college, they wanted me to graduate and have the opportunities that they never had. I have always been very proud of my parents and never wanted to disappoint them. I felt a

I was born to be a university president,” Beehler said. “This type of encouragement put the idea in my mind and, thereafter, I proceeded to take on increasingly more responsible positions in academic administration to get the diverse experience in higher education needed to become a president. A key factor was the support and encouragement of my wife, Dr. Pamela Beehler, a career academic who has always believed in me.”

“My tagline is ‘It’s not all about me, it’s not all about you, it’s about all of us – the Jacksonville State University Gamecock Family.’”

of Business at Robert Morris University in Pittsburgh. He previously served as founding provost and vice president for academic excellence and student success at the University of North Texas at Dallas, associate provost for economic initiatives and dean of the Haile/US Bank College of Business at Northern Kentucky University, dean of the W. Frank Barton School of Business at Wichita State University, and associate dean at the University of Texas at Arlington.

A certified public accountant, Beehler has significant experience in college and university accounting and auditing. He earned a Bachelor of Science in accounting from Penn State and an MBA in finance and a Ph.D. in accounting and taxation from Indiana University.

“I never imagined as a student that someday I would be university president,” said Beehler. “I grew up in a small town

big responsibility to graduate from college and be successful.”

Upon earning his bachelor’s degree, Beehler landed a job at one of the world’s top accounting firms. To speed his climb up the corporate ladder, he decided to go back to college and pursue an MBA. He taught classes to pay for graduate school and, to his surprise, discovered a love for teaching. Instead of returning to the corporate world, he went on to earn a Ph.D. and launched a career in higher education.

More than 13 years and several teaching awards later, Beehler took on his first leadership role in academia when his peers at the University of Texas at Arlington elected him chair and president of the Faculty Senate. He had a talent for diplomacy, and one of his mentors took notice.

“After seeing me take on various leadership roles, one of my early mentors specifically told me that she thought

Beehler met the “love of his life,” the girl with great aim, while they were undergraduates at Penn State. The couple married shortly after graduation 38 years ago and the First Lady has had a successful academic career in her own right. She holds a Ph.D. in human performance from Indiana University and is an expert on brain performance and concussions. She spent her entire career as a tenured professor of kinesiology and exercise science, including eight years as a department chair. The couple has one daughter, Kristin, who is a West Point graduate and a captain in the U.S. Army with deployments in Iraq and Kuwait.

Becoming JSU president is a role Beehler has prepared himself for through experience and training. In 2011, he completed a yearlong program specifically designed for aspiring university presidents, the American Academic Leadership



Institute's Executive Leadership Academy. He is also a graduate of the Harvard Institutes of Higher Education Management Development Program.

Beehler comes to JSU with respect and admiration for its culture and traditions, as well as ideas for helping move the university forward in today's challenging higher education market.

"Institutions like JSU must focus on students and mission and in some ways behave more like private institutions," Beehler said. "That is, we must realize that enrollment, retention, progression and graduation rates are extremely important as well as securing private support to supplement the decreasing amount of state support. We must be strategic and develop key niches that differentiate us from our competition. We need to increase the use of technology to meet student needs and to be more efficient and effective in what we do."

While Beehler came to JSU ready to lead on day one, it is not his style

to attempt to make sweeping changes overnight. He plans to immerse himself in the university's culture during his first year and gain a better understanding of its challenges and opportunities before making any major structural shifts. A servant leader with a collaborative nature, he wants to develop a collective vision for the university with the entire JSU family. No matter the road ahead, he wants to ensure JSU doesn't lose sight of what makes it special.

"We should not change JSU's friendliness and traditions of excellence," Beehler said. "We should always strive to be the best in what we do. JSU should not lose sight of its focus on students and their development as educated, ethical, and responsible professionals, leaders and citizens. A focus on their development educationally, culturally, socially, physically and spiritually will always lead to better professionals, leaders and citizens. This, in turn, will benefit our region, state, country and the whole world."

Just weeks into his new presidency, Beehler's humble and low-maintenance attitude, respectful demeanor and positive energy was already putting the campus that hasn't seen a leadership change in 16 years at ease. He gained admiration from employees and students alike when he moved into a residence hall instead of cooling his heels in a hotel suite while needed renovations are being made to the President's House this fall.

"I am excited about serving JSU and our region," Beehler said. "My tagline is 'It's not all about me, it's not all about you, it's about all of us - the Jacksonville State University Gamecock Family.' I truly believe this and would hope that all of us would adopt this mantra and work for the betterment of all." 

6 : GEM OF THE HILLS





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JSU Alumnus Creates Masters

BY KATIE CLINE

JACKSONVILLE STATE UNIVERSITY DOESN'T JUST CREATE EXCELLENT ALUMNI, IT CREATES MASTERS. THROUGH THE MASTER OF FINE ARTS PROGRAM, ARTISTICALLY GIFTED STUDENTS ARE PREPARING FOR CREATIVE CAREERS – FROM ART DIRECTOR TO COLLEGE ART PROFESSOR – LED BY ONE OF JSU'S OWN ALUMNI, SETH JOHNSON.





Without JSU, Seth Johnson would never have been born. His parents met on campus in the 1970s, fell in love, and got married. When he was a senior in high school, the college he had heard about his whole life offered the promising young artist what every student wants: a full scholarship.

“I went all four years on a full art scholarship,” Johnson said, “and I loved it. JSU was the perfect size. Art departments can be too big in that they lack the individual attention. They can also be too big in that all the disciplines are separated, almost segregated. JSU was the perfect size. You got a lot of great attention from your faculty members.”

Johnson graduated from JSU in 1999 with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in graphic design. He went on to receive his MFA in graphic design from the University of Tennessee and has been nominated for three Emmy awards, including one for his work on the reality TV show “Brush Country.”

Along with his television and design work, Johnson secured a teaching position at Middle Tennessee State University. He had been at MTSU for 12 years when he got a call from one of his former professors informing him that JSU was in search of a new art department head. Excited at the prospect of working for the university that shaped his professional career, Johnson applied, interviewed, and was offered the job. So, in 2014 – 15 years after he graduated – Johnson returned to his alma mater where he now serves as a professor of graphic design and head of the art department.

“It still has that homey feel to it,” he said about JSU. “I wasn’t on campus two days, and I walked by the president and he immediately knew my name. It really was like coming home.”

In addition to teaching, Johnson works closely with JSU’s MFA program to help students reach their full potential.

Officially launched in 2011 after years of careful planning, JSU’s program is the only one in Alabama that focuses in visual communication design – a new and evolving industry where designers use technology, design and social awareness to solve problems that inform, educate and elicit responses from end users.

“Graphic design is typically solving a problem for a client,” Johnson explained. “It’s some form of visual communication. The term ‘graphic design’ was coined in 1929, but from 1929 to now a lot has changed. We’re not just making posters anymore. The more accurate term is ‘visual communication.’ It includes web design, motion graphics, television, broadcast, the Web and print media. To say it’s just graphic design is kind of limiting.”

The 60-hour MFA program integrates both research and studio components, assisting students in developing a professional portfolio by the completion of their degree. In just three years, students are qualified to teach at the university level or to advance in their specific field, such as web design or illustration.

“Our ideal student would be someone who was a graphic designer who wants a career change,” Johnson said of the MFA program’s targeted demographic. “They have professional experience. They might be in Atlanta, Birmingham or Chattanooga and they’re ready for a career change.”

Jamie Runnells, associate professor of graphic design and coordinator of the MFA program, said the program provides its students flexibility. “You could mix and match from all sorts of areas,” she said. “If you wanted to take a course in web design and motion type and the moving image and the history of photography, all of those things are valid, so you can really tailor the degree to your needs.”

The MFA is a terminal degree, meaning it is the highest degree one can pursue in fine arts. Therefore, graduates are



qualified to become college art professors or even, like Johnson, department chairs. The program also prepares students for careers in advertising, marketing, entertainment and other industries.

“The types of careers that our students can pursue with an MFA from JSU would be obviously in design education, but also as an art director,” said Johnson. “With our vicinity being both close to Birmingham and Atlanta, there are numerous opportunities.”

Susan Cowan Robertson is one student who has taken advantage of JSU’s unique and individualized program to help further her career. She was the first graduate of the MFA program back on August 8, 2014. Since then, the program has enrolled several more talented students and graduated an additional three.

“I had always wanted an advanced degree,” recalls Robertson, “and over the years I had tried a couple of times and started degree programs and they just weren’t satisfying. When I found out about the MFA program at Jacksonville, I thought, ‘It’s time. It’s time for me to go back.’ In the undergraduate program, it’s a lot of payoff. ‘How do I make this work? How do I create this type of experience?’ But in the master’s program, you’re really reaching into the theory, the science, the history, the understanding of why you are doing what you’re doing.”

for more
INFORMATION

VISIT THE MFA WEBSITE

www.jsu.edu/mfa



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FALL 2015 : 11



A “Storied” History for JSU

STUDENT MEDIA

BY KATIE CLINE



12 : GEM OF THE HILLS





The presses are still hot and the airwaves are a-buzzing on the campus of Jacksonville State University, where student-run media is celebrating a combined 120 years of production this year. The campus newspaper, "The Chanticleer," celebrated its 80th anniversary in March and the radio station, WLJS, 92-J FM, is celebrating its 40th this September.

With such long and illustrious legacies, JSU's communication department has seen more than a few greats walk its halls. Radio stars Rick Burgess and Bill Bussey - better known as "Rick & Bubba" - entertained college audiences in the 1980s before taking off as one of the most popular radio shows on air today. Former editor of "The Chanticleer" Mai Martinez is a news anchor and reporter at CBS Chicago.

There seems to be no stopping the outpouring of talent from JSU's communication department, but none of this would be possible without the daring students who pioneered the newspaper and radio station decades ago.

First published in 1934 as "The Teacola" - a combination of "teachers" and "college," JSU's newspaper underwent several name changes before becoming the weekly periodical students and faculty know today. After "The Teacola," it was renamed "The Collegian" in 1957 before finally becoming "The Chanticleer" in 1967. "Chanticleer" is a fitting name for a newspaper whose university mascot is the Gamecock. The word literally means, "a name given to a rooster, especially in fairy tales."

Last March, "Chanticleer" staff, faculty and alumni gathered in Self Hall to celebrate 80 successful years and hundreds of publications. Among those in attendance was Ben Cunningham, managing editor of "The Anniston Star." Cunningham first came to JSU in 1994 but took four years off from school from 1997 to 2001 to serve in the U.S. Air Force. He returned in 2001, and from 2001 to 2003 served as the editor-in-chief of "The Chanticleer."

"People need to know what's going on," Cunningham said. "People have a great desire to know what's going on - on their block, in their town, in their region, in their state, in their nation and in their world. Our Founders set up from the very beginning a system that would give all of us - any of us, not just the journalists - the right to say anything that we could find out. Anything that we thought everyone should know, we had the freedom to say. And they saw that as very important. The press is named in the First Amendment right up there with religion, so we're seen as very basic to the way that American Democracy is supposed to work."

Jeh Jeh Pruitt, a sports anchor and reporter at WBRC, Fox 6 in Birmingham, fondly recalls his days with "The Chanticleer" in the early and mid-1990s. He said his favorite memories are "All of those late nights the day before we printed, when we worked together as a team. We stayed there some nights until 2 or 3 in the morning. It was the best. To work with hardworking people who wanted the paper to be the best was a joy."

Pruitt recommends all aspiring journalists at JSU work for "The Chanticleer."

"If you are serious about being a journalist," Pruitt said, "you need to be a reporter for this newspaper. It is one of the best tools that got me ready for the real world. It can help you do the things you need to do to be in media. 'The Chanticleer' was my foundation."

An equally successful branch of JSU's student media has been its radio station, WLJS, 92-J. Founded by student Mike Sandefer in 1975, WLJS, which stands for "We Love Jax State," began with a lowly 10 watts broadcasting from inside Bibb Graves Hall via a radio antenna on top of the Houston Cole Library. Today, the 6,000-watt station broadcasts out of Self Hall with a \$100,000 antenna on top of Chimney Peak that was donated in 2011 by Clear Channel Communications of Birmingham.

The station debuted on Monday, September 29, 1975 at noon with Led Zeppelin's "Stairway to Heaven."

"We sat around at my place, a bunch of us," Sandefer remembers, "and thought, 'What song will they be playing a gazillion years from now?' So, we're listening to music that's popular in the 70s, and we're thinking that this Led Zeppelin song is pretty cool, so we signed on with that."

Now, every year on WLJS's anniversary, the station pays tribute to that first broadcast by playing "Stairway to Heaven," and even though it hasn't been a "gazillion" years since that fateful night when the song was chosen, it is most certainly a song that has persevered through the ages, much like WLJS itself.

Sandefer said he has nothing but happy memories of his time at the station. "The best buzz you could get was when that phone lit up - and we had two or three lines back then - all lights lit up and flashing," he said. "People were listening to you. And you're just involved in their life at that moment playing music."

To celebrate the station's 40th anniversary, WLJS plans to air a special program on Sept. 29 at noon - 40 years to the minute that the station first signed on air. On Oct. 2, all former station employees and volunteers are invited to a celebration at 5 p.m. at the International House. Meanwhile, the current WLJS staff needs your input into a special music project called "The Top 40 of the Past 40." If you worked at the station while you were at JSU, nominate songs for the project and share your memories on the Facebook Page, "WLJS 40th Anniversary."

It is hard to imagine JSU without "The Chanticleer" and 92-J. For generations, the newspaper and radio station have been a source of information, entertainment and pride for students and alumni alike. Here's to another 120 years of JSU student media! 





Giving Back By Paying it Forward.....

BY BUFFY LOCKETTE
PHOTO BY STEVE LATHAM

Dillon Everett never had the opportunity to meet Janis Rhodes, long-time secretary of the JSU Department of Drama, who spent her career enthusiastically supporting the dreams of theatre students. She lost her battle with cancer in the summer of 2011, just before Everett enrolled at JSU.

"I hear she was such an amazing woman," Everett said

But Rhodes continues to make a difference in the lives of JSU students through the Janis C. Rhodes Memorial Scholarship, which was established in her memory to support outstanding drama students like Everett. It is one of 186 endowed scholarships currently offered through the JSU Foundation.

On February 23, Everett was able to meet Rhodes' husband, Dr. Gene Rhodes, and thank him for his support at the annual Founders Day scholarship luncheon. Nearly 150 guests gathered on campus to honor scholarship donors and recipients, as well as members of the Heritage and Founders Societies.

Donors were able to see how their gifts are making an impact on the next generation of leaders, while students had the opportunity to get to know their benefactors and express their gratitude.

The Foundation awarded more than \$577,000 in scholarships over the 2014-2015 academic year to deserving students. Emerald Padgett, a senior majoring in exercise science and a member of the

ROTC program, received the Maj. Dwayne Williams Memorial Scholarship. Upon graduation she will be commissioned into the U.S. Army as a second lieutenant and hopes to become a medical service officer. She said the scholarship helped her get the most out of her education.

"Through this experience, I have met some of my best friends, gone to Thailand, and had a college experience that I could never have dreamed of," Padgett said. "I am so proud of the leader and speaker I have become. I look forward to my future and being able to say that JSU was a huge stepping stone for me."

The Dwayne Williams Memorial Scholarship was established by JSU alumna and former employee, Pearl Williams, in memory of her son, Dwayne, who was killed at the Pentagon on September 11, 2001. The scholarship is for full-time undergraduate ROTC cadets and students enrolled in the College of Commerce and Business Administration.

Tara Martin, a junior majoring in marketing, is a recipient of the A.W. Bolt Scholarship, which was established by Birmingham attorney A.W. Bolt to support students of high academic achievement. Martin was orphaned at a young age and is putting herself through college. She works as a resident assistant on campus and volunteers with the Boys and Girls Club. After graduation she hopes to earn a master's degree and become a successful entrepreneur.

Danleigh McDaniel, a senior majoring in secondary education, was awarded the Harry and Jean Cottingham Scholarship. The 2012 Homecoming Queen is highly involved on campus, which she said was made possible by scholarships that prevented her from juggling multiple part-time jobs. She is president of her sorority, Alpha Omicron Pi, and is a Marching Ballerina, JSU Ambassador and Gamecock Orientation Leader. She aspires to be a middle or high school math teacher.

"Without the organizations I have been part of, I would never be where I am today," McDaniel said. "This university has done more for me than I have done for it, and for that I am forever grateful."

To learn how you can establish or contribute to a scholarship, contact the JSU Foundation at 256-782-5306 or 800-231-5291, ext. 5306. For a complete list of scholarships, visit our website at www.jsu.edu/foundation.





Meet the JSU Development Team!

University Development recently added two new development officers to its team and both are JSU alumnae: Christa Davis and Kim Dalesandro. Davis, who holds a bachelor's in health and business management, brings more than 25 years of experience in marketing, public relations, publications and advertising to JSU - most recently as vice president of marketing for Peachtree Planning. Dalesandro earned a B.S. in biology from JSU and has spent the past 15 years with BBVA Compass.

To accommodate the growing development family, the university recently purchased and renovated a historic property on Pelham Road, located next to Waffle House, and designated it the Development House. Stop by and visit or call 256-782-5605 to speak with the team about how you can support JSU. In September, our team of callers will kick off the 2015 Phonathon. Last year pledges and responses to the Phonathon campaign totaled nearly \$200,000. Your patience and kindness on the phone means a great deal to our student callers. Remember, together we can make a difference for JSU! 



BELOW: (Left-Right)
Christa Davis, development officer; Bill Nash, development officer and campaign manager; Brenda Holt, secretary to the director; Earl Warren, director of University Development; and Kim Dalesandro, development officer.



FALL 2015 : 15





university's past inspires
NEW LOOK
 for the marching southerners

BY ANGIE FINLEY
 PHOTO BY KATY NOWAK

When the Marching Southerners and Ballerinas take the field this fall, fans will experience an all-out assault on their senses as the signature Southerners sound is complemented by new uniforms that pay homage to the past.

To develop the new uniform – the first for the Southerners since 2005 – JSU Director of Bands Dr. Kenneth Bodiford provided designers Michale Cesario and Fred J. Miller Inc. of Miamisburg, Ohio with as many photos of past Southerners uniforms as possible. His instructions were simple: incorporate hints of the Southerners' rich history with a fresh contemporary look. Bodiford said they nailed it.

"The upper left side of the uniform is a throwback to our uniform from the 1970s; the white flap is from the 1960s; and, finally, the sequins represent our current look," he said. "The new red is just a touch brighter than the old uniform, which will look amazing under the sun and stadium lights."

The pants of the new uniform, or "bibbers" as they're referred to in the band world, are similar to a one-piece body suit that extends over the torso and the shoulders. This garment ensures that the "band pants" will not slip down during a performance. The jacket is trimmed with a

rounded white collar, which the designer said represents the "gentlemen" of the south. This was a feature of the Southerners uniform from the 1980s. On the right sleeve is the JSU logo featuring the feathered U; on the left is the Southerners signature "S." White gauntlets and a red shako with a white 14-inch plume and mirrored accents complete the ensemble.

The nearly all-black drum major uniforms will be equally striking on the field. Their style is very close to the band uniform, featuring the white flap, a red sequin baldric, black pants, jacket and shako. The color guard also has new pre-game uniforms, highlighted by a red and black ombre vest with the JSU logo in white across the chest. For pregame, the Ballerinas will wear their traditional "Santa" suits made out of the same red material as the new jackets. They will have a show-specific costume for halftime.

Perhaps the most attractive feature of the new uniforms is what spectators won't see but band members will feel: the uniforms are much thinner and machine washable. They are constructed out of moisture wicking 11.5-ounce polyester gabardine rather than the typical heavy wool materials of past uniforms. "Since we have all-day games and the sun is bearing

down on the band throughout the game, everyone will be much more comfortable!" Bodiford explained.

The new uniforms were the inspiration for this year's Southerners production, "Celebration." Bodiford said the uniforms were designed to "Highlight JSU's bright and promising future while still paying homage to iconic people of the past that served as building blocks for our university."

There's a saying in the Southerners alumni group, the Grey Echelon: "Once a Southerner, Always a Southerner." This esprit de corps is very much taken into consideration when new shows and looks come together. It is this blending of cherished tradition and musical and marching innovation that lead to spectacular halftime shows that are destined to be imitated, but never duplicated.

Blow, Southerners! 







around campus

Outgoing JSU President Bill Meehan

HONORED WITH LASTING GIFTS



18 : GEM OF THE HILLS





LEFT: In honor of his 40 years of service, the JSU trustees have changed the name of Stadium Tower to William A. Meehan Hall and named Dr. Meehan a President Emeritus.



While the legacy of 11th JSU President Dr. William A. Meehan will undoubtedly stand on its own in the years ahead, prior to his retirement on June 30 took steps to guarantee he will be remembered for his many contributions to the institution he served for more than 40 years.

On April 3, friends gathered on campus to congratulate and celebrate Meehan at a retirement party in the Stadium Club. Among the gifts Meehan received were a key to the City of Jacksonville, a resolution from the U.S. House of Representatives, an American flag that flew over the U.S. Capitol during one of Meehan's visits to D.C., a resolution signed by all 35 Alabama senators, inscribed bricks to be installed along the Alumni House walkway for Meehan and First Lady Beth Meehan,

and a coffee table book chronicling his time at JSU.

During the celebration, Dr. Charles Lewis, vice president for university advancement, also announced the creation of the Dr. William A. Meehan Endowed Scholarship - which had already accumulated \$42,000 before the public announcement.

Former Alabama Secretary of State and JSU Trustees Chair Jim Bennett ended the fete with the unveiling of the official Meehan presidential portrait, which will hang in the boardroom of the Houston Cole Library.

On April 13, the JSU Faculty Senate honored Meehan with the planting of an oak and installation of a bench in front of Bibb Graves Hall. The next day, Delta Chi fraternity honored Meehan with a

proclamation from Alabama Gov. Robert Bentley. As an undergraduate at JSU in the 1960s, Meehan was one of the first members of Delta Chi. He is also a former advisor for the fraternity.

At their quarterly meeting on April 20, the JSU Board of Trustees surprised Meehan with the largest gift, a resolution renaming Stadium Tower "William A. Meehan Hall" in his honor. The building was officially dedicated at a formal ribbon cutting ceremony on July 20. Family, friends and former colleagues of Dr. Meehan gathered around as JSU President John Beehler along with the Trustees led the ceremony in Meehan's honor. Earlier that day, the board named Meehan a President Emeritus. 



JSU Robotics Team Captures National Title

The JSU Robotics Team brought home a national title at the 14th Annual Association of Technology, Management, and Applied Engineering Student Robotics Competition in St. Louis, Mo. earlier this year. It was JSU's second win since the team was established just four years ago.

The 17-member team had to design a robot capable of competing in four Olympic events, including football, without manual adjustments. Weighing in at less than 120 pounds and sporting a JSU logo and glowing red undercarriage, "Optimus Rooster" was designed to lift barbells, kick field goals, complete a 20-yard dash, and collect golf balls on a marathon course.

Scores from competition were combined with points for overall design, a poster session and audience voting. At the end of the day, the JSU team captured first place as well as the Best Fabrication and People's Choice Awards. Second prize

went to Illinois State University while the University of Northern Iowa came in third.

The winning team included: Blake Ray, president; Jojo Barnes, vice president; Justin Caswell, treasurer; Tina Civitello, secretary; Drew Coffman; John Hill; Kacy Holsonback; Damarcus Lawson; Josie Mangum; Steven Martinez; Sinh Nguyen; John Norton; Joy Packard; Chris Pender; Aaron Rissler; Dexter Vernon; and Ryan Wise.

Housed within the Department of Technology and Engineering, the team is advised by department head Terry Marbut and instructor Phillip Dean. While the team is mostly comprised of applied engineering and computer science majors, membership is open to all JSU students. Marbut believes that participation is a great way for students to prepare for their future careers.

"We think it gives our students lots of practical experience beyond what they can

gain in the classroom," Marbut said. "It prepares them for real-world deadlines that have to be met out on the job."

JSU offers undergraduate degrees in applied electronics engineering and applied manufacturing engineering. While traditional engineering programs tend to teach the student to develop the latest technology, JSU trains students to implement, or apply, the latest technology for today's companies.

To give back to the community, the JSU Robotics Team hosts the Alabama State VEX Robotics Championship each year for elementary, middle and high school students. Team members also volunteer at qualifying tournaments held at local schools throughout the year. The champs will travel to Pittsburg, Pa. in November to defend their title. If you are an alumnus who lives in the area please come out and cheer them on! [Learn more at www.atmae.org](http://www.atmae.org)



JSU's Accreditation Reaffirmed Through 2024

The board of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) has reaffirmed JSU's accreditation for 10 years, through 2024. Accreditation is quality assurance in higher education based upon standards set by peers. To successfully complete an accreditation review, an institution or program must provide sufficient instructional and support services for students to achieve their educational goals. State universities like JSU are regionally accredited, and SACSCOC is one of eight regional accrediting bodies for colleges and universities in the U.S.

The process of preparing for reaccreditation is intensive and involves the entire campus. JSU must undergo a

reaffirmation review and site visit every 10 years. In years past there have always been items to be addressed and a request for a one-year follow up report. This year's excellent report gives JSU a reprieve until 2019, when the university will be required to submit its Fifth-Year Interim Report to SACSCOC. At that time, JSU will also submit a final report on "Fast Forward: Using 21st Century Tools to Promote Critical Thinking," the university's quality enhancement plan (QEP), which should be winding down at about that time.

In a memo to his staff, then JSU President William A. Meehan said, "This is another significant milestone in the progress that all of you have been able to make in improving Jacksonville State

University and the value that we offer our students and community. Thank you so much for all of your hard work in making this reaffirmation possible." 



JSU Mourns Passing of Ninth President and University Photographer



Dr. Theron E. Montgomery

Dr. Theron E. Montgomery, ninth president of Jacksonville State University, passed away on February 10, 2015 in Calhoun County. He was 90 years old.

A Spartanburg, S.C., native, Montgomery played an instrumental role in JSU's development throughout his 36-year tenure. Arriving on campus in 1950 under the administration of President Houston Cole, he initially served as a sociology instructor. He was promoted in 1955 to dean of the university and, in 1971, as vice president for academic affairs. He assumed the presidency on July 1, 1981, and remained in the office until his retirement in 1986.

While Montgomery retired nearly 30 years ago, his impact continues to be felt on campus. During his administration, departments began seeking individual accreditation for their specific programs and the athletic teams excelled, receiving the All Sports award, which honored the outstanding program in the Gulf South Conference. The university also purchased the historic Roebuck home, which offers alumni a place to gather when they return to campus. The university's student commons facility - the Theron Montgomery Building - is named in his honor. 



Opal R. Lovett

Opal R. Lovett, who saw Jacksonville State University through two name changes and worked for 36 years to capture decades of life and growth at his alma mater as the university's photographer, passed away on January 11, 2015.

Native to Sylacauga, Lovett began working at JSU in 1950 after earning a B.S. in history and English from the university in 1948. As university photographer, he was instrumental in providing photographs for "The Chanticleer", "Mimosa", and public relations releases. Lovett retired from the university in 1986. President Meehan presented a meritorious service award to him and his spouse - JSU

English instructor Opal A. Lovett - at the December 2001 commencement in honor of their lifetime achievements and service to the university. The couple established the Lovett Scholarship at JSU for deserving students majoring in history, English, or art. Mrs. Lovett passed away in 2006. 



JACKSONVILLE STATE UNIVERSITY



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FOOTBALL PREVIEW

Twelve Jacksonville State Gamecocks were named to the 2015 Preseason All-Ohio Valley Conference Football Team at the league's annual Media Day on July 20, when the Gamecocks were also picked to repeat as champions in 2015.

The Gamecocks, who ran through the league with a perfect 8-0 record in 2014, received all but two first place votes by the league's head coaches and sports information directors, who are not allowed to vote for their own teams. They topped the preseason poll with 128 points, 21 points ahead of second-place Eastern Illinois.

They also dominated the Preseason All-Conference Teams, grabbing 41 percent of the 29 available spots. JSU placed six on the Preseason All-OVC Offense, five on Defense and one on special teams. Senior defensive lineman Devaunte Sigler, who was named the league's Defensive Player of the Year in 2014, was voted as the Preseason Defensive Player of the Year for 2015.

Fellow defensive linemen LaMichael Fannin and Chris Landrum joined Sigler up front on the Preseason All-OVC Defense, while senior defensive backs

Jermaine Hough and DeBarrius Miller made up half of the backfield. Senior punter Hamish MacInnes also grabbed preseason honors on special teams.

Junior quarterback Eli Jenkins and junior wide receiver Josh Barge were on the offense. Senior tight end Bo Brummel, junior center Casey Dunn, senior guard Adam Wright and sophomore tackle Justin Lea were also on the Preseason All-OVC's offense.

JSU has been picked as high as No. 4 in the FCS preseason polls after posting a 10-2 record that saw them ranked as high as No. 2 before earning the No. 3 national seed in the FCS Playoffs a year ago.

JSU's home opener against Tennessee State on Sept. 19 was the first of two back-to-back weeks of great exposure for the Gamecocks, as both that game and the Sept. 26 matchup against UT Martin on the road were nationally televised on ESPN3.

"This is a great opportunity and national exposure for our football team and university," said interim athletics director Greg Seitz. "We are thrilled that we will have the opportunity to showcase our

outstanding football program and facilities to a national audience, as well as our excellent game day atmosphere and the Marching Southerners.

"We are also pleased to play on ESPN3 the following week on the road, which should allow our fans, alumni and supporters the chance to watch the Gamecocks if they are not able to travel to the game," Seitz added. "We are also happy that we may have the opportunity to appear on ESPN3 an additional three times this season as a wild card selection."

Fans of the Gamecocks can order their five-game home season tickets online at www.jsugamecocksports.com or by calling the JSU ticket office at (256) 782-8499. 





GAMECOCKS CLAIM 4TH OVC TITLE

Jacksonville State clinched its fourth Ohio Valley Conference football crown on November 15 with a gritty 27-20 victory over Eastern Illinois before a crowd of 14,925 at Burgess-Snow Field. It was the ninth consecutive win for the Gamecocks, their second-longest winning streak since moving to Division I in 1993. The victory earned the Gamecocks the OVC's automatic bid to the FCS playoffs.

It was the first time since JSU joined the OVC in 2003 that the Gamecocks won the conference after being selected as the preseason favorites. It was the first outright championship for the Gamecocks since 2004. JSU also won the OVC title in 2003, 2004 and 2011.

After a bye week, the Gamecocks hosted Sam Houston State at Burgess-Snow Field on December 6 in a second-round

FCS playoff game. The Bearkats held the No. 3 Gamecocks scoreless in the second half to claim a 37-26 victory, ending the Gamecocks' hopes of a repeat quarterfinals appearance. The Gamecocks' season ended with a 10-2 record for head coach John Grass in his first year. 📱



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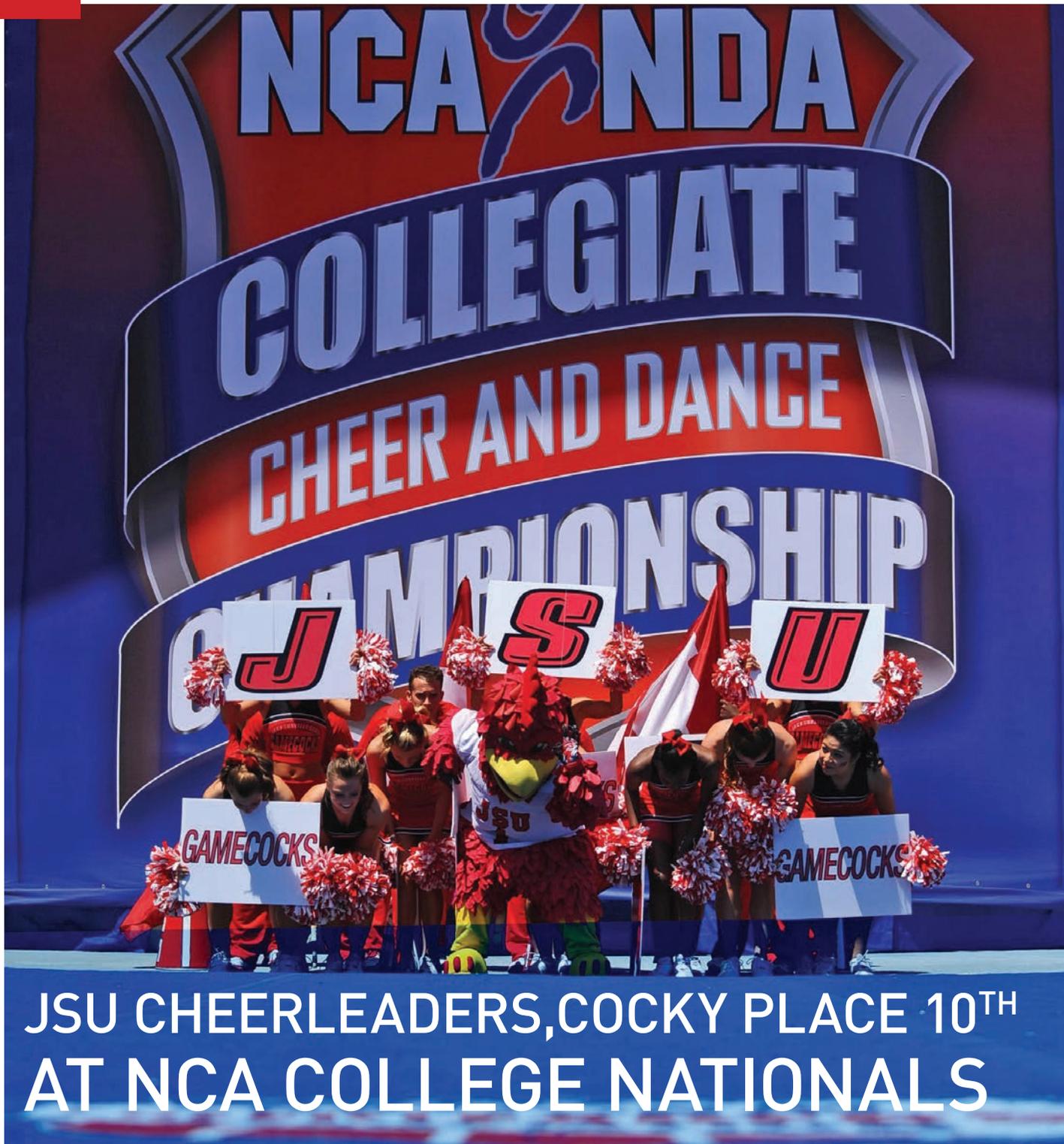


2015 GAMECOCK FOOTBALL

DATE	OPPONENT	TIME
SEPT. 5	AT CHATTANOOGA	5 PM
SEPT. 12	AT AUBURN	11 AM
SEPT. 19	TENNESSEE STATE	1 PM (BAND DAY/RED DAY)
SEPT. 26	AT UT MARTIN	2 PM
OCT. 17	AT TENNESSEE TECH	6 PM
OCT. 24	AT AUSTIN PEAY	4 PM
OCT. 31	EASTERN KENTUCKY	1 PM (HOMECOMING/FAMILY DAY)
NOV. 7	EASTERN ILLINOIS	1 PM
NOV. 14	SOUTHEAST MISSOURI	1 PM (HALL OF FAME)
NOV. 21	MURRAY STATE	1 PM (SOUTHERNERS REUNION)

ALL TIMES CT (SCHEDULE AND TIMES SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

FALL 2015 : 27



JSU CHEERLEADERS, COCKY PLACE 10TH AT NCA COLLEGE NATIONALS

Stand up and holler for JSU's Cheerleaders and Cocky, who recently placed 10th in the National Cheerleading Association College Nationals in Daytona Beach, Fla. The squad competed April 8-12 in the small co-ed division, where they placed tenth out of 18 teams.

"We are so proud of this team and what they have accomplished their first

year at nationals," said Donna Callan, manager of athletic marketing and promotions and cheerleader administrator. "JSU was well-represented. We appreciate the support from athletics, the university and the community. Hats off to head coach Dave Almeida for all his hard work!"

This year's squad consists of: Dylan Burns, Jay Harris, Sam Harris, Karl

Kiesler, Brett Langston, Jamon Phillips, Jeremy Wynn, Lauren Ashmore, Brooklyn Bean, Alexis Byers, Brittany Cates, Hannah Cronan, Tori Frederick, Justice Gray, Kaiyla Isbell, Alicia Kittles, Leslie Puckett, Breana Whitten, Kelsey Wilson, and Cocky! 🐓



JSU RIFLE FINISHES 5TH AT NCAA CHAMPIONSHIPS

The Jacksonville State rifle team posted the third-best mark in the air rifle competition at the 2015 NCAA Rifle Championships on March 14 and maintained fifth place in the overall standings. It was the Gamecocks' 14th NCAA Championship appearance and their best finish since the 2011 season, when they finished fourth among the final eight teams.

The Gamecocks collected their ninth overall Ohio Valley Conference title on February 8 at their home range, and the fourth conference crown in a row. Jax State is led by six-time OVC Coach of the Year Ron Frost. Frost shared the 2015 OVC Coach of the Year honor with Murray State's Alan Lollar.

At the OVC tournament, sophomore Brandon Muske was named the

2015 OVC Air Rifle Athlete of the Year. Cole Tucker, Samantha Bullard and Dan McCall were named the OVC Air Rifle First Team. Bullard and Brent Book also were named to the OVC Smallbore First Team. 🏆



Samantha Bullard



Dan McCall



Brandon Muske



Cole Tucker

BECOME AN OFFICIAL JSU LICENSEE + VENDOR

Jacksonville State University contracts with Learfield Licensing, to manage its licensing services.

According to Mary Smith, Coordinator of Publications, “The JSU licensing program is designed to ensure that the Jacksonville State name and trademarks are used appropriately, consistently, in good taste and with high-quality reproduction, and to avoid misrepresentation of Jacksonville State University to the public.

Our goal is to establish a cooperative relationship with licensees to assist in the further development of a market of officially licensed products of Jacksonville State.”

For information about licensing, go to Learfield Licensing (www.learfieldlicensing.com) and click on the “licensing” link at the top of the page.

Vendors, even though approved and on the purchasing list, are not automatically licensees. They must still apply for a license in order to use JSU marks.

Apply for a License

In order to produce products bearing the marks of any Learfield Licensing client, manufacturers must apply for a license. Our application packet provides you with a comprehensive overview of the licensing process, the application itself, and a list of all of the accounts we manage.

From there, one can download the license application. For more information, contact Mary Smith at msmith@jsu.edu.

Companies that wish to sell goods and services to JSU can do so through the Procurement and Fixed Assets office. There are two ways JSU purchases goods and services—bid and non-bid.

Bids

The State of Alabama Competitive Bid Law requires that like items costing \$15,000 or more in a fiscal year be bid. The State of Alabama Finance Department bids contracts that JSU can use for items such as furniture. JSU is also able to purchase from various purchasing consortiums if the contracts from these consortiums comply with the state bid law. Some examples of items for which JSU issues bids are paper products, sports medicine supplies, bus transportation, certain equipment, and some services. Prospective vendors are invited to submit their name, mailing address, email address and type of products or services provided to purchasing@jsu.edu.



JSU sends bid requests to vendors electronically. Bid responses from vendors must still be submitted in sealed, hard-copy form. The State of Alabama Competitive Bid Law does not allow for electronic bid responses.

To see a list of current bid opportunities, visit the Purchasing website, www.jsu.edu/purchasing/current-bids.

Non-Bids

For purchases that do not require a bid contract, campus departments may select the vendor of their choice. It is the responsibility of the vendor to keep the contact information on file up to date. Pamela Findley, Director of Procurement and Fixed Assets, says that while the university is bound by bid law and must abide by all applicable rules and regulations, JSU is always open to doing business with alumni. “JSU is proud of the continued relationships we have with our alumni and we appreciate opportunities to be part of their business success,” she said

For more information, call the Procurement and Fixed Assets office at 256-782-5152 or visit their website at www.jsu.edu/purchasing.



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STADIUM CLUB LOBBY GETS NEW NAME

ABOVE: (Left-Right) Danny and Ro Bryant, Ruby Rose, Heather, Mark and Samuel Royce Saltzman.

“Get an education, sons, they can’t take it away from you.”

This was the advice that Samuel Royce “Mutt” Bryant gave his sons Ronald, Danny and Dennis. Now, when visitors enter the lobby of the JSU Stadium Club, they’ll see something else that can’t be taken away—the legacy of a father who championed his sons’ higher education. Thanks to a generous gift of \$100,000 by Danny and Ro Bryant, the fifth floor entrance of Stadium Tower has been renamed the Samuel Royce “Mutt” Bryant Lobby in his honor.

32 : GEM OF THE HILLS

Born in 1918, Mutt Bryant finished sixth grade at Ohatchee before he was put behind a mule and given a field to plow. After serving as an Army infantryman in Hiroshima, Nagasaki and Tokyo during World War II, he used his GI benefits to build a career as an electrician. While he and his wife Margie (Chastain) raised their sons, Mutt worked hard in various foundries. He eventually retired from Anniston Army Depot.

All three sons followed their father’s advice and earned their college degrees. Ronald attended Freed-Hardeman

University and served as a Church of Christ minister for 52 years. Danny received a bachelor’s degree in business in 1969 from JSU, where he was a founding member of Delta Chi. He spent his career in the oil business. Dennis graduated from JSU in 1976, earned an MBA from Syracuse University and had a distinguished military career. 



NEW ADDITION FOR 2016 SEASON WOMEN'S SAND VOLLEYBALL

At its April 20 quarterly meeting, the Jacksonville State Board of Trustees approved the addition of Women's Sand Volleyball as the Gamecocks' 17th varsity sport. The Gamecocks will field a team beginning in the spring of 2016 in what is one of the NCAA's fastest growing campus sports. At the recent NCAA Convention in Washington, D.C., the NCAA voted to approve sand volleyball as the 90th NCAA Championship.

The Gamecocks will compete with the same players and coaches on their indoor volleyball team, which plays its season during the fall, and will use the sand court adjacent to Stephenson Hall. In sand volleyball, teams consist of five pairs of

players. The first team to win three of five matches is the winner. The sand volleyball season, which is a minimum of eight and maximum of 16 dates, begins on March 1, 2016. The NCAA Championships will be held the first week of May.

In the 2015 season, the NCAA had 42 Division I schools and six Division II schools sponsoring sand volleyball. Of the 48 Division I and Division II programs, 22 are in the southeast, with UAB, Georgia State and Mercer the closest to JSU's campus. The Gamecocks will be the only program in the Ohio Valley Conference with sand volleyball and will compete as an independent. 



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with alumni

Law Partners Buttram and Hopper

DISCOVER THEY HAVE MORE IN COMMON THAN JUST THEIR PROFESSION

BY HEATHER GREENE

Of the many perks of attending JSU, perhaps the most important is the lifelong connections formed between students and alumni spanning generations and representing diverse backgrounds.

One such connection happened between Dean Buttram and Chad Hopper, JSU alumni from different generations who are not only partners in the same law firm but also recipients of JSU's prestigious Dausette Award. The award is given to the graduating male with the highest GPA in each class.

A native of Gadsden, Dean Buttram earned three degrees between 1972-1975. "I could not get enough of the 'Friendliest Campus in the South'," he laughed.

Buttram was active on campus, serving as a SGA senator and interim SGA president in 1973, chairing the Greek homecoming parade in 1972, serving as a charter member of Pi Kappa Phi Fraternity in 1971, and working as a student employ-

ee in the financial aid office. He received the Dausette Award in 1972.

Buttram was not the first member of his family to graduate from JSU. His grandmother, Dessa Robertson, graduated from the Jacksonville Normal School in 1922 and subsequently taught 1st through 11th grade in Calhoun County. He married JSU alumna Kathy Roe Buttram, a former reporter for the "Birmingham News" and assistant business editor at the "Orlando Sentinel". She is currently a successful advertising consultant in Centre.

JSU attendance continues to be part of the Buttram family tradition. Buttram's son H. Dean Buttram, III, earned his undergraduate and master's degrees at JSU. After earning a doctorate at the University of Alabama, he returned to JSU where he is now a criminal justice professor.

"JSU prepared me for any career I chose to pursue," said Buttram. "While obtaining my graduate degrees, I also

completed all the science and math classes necessary for medical and dental school. I attended the Samford School of Pharmacy for a while. I was accepted to attend both the Greenbriar School of Osteopathic Medicine in West Virginia and the University of Louisville School of Dentistry. In the end, I chose to become a lawyer."

In 1978, Buttram earned his law degree at Samford University's Cumberland School of Law. After practicing from 1978 to 1998, President William J. Clinton nominated him for a vacancy on the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Alabama. The U.S. Senate unanimously confirmed the nomination in October 1998. He served four years before returning to private practice in 2002, when he rejoined his former partner Bill Hawkins and a new partner and JSU graduate, Chad Hopper.

Soon after, Buttram and Hopper found themselves discussing fond memo-





ries of JSU when they discovered they were both Daugette Award winners.

“I have known Chad all of his life and followed his academic career as he attended and graduated from JSU and completed law school,” Buttram said. “We learned that both of us were Daugette Award winners several years ago while having a friendly argument about which one of us was the smartest. We continue that argument to this day. The nerve of the guy to even think such a thing! I feel like we were both destined to be attorneys, and being JSU graduates brings us together with a special camaraderie that I believe only JSU can lead you to.”

Chad Hopper graduated from JSU in 1997, summa cum laude, with a bachelor’s in accounting. Twenty-five years after Buttram, he received the prestigious Daugette Award. As an undergraduate, he was active in Baptist Campus Ministries and intramural sports. He went on to earn his law

degree from the University of Alabama.

“I am very proud of my time at JSU,” Hopper said. “I met friends that I still stay in contact with and that I treasure. I enjoyed all of my classes, especially classes with Mr. Floyd Kirby in the accounting department. The education that I received at JSU was second to none and made law school an easy transition for me. Many of my favorite memories were associated with the Baptist Campus Ministries.”

In 2000, Hopper began his law practice with attorney Bill Hawkins in Centre. Together, the three formed Buttram, Hawkins & Hopper, LLC.

“Dean and I both have a great sense of pride as it relates to our alma mater and the educational foundation that we received at JSU,” Hopper said. “Since I grew up in Centre, I always knew that Mr. Buttram was a proud graduate of Jacksonville State, prior to working with him.”

Hopper and his wife, Brooke Reynolds Hopper, have two children: Cade, 9; and Anna, 5. Mrs. Hopper is a kindergarten teacher at Centre Elementary School. Hopper still maintains his connection to his alma mater and tries to make it to at least one JSU football game a year.

“I love coming back to campus to see how much has changed,” he said. “I am grateful for all that the university did for me, and I can’t imagine a better place to attend school.”

ABOVE: Chad Hopper (left) and Dean Buttram at their law offices in Centre.



with alumni

From Alabama Days to Arabian Nights

ONE GRADUATE'S JOURNEY TO THE PALACE

BY HEATHER GREENE



36 : GEM OF THE HILLS





Growing up in Glencoe, Alabama, Leah Bryn Thornhill had no idea that life would take her to a Saudi Arabian palace.

After graduating from JSU in 2003 with a B.S. in nursing, she found herself working as a nurse at a hospital in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. One individual noticed that she was independent, strong-willed and a critical thinker and invited her to work in the palace. Today, she is a registered nurse for the King of Saudi Arabia and his immediate family members. Her job has afforded her the opportunity to travel and meet two U.S. presidents, a pope, the Queen of England, and many more interesting faces.

While across the globe, Thornhill is pursuing a Master of Science in nursing from JSU, concentrating in community health. While both of her parents were college graduates, she is the first in her family to go on to graduate school.

"It's funny," Thornhill said. "I never knew growing up I actually had a choice of not attending college."

In addition to juggling the duties of being a nurse to a royal family and a graduate student, Thornhill is also mother to three children – ages 10, 12 and 14 – with one on the way. Her husband, Dr. Jose De-Feo, also works at the palace as a veterinarian for racehorses.

Dr. Rebecca Peinhardt, professor and director of graduate nursing programs at JSU, has had the opportunity to frequently interact with Thornhill over the past year of her graduate studies, keeping up-to-date on Thornhill's progress and encouraging her along her journey.

"Our MSN programs are offered totally online," Peinhardt explains. "All of our MSN students take their classes online, but participate in advanced clinical practice as a nurse in the city or area where they live. In Leah's case, that is in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. She has shared that she has a heart for women's health and children's health and a desire to work to improve health care education and prevention practices in the kingdom. She wants to learn advanced nursing skills to plan community programs to expand and improve best practices in the health care systems where she lives."

As JSU's MSN program is entirely online, its students are located across the world – a fact Peinhardt keeps in mind when interacting with all of her students, including Thornhill.

"She is halfway around the world from JSU, living and working in a culture that is very different from our Southern culture," Peinhardt said. "I am mindful to not only respect Leah as a student, but also of the fact that she is living and studying in an area of the world which is very different from the residential JSU community here."

Thornhill exuberantly affirms that she loves her job.

"I chose nursing because I always knew I wanted to practice and be in the medical profession," Thornhill said. "I chose nursing because it's such an open field for growth and change in many directions and you can experience many things in nursing. When you find what you love, the sky is the limit."

As with all her graduate students, Peinhardt's hope for Thornhill is that she continue to find professional success. "She has a heart for nursing and a heart for the Saudi people," said Peinhardt. "She is an ambassador for community health, prevention of disease, improvements in health care, and lastly for JSU. I appreciate Leah and the difference she is making and will make in the future. She embodies a global health outreach. The JSU College of Nursing is now a part of that global initiative!"

Interested to see where a nursing degree could take you? Learn more about JSU's undergraduate and graduate nursing programs by visiting www.jsu.edu/nursing.



LEFT: Leah Thornhill with the Saudi King and President George W. Bush.





Cortlyn Watson

CROWNED MISS JSU 2015

BY CHRISTINA MACDONALD

Lights shining, adrenaline pumping, crowds cheering. No, we're not talking about the Super Bowl, although it is an elite, competitive, dream-come-true for participants. We're talking about the Miss Alabama pageant. This summer, JSU nursing major Cortlyn Watson fulfilled a lifelong dream by representing the university at the event as Miss JSU 2015.

More than just sequins and hairspray, the prestigious Miss Alabama pageant gives young women of distinction the opportunity to earn college scholarships while gaining interview skills and self-confidence. Along with the coveted title and tiara comes the opportunity to represent the state at the Miss America pageant.

Watson – who hails from Cleveland, Alabama – was crowned Miss JSU in January as just a freshman in an impressive display of talent, grace and poise.

"I knew going into my freshman year that I was going to compete for the title of Miss JSU," Watson said, "but I never thought I would actually win my freshman

year and have this opportunity so early!"

Watson has been competing in pageants since she was just six months old and has grown to love the pageant atmosphere. For the 20-year-old, it has literally taken a lifetime of hard work to achieve this goal.

"It has always been a dream of mine to compete in Miss Alabama, so as soon as they announced me as the winner of the Miss JSU pageant and it finally soaked in my first thought was 'Wow, this is real. I'm going to compete on the Miss Alabama stage!'"

JSU is no stranger to exceptional young women with big dreams like Watson. Since 1971, seven former Miss JSUs have gone on to be crowned Miss Alabama: Ceil Jenkins Snow, 1971; Jane Rice Holloway, 1973; Julie Houston Elmer, 1977; Teresa Cheatham Stricklin, 1978; Tammy Little Haynes, 1984; Heather Whitestone McCallum, 1994; and Jamie Langley, 2007.

More than 35 years after she wore the Miss Alabama crown, Teresa Cheatham

Stricklin – the first runner-up in the 1979 Miss America pageant – is now a wife, mother, and a vocal instructor at her alma mater. Heather Whitestone McCallum, who was the first hearing impaired woman to ever be crowned Miss America, earned the title in 1995. She is now a motivational speaker and lives with her husband and three sons on Saint Simon's Island in Georgia. Jamie Langley, Miss Alabama 2007, is now a TV anchor and reporter at Montgomery's WAKA, CBS-8.

Watson follows a long line of remarkable young women to hail from Jacksonville State University and represent the school on the Miss Alabama stage. Plan to come back to campus this winter to see the crowning of Miss JSU 2016. If history is any indication, a future Miss America could be in our midst! 



Gamecocks Helping Gamecocks

MENTORSHIP PROGRAM CONNECTS ALUMNI AND STUDENTS

Want to give back to your alma mater while training the next generation of leaders in your field? Become an alumni mentor through the Offices of Alumni Relations and Career Services.

Mentoring programs are becoming an essential part of most universities in today's job market. For students, the program provides first-hand knowledge about their chosen profession and gives them a competitive edge through networking opportunities and job leads. For alumni, it's a chance to stay in touch with their alma mater and a resource for finding the best interns and graduates.

JSU alumnus Keith Mitchell ('76), co-founder of Mitchell, Hartley & Bechtel Advisers, LLC, recently served as a mentor to a senior business student. He wishes he had participated in such a program when he was graduating from JSU.

"As I think back on my senior year and graduation, I know that I would have benefitted from having someone who could have provided guidance and perspective as I was embarking on my career," Mitchell said. "The alumni mentoring program seemed like a way to give back to the university in a tangible and practical way."

Starting this fall, alumni and current JSU students can register online for the mentoring program - uploading bios and resumes and searching for mentees or mentors through JLink. The online portal is also the place for students and alumni to

search for jobs and for employers to post free job and internship announcements.

"This online program will remove most of the manual process and make it quicker and easier to search for and create an alumni/student relationship," said Kaci Ogle, director of Alumni Relations.

While JLink is a great service, it is only one of career development opportunities now provided by JSU. From day one, freshmen - particularly undecided majors - are encouraged to meet with Career Services to complete a career assessment. The office provides the Myer-Briggs Personality Inventory, resume and cover letter critiques, and information on internships and co-ops. Career fairs and etiquette dinners are held on campus each year to further provide students with the tools they need to start their careers. Alumni on the job market can also take advantage of resume and cover letter critiques, career counseling and career fairs.

To learn more about these programs, visit www.jsu.edu/alumni and www.jsu.edu/careerservices. Questions? Contact Kaci Ogle in Alumni Affairs at 256-782-5405 or kogle@jsu.edu or Becca Turner in Career Services at 256-782-5485 or btturner@jsu.edu.

If you are an alumnus considering becoming a mentor, Mitchell has a word of advice:

"While your contribution is significant to the student, the real reward is the satisfaction you will gain from making a difference at a critical time in the student's life."

CONNECT WITH JSU AND NEARLY 20,000 ALUMNI ON LINKEDIN!



www.linkedin.com/company/jacksonville-state-university



ALUMNI

OF THE YEAR

AWARD WINNERS WILL BE RECOGNIZED AT HALFTIME OF THE HOMECOMING GAME ON SATURDAY, OCTOBER 31



Steve May '81

ALUMNUS OF THE YEAR

STEVE MAY '81

Steve May earned his B.S. in management/marketing from JSU in 1981 and continued his education at Florida Tech, receiving an M.S. in management and information technology in 2003. May served in senior managerial roles with Cintas, General Electric and Boeing before beginning his career with Jack Daniels in 2003 as strategic sourcing manager. In 2005, he was promoted to director of the company's Lynchburg Homeplace, where he oversees marketing. His responsibilities include receiving 270,000 visitors a year and managing more than 130 employees at the distillery. An active philanthropist both professionally and personally, he was honored with the 2013 Servant Leadership Award from the Tennessee Association of Community Leadership. He also serves on the board for the Retail, Hospitality, Tourism Management school at the University of Tennessee and on the Board of Visitors for the JSU College of Commerce and Business Administration. May is an alumnus of the Kappa Sigma Fraternity at JSU. He and his wife, Nell, reside in Lynchburg and have two grown children, Chris and Josh.



Robin Harris Boyles '84/'91/'98/'13

ALUMNA OF THE YEAR

ROBIN HARRIS BOYLES '84/'91/'98/'13

Robin Harris Boyles earned a B.S. in music education from JSU in 1984, followed by a B.S. in early childhood education in 1991. She returned to JSU to earn an M.S. in early childhood education in 1998 and an educational specialist degree in early childhood education in 2013. Boyles has dedicated her life to education and has been employed by the Jacksonville City School System for the past 23 years as a first grade teacher. She was a presenter at the 2015 JSU CORE Academy and since 2014 has served as an adjunct instructor at Gadsden State Community College. She is very active in her community, serving as a Relay for Life team captain for Team Megan and coordinating the Team Megan event, Paws for a Cause. She has been a member of the First Baptist Church of Jacksonville since 1984 and involved with EaglePoint Church children's ministry since 2010. Boyles and her husband, Marty, reside in Jacksonville and have three children who are also Gamecocks: Shelli ('10), Hali ('12) and current JSU student Calli.



Brett O. Socha '08

YOUNG ALUM OF THE YEAR

BRETT O. SOCHA '08

Brett O. Socha earned a B.S. in marketing from JSU in 2008. Upon graduation, he began his sales career in the wireless technology industry at Verizon Wireless in Birmingham. He earned an executive M.B.A. from Colorado Technical University in 2010. In 2014, he accepted a regional sales position with GE Oil and Gas in Midland, Texas, for the Permian Basin in West Texas and New Mexico. He was responsible for more than \$12 million in revenue within the first year of being with the company. Socha stays connected to his JSU fraternity, Kappa Sigma. The former chapter president has served as an advisor and member of the Lambda-Gamma of Kappa Sigma Scholarship Foundation, district president for Alabama, and alumnus advisor for the chapter at Texas Tech University. He currently serves as commissioner of the Kappa Sigma Military Heroes Day of Service, which focuses on giving back to military men and women. Socha and his wife, JSU alumna Brittany (Greene) ('09), reside in Midland, Texas.



BG Timothy J. Daugherty '88



Gena Estes Christopher '79

**MILITARY ALUMNUS OF THE YEAR
BRIG. GEN. TIMOTHY J. DAUGHERTY '88**

Brig. Gen. Timothy J. Daugherty was selected for active duty as a second lieutenant in the field artillery branch from JSU ROTC in 1989. He earned a Bachelor of Science in criminal justice. He is a 2000 graduate of the Army Command and General Staff College and a 2011 graduate of the U.S. Air Force War College with a Master of Science in strategic studies. In addition, he earned a Master of Science in business administration from Central Michigan University. During more than 25 years of service, Daugherty has commanded units at every echelon from battery to brigade, which included duty in Afghanistan, Iraq, Germany, Bosnia and Kuwait. His awards and decorations include but are not limited to the Legions of Merit (with one oak leaf cluster), the Bronze Star Medal (with four oak leaf clusters), the Meritorious Service Medal (with three oak leaf clusters), the Army Commendation Medal (with five oak leaf clusters), the Army Achievement Medal (with five oak leaf clusters), and the Air Force Achievement Medal. He is currently serving as the Deputy Commanding General for the 4th Infantry Division at Fort Carson, Colorado. He and his wife, Becky (Bassett)'88 are the proud parents of three children: Madeleine, Katherine, and Jacob. The Daughertys are currently stationed at Fort Carson, Colo.

**OUTSTANDING FACULTY/STAFF
OF THE YEAR**

GENA ESTES CHRISTOPHER '79

Gena Estes Christopher earned a B.S. in secondary education from JSU in 1979 and an M.A. in education from the University of Alabama at Birmingham in 1983 – both with concentrations in English. She served as an English teacher for the Mountain Brook and Piedmont school systems before joining the faculty at the JSU English department, where she served for more than 20 years. Christopher is currently director of JSU's Faculty Commons, where teaches other faculty how to integrate innovative active-learning teaching strategies into the classroom. She served as a Gamecock Orientation advisor for 11 years and as a JSU ambassador in China at Taizhou University. Among her awards and honors, Christopher received the Earlon and Betty McWhorter Outstanding Teacher Award in 2012, the Dean's Award for Institutional Service in the College of Arts and Sciences in 1996 and 2004, and the Distinguished Service Award from Association of College English Teachers of Alabama in 1998. She and her husband, Odell, have four grown children and nine granddaughters. Within her immediate family, there are eight JSU alumni, six completed degrees, and three members employed at JSU.



**ALUMNI CHAPTER OF THE YEAR
ROTC ALUMNI CHAPTER**

The ROTC Alumni Chapter, led by president, Col. Chuck Buxton ('91) represents more than 1,500 JSU graduates who have completed the necessary coursework and rigorous training to receive commissions into the U.S. Army, Army Reserve or the Army National Guard. Since beginning its scholarship program in 2003, the ROTC Alumni Chapter has awarded more than \$209,000 in scholarships to deserving cadets. Col. Buxton and his wife Maya (Lenox) ('93) reside in Duluth, Georgia and have two daughters: Meghan and Abigail.

To nominate someone for the 2016 Outstanding Alumni of the Year, complete the form at www.jsu.edu/alumni

Nomination deadline for 2016 alumni of the year is March 1, 2016.



UPCOMING EVENTS & REUNIONS

SEPTEMBER 26

Fab 40s/Nifty 50s Luncheon

OCTOBER 2-3

JSU Gymnastics Teams
WLJS, 92-J Alumni
Baseball Alumni

OCTOBER 30

Class of 1965 Golden Gamecocks
ROTC Alumni
60s Group
STAT/SAA 10-year anniversary

NOVEMBER 13-14

Cheerleader Alumni

NOVEMBER 20-21

Marching Southerners Alumni

**REGISTER ONLINE FOR ALL
EVENTS AT WWW.JSU.EDU/ALUMNI**

STAY UP TO DATE

Catch up on all the latest
alumni news and events at
www.jsu.edu/alumni

Don't miss out on important
information. We need your
e-mail address. Please e-mail
us at alumni@jsu.edu.



Student Alumni Association to Celebrate 10th Anniversary

The Student Alumni Association – formerly known as Students Today, Alumni Tomorrow – will celebrate its 10th anniversary with a reunion of former and current members on Oct. 30, 6 p.m., at the Alumni House. Founded in 2005 as Students Today, Alumni Tomorrow (STAT), the organization changed its name to the Student Alumni Association (SAA) in 2013 and has become one of the fastest growing organizations on campus. The reunion is free and open to all members. Hors d'oeuvres will be served. RSVP at 877-JSU-Alum or alumni@jsu.edu.

All Former Athletes Now Invited to Join the J-Club

It's not just football anymore! Members of the J-Club voted this year to realign the alumni organization, originally open to only former football players, to include all former JSU athletes, coaches and support staff. As an official alumni chapter of the JSU National Alumni Association, the J-Club's mission is to support JSU's student-athletes and keep them engaged with the university after graduation. Interested in joining the J-Club? Call 877-JSU-Alum or e-mail alumni@jsu.edu.

Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Forms Alumni Chapter

This summer, the JSU National Alumni Association approved the creation of a new alumni group for Omega Psi Phi Fraternity. Royce Woodruff ('94/'04) and Leroy Wiley ('11) represented the alumni of the fraternity during the board meeting. Over the past year, the organization met all of the board's requirements to become an established chapter. Woodruff will serve as the chapter's president and sit on the alumni board. The organization is in the process of locating all of its former members. If you were a member of the fraternity, please e-mail your contact information to alumni@jsu.edu or call 877-JSU-ALUM. A reunion is planned for November 14.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 29TH – SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 1ST

HOMECOMING

JSU vs. EASTERN KENTUCKY

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

THURSDAY

6:00 PM

CALHOUN COUNTY ALUMNI AND FRIENDS WINE TASTING

8:00 PM

HOMECOMING PEP RALLY | JSU STADIUM

FRIDAY

NOON

CLASS OF 1965, 50 YEAR GOLDEN GAMECOCK REUNION
HOUSTON COLE LIBRARY

5:30 PM

60S GROUP ANNUAL REUNION | MCCLELLAN

6:00 PM

ROTC ALUMNI BANQUET | HOUSTON COLE LIBRARY

6:30 PM

STAT/SAA 10 YEAR REUNION | ALUMNI HOUSE

SATURDAY

8:30 AM

1955 REFRIGERATOR BOWL TEAM REUNION | ALUMNI HOUSE

8:30 AM

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING | TMB

9:00 AM-10:00 AM

DEPARTMENT OPEN HOUSES:
CCBA, COMMUNICATION, HONORS HOUSE

9:00 AM-12:00 PM

HOMECOMING OPEN HOUSE | ALUMNI HOUSE

10:30 AM

HOMECOMING PARADE

1:00 PM

JSU vs. EASTERN KENTUCKY KICKOFF

HALFTIME

ALUMNI OF THE YEAR AND HOMECOMING COURT RECOGNITION

SUNDAY

2:00 PM

UNITED NATIONS DAY TEA | INTERNATIONAL HOUSE

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



with alumni

GAMECOCKS GO BRAGH!

Just days after St. Patrick's Day in March, 26 JSU alumni and friends traveled to The Emerald Isle with the JSU Alumni Association for a Taste of Ireland tour with Collette Vacations. The seven-day journey included overnight stays in Dublin, Killarney and Cong. The travelers kissed the Blarney stone, toured the Guinness Storehouse and Tullamore Dew whiskey distillery, walked the shores of the beautiful Dingle Peninsula and the Cliffs of Moher, and even stayed overnight at Ashford Castle. Interested in traveling abroad with your fellow Gamecocks? The Alumni Association is organizing a trip to Tuscany for March 2016. To make your reservation, contact Kaci Ogle at 256-782-5405 or kogle@jsu.edu.



JOIN THE JSU NATIONAL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
AND DISCOVER TUSCANY!
MARCH 17-26, 2016

JACKSONVILLE STATE UNIVERSITY
ALUMNI
ASSOCIATION



ITINERARY AT A GLANCE

Day 1 Overnight Flight
Day 2 Atahotel Villa Pamphili or Grand Hotel Fleming, Rome
Day 3-8 Hotel Ercolini and Savi, Montecatini
Day 9 Grand Hotel Fleming, Rome

TRIP HIGHLIGHTS

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Montecatini Terme | Lucca
Gothic Line | San Gimignano
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10 DAYS 13 MEALS (8 BREAKFASTS AND 5 DINNERS)

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256-831-2323 | Robbie@rrtravelservice.com

**All rates are per person and are subject to change. Price includes round trip air from Hartsfield Intl Airport, air taxes and fees/surcharges, and hotel accommodations and transfers. Not included in price is cancellation waiver and trip insurance of \$260 per person.*

**For bookings made after September 18, 2015 call for rates.*



SAN GIMIGNANO VINEYARDS

ALUMnotes

BIRTHS

**pictured below*

1990-1999

*Chris Thomas Dempsey '95/'99 and Heather McFall Dempsey '99/'08, Jacksonville, Ala., welcomed the birth of their second daughter, Ruby Catherine, on March 21, 2014. They have an older daughter, Ada, who is six. Mr. Dempsey is employed by the Calhoun County Board of Education. He was a member of the Baptist Campus Ministry, served on the SGA and as a peer counselor and was a member of Sigma Phi Epsilon at JSU. Mrs. Dempsey is employed by the Jacksonville City Board of Education. She was also a member of the Baptist Campus Ministry.

Justin Edward Casey '09 and Michelle Moreland Casey '10, Jacksonville, Ala., had a baby girl on July 31, 2014. Mr. Casey was a member of Sigma Nu and serves as president of its alumni association.

WEDDINGS

**pictured below*

1980-1989

Doris Louise Bolton '89/'92 and Leroy H. Gunter, April 19, 2015, Smyrna, Ga. Mrs. Gunter is employed by the Department of the Treasury, Atlanta, Ga.



2000-2010

Hillary Flemmons '05 and William H. Hardwick, March 21, 2015, Anniston, Ala. Mrs. Hardwick is employed by Col. Robert L. Howard State Veterans Home, Pell City, Ala., as director of admissions.

Vanessa Marie Bonner '08 and Antonio Thomas, January 3, 2015, Jacksonville, Ala. Mrs. Thomas is an analytical chemist at American Process, Inc., in Georgia.

*Gilbert David Allen III '09/'11 and Jennifer N. Nix '09/'11, January 3, 2015, Montgomery, Ala. Mrs. Allen was a JSU Ambassador and GO Leader and member of Delta Sigma Theta. Mr. Allen was also a GO Leader and member of Alpha Phi Alpha.

2011-2015

Christopher Blake Jennings '11 and Morgan Elizabeth Cox '13, December 13, 2014, Jacksonville, Ala. A summa cum laude graduate, Mrs. Jennings is employed as lead dietitian at Gadsden Regional Medical Center. Mr. Jennings is employed by Ohatchee High School as the head varsity baseball coach and an assistant varsity football coach.



*Timothy Brandt Thomas '11 and Kristi Darnell '12, November 8, 2014, Glencoe, Ala. Mrs. Thomas is employed by Alacare Home Health and Hospice as a registered nurse. Mr. Thomas is employed by Pure Performance as the director of marketing and communications. He played football for JSU.

Anna Lee Murphy '13 and Caleb Scott Duke, May 2, 2015. Mrs. Duke is employed by B&B Health Services.

OBITUARIES

(Unless otherwise noted, the following information was taken from newspaper obituary notices)

JSU FACULTY/STAFF

Gussie Lou Dodson, Athens, Ala., January 22, 2015. She was retired from the building services department.

William Brice Hay '77, Jacksonville, Ala., December 6, 2014. He was an Air Force Vietnam veteran. Mr. Hay began his career at JSU in 1975 and retired as director of purchasing in 2001.

Karen Rebecca Johnson, Piedmont, Ala., December 23, 2014. She was employed at JSU for over thirty-five years as secretary for the physical plant.





Heinrich H. Mueller, Jacksonville, Ala., April 3, 2015. Mr. Mueller was retired from the physical plant.

Martha Ellen Brown Reaves, Jacksonville, Ala., October 24, 2014. Mrs. Reaves was retired from JSU but had been a very smiling and friendly face in the intramural sports office as secretary to Mark Jones for over ten years.

James A. Reynolds, Owens Cross Roads, Ala., February 28, 2015. He was a retired professor of physical education.

Donald R. Schmitz, Rainbow City, Ala., March 31, 2015, after a prolonged illness. Retired, Mr. Schmitz had served as dean of student affairs for over twenty years. After retiring, he taught counseling at JSU. He also served as advisor to the JSU cheerleaders for several years.

Phillip Brian Smart, Piedmont, Ala., April 12, 2015. He had been employed in the maintenance department.

Charles H. Sullenger, Barnwell, S. Car., May 8, 1999.

Peter B. Symonds, Louisville, Ky., March 10, 2015. He had been an instructor in the criminal justice department (1995-99). Mr. Symonds had begun his career in federal law enforcement with the FBI, working out of offices in Kansas City, St. Louis, Washington, D.C., Anchorage and Birmingham. He served as lead investigator for the Exxon Valdez disaster in 1989 in Alaska and retired from the FBI in 1995.

Franklin Eugene Taylor, Weaver, Ala., April 26, 2015. He was a retired instructor and had also served in the army during the Vietnam War era.

Edna S. Turner, Jacksonville, Ala., date of death unknown. She was retired.

Ina Faye Ryan Weaver, Moundville, Ala., April 29, 2015. She had worked at JSU for fifteen years.

Gayner D. Williams '66, Carrollton, Ga., date of death unknown. The alumni office was notified by her son that she is deceased. She was retired from JSU.

Nadyne May Yates, Jacksonville, Ala., January 29, 2015. She had retired from JSU in 2000 but had also been a cook and manager of several restaurants in Jacksonville over the years.

ATTENDED ONLY OR DATE OF GRADUATION UNKNOWN

Jane Self Burnham, Anniston, Ala., April 13, 2015. She had been a member of the JSU International House Program and was active in the Fabulous 40s group of alumni. Mrs. Burnham was very active in the community and served for many years as an organist and piano accompanist in the music ministry at Parker Memorial Baptist Church.

L. Bruce Coleman, Lakeland, Fla., March 17, 2015. He served twenty-three years in the Navy and, after retirement, became program director for the Department of the Navy. He had been a member of Sigma Nu.

Margaret Ann Cross, Attalla, Ala., October 6, 2012. A talented musician, she was accepted into the prestigious Eastman School of Music in Rochester, N.Y. She taught at Glencoe Middle School for twenty-one years and was Etowah County's first Teacher of the Year.

Charline Weeks Young Deerman, Tuscaloosa, Ala., November 24, 2014. She retired from Teledyne Brown Engineering after eighteen years as an accountant.

John E. Isenhower III, Leeds, Ala., March 2, 2015. He was a member of the Kappa Alpha Order.

Harriette Elizabeth Keen Jacobs, Warrenton, Ga., October 10, 2014. She had been a member of the Marching Ballerinas.

George Thomas Mayne, Anniston, Ala., April 2, 2015. A former Marine, he served during the Bay of Pigs-Cuban Missile Crisis and served two tours in Vietnam. He retired from the Anniston Army Depot in 1993. Mr. Mayne was married to Patricia Carol Prater Mayne '67.

William Grady Rowe, Jr., Eclectic, Ala., February 23, 2015. He had been commissioned through the JSU ROTC program and had played football. Mr. Rowe served in the 20th Special Forces Group of the Alabama National Guard and retired as a Lt. Col. He served his entire teaching career at Elmore County High School where he taught math, served as athletic director and coach of various sports over more than twenty years.

Gerald K. Screven, Lake Park, Ga., May 3, 2013. Mr. Screven played football at JSU. He was president of the Great Southern Yellow Pages.



John "Ray" Vinson, Huntsville, Ala., October 6, 2014. Mr. Vinson played football for JSU, setting records for interceptions and kickoff returns that still stand today. He was named a Little All American (First Team) his senior year and was drafted by the San Diego Chargers. Mr. Vinson was named to the JSU Sports Hall of Fame, the All Centennial Team and to Calhoun County's Sports Hall of Fame. He was married to Sandra Kirk Vinson '68.

H. Darden Williams, Mountain Brook, Ala., January 2, 2014. After serving in the Army, he became an attorney and practiced law in Anniston and Point Clear. He also served as a U.S. magistrate for the Northern District of Alabama.

1940-1949

Fanny Thompson Hinds '41, Birmingham, Ala., December 26, 2012. She was a teacher for the Shelby County Board of Education for forty years and taught adult basic education in Vincent for thirty-seven years. She was married to the late John Jordan Hinds, Jr. '38.

Frances McMinn McDonald '41, Weaver, Ala., April 5, 2015.

Henry Coleman Sikes '42, Wedowee, Ala., November 8, 2014. He was a teacher for thirty-eight years, spending most of his career at Randolph County High where he served as teacher, coach, assistant principal, and librarian.

Glenn H. Sides '43, Englewood, Co., September 2, 2014. The alumni office was notified by his daughter that Mr. Sides is deceased.

Miriam Wood Haywood '45, Jacksonville, Ala., October 19, 2014. Though retired from the JSU staff, Mrs. Haywood was always an active university supporter. She served on the Alumni Association Board of Governors and supported her Gamecocks in every sport. The football J-Club (former players) was her chief responsibility and she ran it as secretary for many years until she was unable to do so. Mrs. Haywood was sponsor of the JSU cheerleaders, Gamecock Hostesses and Gamecock Chicks. She was selected JSU Alumna of the Year in 2001. She was married to the late James B. Haywood '50, former director of food services at JSU.

Lewis Paul Hyatt, Sr. '46, Henrico, Va., February 24, 2015. He was 96. He served in the Navy and was a World War II veteran. He was Professor Emeritus at Austin Peay State University in Tennessee where he taught American history and all social sciences for thirty-nine years.

Sara Nell Stockdale Larson '46, Arcadia, Calif., February 25, 2013. The alumni office was notified by her daughter that Mrs. Larson is deceased.

Mabel Williams Bryant '49, Ohatchee, Ala., January 6, 2015. She taught for thirty-seven years in the Calhoun County School System.

Allen Cleveland '49, Auburn, Ala., September 17, 2014. Mr. Cleveland served on the Alumni Board of Governors in 1957-58.

Thomas Banister Hampson, Jr. '49, Atlanta, Ga., February 25, 2013. An Army veteran, Mr. Hampson later became a trust attorney with The Trust Company of Georgia and retired in 1980s.

James Edward LeCroy '49, Birmingham, Ala., March 1, 2015, after a long battle with Parkinson's disease. A long-time employee of US Steel, he retired and formed his own consulting company.

1950-1959

Barbara Burtram Ferrigno '50, Glastonbury, Conn., December 1, 2014. She worked for the State of Connecticut for twenty-five years, retiring as an administrative secretary in the Department of Education.

Jack O. Kerby, Sr. '50, Demopolis, Ala., February 22, 2015. He was a retired Army National Guard lieutenant colonel. Mr. Kerby served as president of the SGA and was a member of Pi Kappa Phi. He was a retired dean at Hobson State Technical College and was married to Joyce Lewis Kerby '52.

William Everett "Pat" Patrick '50, Carrollton, Ga., December 6, 2014. Mr. Patrick was commissioned through the JSU ROTC program and served in the Army in Korea. He also served in the Army Reserves, retiring as a major. He worked at Southwire Co. in Carrollton for twenty-five years in the IT department.

Frances Love Wilmoth '50, Brentwood, Calif., March 17, 2015. She taught in Ashville (Ala.), on an Apache Indian reservation and at Crane Elementary. She had been a member of the Baptist Campus Ministry.

Imogene Stone Camp '51, Sylacauga, Ala., October 24, 2014. She had played basketball for JSU. Mrs. Camp was an avid gardener and floral arranger and won numerous ribbons in local and state garden club flower shows.

Charlotte Claypool Duckett '51, Albertville, Ala., December 14, 2014. She was a former JSU cheerleader and was married to the late Robert George Duckett '50.

Billy "Rip" Reagan '51, Gadsden, Ala., October 17, 2014. A former member of the Southerners, he served as director of show bands at Gadsden State Community College. Mr. Reagan was married to the late Gloria Boyce Reagan '70.



Graduating Miss Daisy

72-YEAR-OLD PROVES IT'S NEVER TOO LATE TO EARN DEGREE

BY HEATHER GREENE

At 72, Daisy Mae Stanley wears many hats: wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, Episcopalian, computer analyst, artist, painter, printmaker and gardener. In May, she added another cap to her collection – a mortarboard, signifying her status as a JSU graduate.

A graduate of Shades Valley High School in Birmingham, she relocated to Jacksonville when her husband got a job at the Anniston chemical weapons incinerator. She began taking classes at JSU just for fun but racked up 400 credit hours over the years. At the encouragement of JSU Registrar Emily White, she decided to put those credits toward a degree.

“Why not? I’m only 72,” thought Stanley, who had been hesitant initially

about “wasting” a year of her life taking the science courses necessary to graduate. She now encourages people to take classes they might not normally take to learn something new. As an artist and liberal arts major, her favorite courses were her art classes.

“The art department and its faculty and staff are like a family to me,” she said. “I have found a new respect for the ‘required’ or core courses also. I truly enjoy learning outside my field. I encourage every student to get everything they can out of even those things they are not interested in. They might find they love it.”

Now that she has graduated, what is next for the lady younger students affectionately call “Miss Daisy?” This fall, she

begins another degree. She would also like to write a memoir and a children’s book, garden, make art, and continue working with and encouraging the art students at JSU. She has a dream of somehow bringing young artists and the elderly together for therapeutic art classes.

No matter where she goes next, Stanley is certain to continue being a lifelong learner. 🙌





JSU Alum's Recipe for Success

BLENDS BITTER, SWEET

BY HEATHER GREENE

PHOTO CREDIT: DARRYL MATTHEWS, IN TOUCH ATLANTA PHOTOGRAPHY

From suffering personal tragedy during his freshman year to washing dishes for campus dining and realizing a love for the culinary arts, Tradale Jefferson's time at JSU molded him into the person he is today.

The Birmingham native entered JSU as a biology pre-med major. During his freshman year, his father committed suicide, leaving him deeply grieved. After seeking assistance from JSU Counseling Services, he felt led to help others dealing with similar circumstances. He changed his major to social work and became an assistant to Linda Shelton, JSU's lead counselor. Together they established a student chapter of the National Alliance on Mental Illnesses, now Active Minds.

While JSU was helping Jefferson cope with loss, it also introduced him to the hobby that became his career - cooking. Working in the dish room on campus, he was noticed by the kitchen manager, who recognized his potential and reasigned him to the grill. After a semester of

working on the grill, he was promoted to night cook and eventually full-time student manager.

Although some might find the responsibility of full-time work too much for a full-time student, Jefferson said cooking also served as a stress reliever for him, especially during finals. His friends benefited from his cooking, as well, because when finals week rolled around, he cooked everything in his refrigerator and invited them over to his apartment for a pre-finals dinner.

"I would then go to sleep, take my test the next day, and be great," explained Jefferson.

Cooking was not Jefferson's only college activity. He founded the JSU Pep Squad, which devotedly wore fan t-shirts and went to every JSU football game, and was actively involved in campus ministries around JSU. He is now a licensed and ordained minister.

After graduating from JSU in 2009, he served as a restaurant manager and then a

social worker, but transitioned out of that line of work in March 2012 when he decided to pursue his love of cooking full-time. He is now the owner of 180 Grill Catering based in Hoover. From small beginnings, Jefferson's business has grown into catering everything from weddings, bridal showers, birthday parties, to corporate events. Recently he received a contract to provide lunch for a private school during the week.

"I've always liked to cook, but being at JSU helped me learn technicalities and legal things, gold standards that are out there," Jefferson said. When asked how JSU prepared him for where he is today, Jefferson said, "Connections! To this day, I still have major connections with people on campus and around the country who have graduated and gone on to do great things."

For more information on Jefferson, visit www.180grillcatering.com.



Earl J. Roberts '51, Talladega, Ala., February 24, 2015. Mr. Roberts played football for JSU.

Coy Smith '51, Attalla, Ala., February 10, 2015. He was a teacher and coach at Chandler Mountain Jr. High, Moody Jr. High, Odenville High, Sylvania High and Ashville High.

Toliver Ralph Woodard, Sr. '51, Alexander City, Ala., June 26, 2013. He served in the merchant marines during World War II and later served as an intelligence analyst in the army. He was a teacher and coach at Benjamin Russell High School. Mr. Woodard played baseball, basketball and football for JSU. The alumni office was notified by a family member during a recent phonathon that Mr. Woodard is deceased.

Dr. Hubert Black '53, Fort Myers, Fla., November 5, 2014. He was a paratrooper during World War II. Dr. Black played football for JSU. His career covered both an ecclesiastical and educational journey that included several Church of God pastorates and serving as president, professor and dean at several institutions. He authored scores of articles and several books.

Gus Likos '53, Daphne, Ala., November 5, 2014. A veteran of World War II and the Korean War, he later served as a medical technologist at Holy Name of Jesus Hospital, Gadsden, Ala., and retired in 1991 as chief of their laboratory.

Gerre Gail Norton Davidson '54/'68, Gadsden, Ala., November 14, 2014. She was an educator for forty-one years serving as teacher, guidance counselor and director of Atmore Vocational School.

Olga Shamblin Kennedy '55/'59, Anniston, Ala., December 30, 2014. Though she started her career as a teacher, she moved to the northeast, working for the Red Cross headquarters in Washington, D.C. and then moved to New York where she was director of personnel training at the famed Bergdorf Goodman department store. When she moved back to Alabama and returned to teaching, she later began teaching in the geography department at JSU.

Jack R. Lister '55, Houston, Tex., April 21, 2015. Mr. Lister was commissioned through the JSU ROTC program and was an officer in the Army stationed in Korea. Afterwards he began his twenty-nine year career with NASA at Langley and moved to the Johnson Space Flight Center in Houston in 1962 where he served as director of human resources for twenty-two years. He was instrumental in starting the first student co-op program at NASA.

John Douglas Borden '56/'62, Piedmont, Ala., March 27, 2015. He was an Air Force veteran and served as band director in Piedmont for many years before moving to the classroom. He had been a member of the Southerners.

Rayford E. East '56, Spartanburg, S. Car., May 21, 2015. Mr. East was an Air Force veteran and served in the Korean War. He began his accounting career as a staff accountant in 1955. In 1985, Mr. East was a senior partner in the firm of Conrad, Hoey, East and Co. He merged that firm with the firm of Cherry, Bekaert and Holland, CPAs. He retired in May of 1988.

Shirley Keller Karraker '56, Charleston, Ill., July 4, 2014. Mrs. Karraker was retired from Eastern Illinois University computer services department.

Walter J. Paige, Sr. '56, Raymond, N.H., October 1, 2014. He served in the Navy Air Reserve and Air Force. He was owner/operator of Analysis and Computer Systems Inc. Mr. Paige played basketball for JSU.

Malcolm Douglas Sanders '56, Atlanta, Ga., December 19, 2014. A Navy veteran, Mr. Sanders later worked for Southern Services in Birmingham, Alabama, before relocating to Atlanta. His career there ended with two years at SWEB Energy in Bristol, England.

Martha Ann Brothers Cunningham '57, Gallant, Ala., January 27, 2015. She taught home economics at Glencoe High School and Hokes Bluff High School. After several years in education, she was offered a directorship position by the National Dairy Council in Chicago. She opened a new office for the council in Bristol, Tenn. Mrs. Cunningham also was employed by the US Postal Service for several years.

Hugh A. Daves '57, Hokes Bluff, Ala., December 28, 2012. He had been commissioned through the JSU ROTC program and served in the army. Mr. Daves was retired from Republic Steel and LTV Steel Corporation.

Alva Wayne Deaton '57, Owens Cross Roads, Ala., January 12, 2015. Mr. Deaton had been commissioned through the JSU ROTC program and served in the Army. He worked his entire career as an aerospace engineer in guidance and propulsion light mechanics at NASA in Huntsville, Ala., retiring with thirty-five years of service.

William R. Griffin '57, Rainbow City, Ala., December 6, 2014. Mr. Griffin was commissioned through the JSU ROTC program. He had been a cost analyst with Gulf States Steel.



Raymond L. Hughes '57, Scottsboro, Ala., January 16, 2015. Mr. Hughes served in the Air Force during the Korean War. After military service, he worked in education for thirty-seven years, serving as transportation director, counselor, classroom teacher, coach, assistant superintendent, principal and superintendent. For a short time after retirement and moving to Fort Oglethorpe, Ga., he served as mayor pro-tem.

Audrey Higgins Dreyer '58, Anniston, Ala., October 26, 2014. She was a retired administrative assistant at Ft. McClellan. Mrs. Dreyer had been married to the late Clyde L. Dreyer '58.

Kenneth H. Mount '58, Jacksonville, Ala., March 12, 2015. For many years, Mr. Mount owned and operated the Village Inn restaurant just off the Square in Jacksonville.

James Ronald Stegall, Sr. '58, Atlanta, Ga., October 10, 2014. Mr. Stegall was an army veteran. He was a scholar, teacher, coach, and educational administrator, serving thirty years in education.

William Barry Allison, Jr. '59, Mt. Pleasant, S.Car., January 11, 2015. He served in the Navy during World War II and the Naval Reserve for twenty years. He served as an education specialist at Ft. McClellan, retiring after thirty years.

Patsy Thornhill Halbrog '59, Prattville, Ala., February 26, 2015. The alumni office was notified by her husband that she had passed away. Mrs. Halbrog had been a JSU cheerleader and member of the Baptist Campus Ministry. She was a retired teacher with the Autauga County Board of Education.

Helen Summers Johnson '59, Anniston, Ala., January 1, 2015. Most of her thirty-five years of teaching were in the Anniston City and Montgomery County School Systems.

Olon Clinton Tucker '59, Grant, Ala., November 11, 2014. He was a Navy veteran, serving during the Korean War. Dr. Tucker saw a need for a local doctor and opened the Grant Clinic, P.A. in 1966 and served the town for forty-five years. He and another physician opened a free family planning clinic in Guntersville, Ala., and he served as chief of staff at Guntersville Hospital.

1960-1969

Johnnie Wallace Hawkins '60, Pell City, Ala., November 14, 2014. He had served in the Army during the Korean War. Mr. Hawkins had worked for General Electric for twenty-three years, the Onan Corp. and Quality Manufacturing.

Martis W. Robinson '60, Oxford, Ala., January 3, 2015. He was a Korean War veteran and a retired Georgia educator and coach with thirty-seven years of service.

Jerry Wayne Smith '60, Gadsden, Ala., December 24, 2014. He served for thirty-three years in the Alabama National Guard.

Tennie Beatrice "Tena" Hill Stephens '60, Rainbow City, Ala., March 11, 2015. Mrs. Stephens had a career in education and was honored as Etowah County Teacher of the Year in 1979.

Robert Franklin Tankersley '60, Huntsville, Ala., March 5, 2015. He was a retired government employee.

James Pelham Crim '61, Huntsville, Ala., October 19, 2014. Mr. Crim was commissioned through the JSU ROTC program and served in the Army Chemical Corps and was also a captain in the Army Reserve. He was employed at Uniroyal Tire, Dunlop Tire and Bridgestone Tire where he retired in 2008. The alumni office was notified by another alumnus that he is deceased.

Walter E. Fuqua, Jr. '61, Huntsville, Ala., May 11, 2015. He served in the Navy as a fighter plane gunner and then served in the Naval Reserves. He began his career with NASA in 1962 as a Quality Engineer and retired with thirty-five years of service, subsequently taking positions with other aerospace firms before fully retiring in 1995.

Peggy Ruth Allen Hudson '61, LaGrange, Ga., November 26, 2014. She was a retired school teacher, having taught elementary school in Minnesota and then in Roanoke, Alabama.

Ammie Lee "Miss Lucy" Denson '63, Anniston, Ala., February 14, 2015. She was a retired school teacher.

Frank Tyrone Hill '63, Roswell, Ga., October 21, 2014. He worked for NASA at the Marshall Space Flight Center as a mathematician/scientific computer programmer and had worked on the Saturn 5 launch vehicle that transported the first man to the moon. In 1968 he moved to Robins Air Force Base in Georgia, retiring in 2001 with thirty-eight years of government service. Mr. Hill was also a realtor and justice of the peace.

Edwin T. Vernon '63, Pinehurst, N. Car., October 23, 2014. He was commissioned through the JSU ROTC program and served in the Army, including two tours in Vietnam. During his thirty years of active service, Col. Vernon was awarded many decorations including the Legion of Merit and Bronze Star. The alumni office was notified during the recent phonathon that Col. Vernon is deceased.

Harry Willard Cleghorn '64, Anniston, Ala., January 9, 2015. He was the owner of Harry Cleghorn Heating & Air and retired from the Anniston Army Depot. He was an Army veteran.



JSU Alumna Builds School, Camp For Kids

Vonda Barbour White – founder and executive director of Pillsbury College Prep and Camp Pillsbury in Minnesota – recently returned to her alma mater to inspire and encourage a new class of JSU alumni. She served as keynote speaker at the spring commencement ceremony on May 1.

White came to JSU from Boise, Idaho in 1984 on a teen pageant scholarship. As a sophomore, she was elected as JSU's second-ever female Student Government Association president. She graduated with honors in 1988, earning a communications degree.

After college, White moved to Florida, where she excelled in sales and executive leadership by the age of 27. Nine years later, she began her own company, selling insurance to colleges and universities nationwide. After a successful career in that field, she recently bought a college campus in Minnesota to pursue her passion of running a summer camp with circus arts, performing arts, and much more. She also started a boarding school for domestic and international 6th-12th grade students called Pillsbury College Prep, where summer camp activities are offered after school and on weekends to help students excel personally and academically.

White believes “Life is an adventure, one worth living to your fullest while making a positive difference on others as you create and leave your legacy.” **Learn more about her adventures at www.camp-pillsbury.com.** 



FORMER GAMECOCKS

Called Up to Majors

★ ABOVE: Todd Cunningham (Braves jersey) and Donovan Hand (Brewers jersey).

A pair of former Gamecock baseball standouts were promoted to the big leagues over the summer. Outfielder Todd Cunningham, who played for JSU from 2008-2010, made his second stint with the Atlanta Braves, and pitcher Donovan Hand, who pitched for the Gamecocks from 2005-2007, was called up by the Cincinnati Reds in June.

Cunningham, a second-round pick by the Braves in 2010, was called up on May 13 and went on a tear to start his second run in Major League Baseball and his first

since 2013. The Jacksonville native made his season debut at Miami on May 15 and went 3-for-4 with a double and an RBI as the Braves' starting left fielder. In the three-game series at Miami, he was 8-for-12 with four runs scored.

Hand, a 14th-round pick by the Milwaukee Brewers in 2007, also made his first appearance in the big leagues since 2013 this summer, when the Reds called him up on June 16. In his first season with the Reds organization, Hand pitched effectively for the team's Triple A affiliate

in Louisville before having his contract purchased by the big-league club. He made his debut on June 17 against Detroit, tossing three scoreless innings of relief in an extra-inning Cincinnati win. 

Zula Buckelew Hollis '64/'75, Jacksonville, Ala., December 4, 2014. She was one of the pioneers in special education in both the Cherokee County and Jacksonville City Schools. Her career began in Centre, Ala., in 1956 where she and another teacher chartered the special education program. After moving to Jacksonville in 1959, she helped create the first special education classes at what is now Kitty Stone Elementary. She was also a school psychologist and certified psychometrist.

John H. Ingram III '64, Lineville, Ala., May 16, 2015.

Vernon Orlando Jones '64/'67, Owens Cross Roads, Ala. Date of death unknown. The alumni office received an email from a family member indicating that Mr. Jones is deceased.

Martha Elizabeth King '64, Temple, Tex., October 24, 2000. The alumni office was advised by the postal service that Ms. King is deceased.

John Ottis Carroll, Jr. '65, Addison, Ala., February 17, 2014. He retired nine years ago from Sparta Corporation as engineering manager.

Mary Ann Holdridge Clark '65/'76, Rainbow City, Ala., September 21, 2014. After thirty years of teaching, she retired from the Attalla City School System.

Harold G. Davidson '65, Jacksonville, Ala., October 12, 2014. He was a Navy veteran.

Charles William Chandler '67, Glencoe, Ala., December 11, 2012. He taught at Southside and Hokes Bluff High Schools before becoming dean of students at Ayers State Technical College, Anniston, Ala. His career in education spanned twenty-five years.

Paul Dean Carr '68, Trussville, Ala., May 23, 2015. Mr. Carr was an Army Vietnam veteran.

Dennis Russell Morgan '68/'72, Jacksonville, Ala., November 28, 2014. He was formerly employed at Commercial National Bank in Anniston and at Federal Mogul in Jacksonville. Mr. Morgan managed rental property and enjoyed remodeling old homes and restoring old automobiles.

Roger Dale Owen '68, Carrollton, Ga., March 12, 2015. He was a retired mechanic.

William T. Day '69, Oxford, Ala., October 5, 2014.

Jane Lankford McGahee '69, Trussville, Ala., January 26, 2015. She was a teacher and guidance counselor.

Michael Lee Morgan '69/'74, Gadsden, Ala., February 23, 2015. He was employed by Culp Iron and Metal Company and then assumed ownership of Frost Transmission Inc. until his retirement in 2012. He was married to Susan Frost Morgan '71.

William C. Rhodes, Jr. '69, McCalla, Ala., April 1, 2015. Known as "The Battery Man," he owned and operated his battery business in Bessemer, Ala., for thirty-seven years.

Hoyt Mack Whiteside '69, Sylvania, Ala., July 29, 2014.

1970 – 1979

Jo Ann Weaver Baker '70, Vestavia Hills, Ala., October 21, 2014, from ovarian cancer. She was a teacher in the Shelby County School System for twenty-seven years, retiring in 2000. After retiring, Mrs. Baker went on to sell real estate for ReMax Advantage.

Jerry G. Cockrell '70, Massanutten, Va., October 22, 2014.

Wendell C. Lewis '70, New Orleans, La., March 19, 2008. The alumni office was notified during the recent phonathon that Mr. Lewis had died in 2008. He was a retired high school band director and had been a member of the Southerners.

Robert Michael Miller '70, Travelers Rest, S. Car., June 27, 2014. He recently retired from a thirty-five year career at Furman University as Public Safety Director. Mr. Miller was an Army veteran and had played basketball for JSU. This information was provided to the alumni office by a family member.

Hassie McDonald Roberts '70/'78, Anniston, Ala., April 20, 2015. She was married to Norman L. Roberts '62.

John Alrie Summerlin III '70, Anniston, Ala., November 27, 2014.

Jean E. Deppensmith '71, Birmingham, Ala., April 25, 2015. She was employed by AT&T. Ms. Deppensmith was a member of the Marching Ballerinas at JSU.

Dennis Larry Lee '71, Hoover, Ala., January 24, 2015. He was retired from Alabama Medicaid.

Leatrice Willis Martin '71/'74, Gadsden, Ala., December 30, 2014. She worked in special education for her entire career. Mrs. Martin was married to David Lawrence Martin '65.

Kay McIntyre Tolbert '71, Jacksonville, Ala., March 20, 2015. She began working with the Calhoun County Department of Human Resources in 1972 and she spent the next twenty-six years as a social worker, supervisor and program supervisor. She helped organize the Alabama Parents Anonymous Board and the Third Congressional District Council of the Children's Trust Fund. She was honored as the first Social Worker of the Year by the local chapter of the National Association of Social Workers. After retiring, Mrs. Tolbert became executive director of Children's Services Inc. in Anniston.

R. Keith Absher '72/'73, Humboldt, Tenn., March 24, 2015. He had been dean of the McAfee School of Business at Union University in Tennessee. Dr. Absher was a member of Alpha Tau Omega.

Hugh D. Chitwood '72, Groveoak, Ala., no date of death available. The alumni office was notified during the annual phonathon that Mr. Chitwood is deceased. He was a retired accountant.

Galen Cochrane Kennah '72, Gadsden, Ala., December 3, 2014. He worked for Ernst & Ernst CPA Firm and retired from Hall & Storey CPA Firm. He was an Army veteran.

Peggy Rose Lockridge Pearson '72/'78, Cedar Bluff, Ala., January 4, 2015. She was a retired teacher.

Donna Anderson Todd '72, Piedmont, Ala., April 11, 2015. She retired from the State of Alabama with eleven years of service with the Calhoun County Department of Human Resources and seventeen years at the Alabama Medicaid Agency.

Mary Louise Brogden Maeger '73/'76, Southside, Ala., June 15, 2011. She was retired from the Etowah County Board of Education after teaching at Southside High School. The alumni office was notified during the annual phonathon that Mrs. Maeger is deceased.

Charline Farris McFall '73, Piedmont, Ala., February 6, 2015. Ms. McFall was retired from Ft. McClellan as a unit secretary.

Don L. Shellhorse '73, Heflin, Ala., December 16, 2014. Mr. Shellhorse was an Air Force veteran and served during the Vietnam War. He was a real estate agent and broker.

Patricia "Patsy" Cook Tidwell '73, Huntsville, Ala., April 3, 2014. She had been a government employee and was married to Paul Stephen Tidwell '73.

Larry Bolt '74, Oxford, Ala., November 2, 2014. He was a former employee of Borden Chemical and Plastic Company.

Claire Margaret Collins Brown '74, Anniston, Ala., November 12, 2014.

Carole Starr Cain '74, Cumming, Ga., March 10, 2015, from lung cancer. She previously worked for the Alabama Department of Children's Services before moving to Georgia where she was a homemaker and full-time mom.

Mary Ella Carlisle '74/'76, Anniston, Ala., March 2, 2015.

John H. Dieterle '74, West Jordan, Utah, May 5, 2015. He retired from the Army with twenty-five years of service and served in the Vietnam War. He taught business courses at Dekalb College (Ga.) for twelve years and retired from Georgia State University after serving sixteen years as business manager for the nursing school.

William Alton Hall '74/'76, Albertville, Ala., October 11, 2014. A Navy and Army veteran, he was an educator for thirty years, having been a teacher and football coach for twenty-eight years in Georgia before retiring. Mr. Hall had been a member of the Baptist Campus Ministry.

Wilford Jones Lane '74, Anniston, Ala., March 19, 2015. A Navy veteran, he served in Vietnam. Mr. Lane practiced law in Anniston for many years.

Hilda Whatley Thomas '74, Anniston, Ala., February 6, 2015. Mrs. Thomas was retired from the Calhoun County School System.

Emogene Okes Turner '74, Jacksonville, Ala., May 17, 2015. She was a retired teacher and librarian at Weaver Elementary School. Mrs. Turner had been married to the late John Calvin Turner '71.

Froncine Alford Wallace '74, Gadsden, Ala., March 13, 2015. She had worked for the Alabama Department of Pensions and Securities in child care and adoptions before she left to raise her family. Mrs. Wallace was married to Anthony Riley Wallace '74.

Rebecca Dee Weeks '74, Birmingham, Ala., March 15, 2014. She taught elementary school for many years. Ms. Weeks had been a member of the Baptist Campus Ministry.

Edward Marshall White '74, Athens, Ala., May 2, 2005. He had been a member of Sigma Nu. The alumni office was recently notified by another Sigma Nu brother that Mr. White had died in 2005.

Leon M. Ziglar '74, Anniston, Ala., February 18, 2015. Mr. Ziglar was retired from the State Employment Office in Anniston.



FORMER JSU GOLFER DANNY WILLETT

Wins European Masters

Former JSU golfer Danny Willett continued his climb amongst the best players in the world this year. The native of Sheffield, England, who played two seasons for the Gamecocks from 2005 to 2007, won his second European Tour event in the summer of 2014 to set up a great start to 2015. He finished 2014 ranked 23rd in the Race to Dubai – the European Tour’s equivalent to the PGA Tour’s FedEx Cup – earning exemptions to all of the Majors in 2015.

Willett came in 38th at his first US Masters in April. He gained enormous media attention in July at the 144th Open – initially leading the event before coming in sixth place. He won the European Masters on July 26 with a one-shot victory over fellow Englishman Matt Fitzpatrick.

Follow Willett’s career at <http://dannywillett.co.uk> - or on the Golf Channel! 

 **ABOVE:** Danny Willett at JSU’s home course, Silver Lakes.





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Linda Phillips Carroll '75, Wellington, Ala., April 3, 2015. She taught for thirty-two years in the Calhoun County School System. She also taught English at Gadsden State Community College. Mrs. Carroll was married to Donald Wayne Carroll '66.

Alice Edwina Ray Hall '75, Huntsville, Ala., March 7, 2015, from multiple myeloma cancer. She was a retired educator who had taught science in the Huntsville City Schools for many years.

Nathan R. Hamlin '75, Munford, Ala., February 2, 2015. He was the retired owner/operator of Munford Tractor Co. Mr. Hamlin was married to Nancy Wood Hamlin '69/'81.

Martha Allen Wigley Snider '75/'78/'82, Oxford, Ala., January 27, 2015. She was a former teacher at Oxford High School where she retired in 1998 after twenty-two years in education. She had received the Mary C. Forney Award as the Most Outstanding Student in the Graduate School of Education at JSU.

William Edward Baker '76, Rome, Ga., June 8, 2014. He began his career in law enforcement but, after earning a degree in theology, he served as minister and choir director in several United Methodist churches in Alabama, Arkansas and Georgia. Ending his career in sales management, he also became a successful auctioneer and real estate broker. Mr. Baker had been a member of the Baptist Student Union, Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia, the A Capella Choir and the Southerners. The alumni office was notified by his wife Anita that Mr. Baker is deceased.

Jan O. Lambert '76, Glencoe, Ala., October 25, 2014. Ms. Lambert was a retired rural mail carrier with thirty years of service.

Martha Daniel Baker '77/'83, Cedar Bluff, Ala., November 3, 2014. Mrs. Baker was retired as director of data processing at Gadsden Regional Medical Center. She also served as mayor of Cedar Bluff.

L. Marlin Bowling '77, Tuscaloosa, Ala., March 18, 2013. He was a retired Baptist minister. Mr. Bowling had been a member of Delta Chi.

Jackie Hicks Crumley '77, Oxford, Ala., January 13, 2015. She was a retired munitions operator at the Anniston Army Depot.

Jeffa Davis "Davey" Hill '77, Montgomery, Ala., March 12, 2014. Mr. Hill was an Army and Air Force veteran. He was an accomplished musician and professional accordionist, a draftsman and computer operator. He had been a member of the Baptist Campus Ministry and the Southerners. The alumni office was notified by his wife Carolyn of his death.

Alice Parker Hurst '77, Talladega, Ala., November 12, 2014. She was a retired educator who taught for many years at the Alabama Institute for the Deaf. She also served as bookkeeper at Talladega Wholesale Grocery.

Paul Andrew Malcom '77, Oxford, Ala., March 13, 2015. He was an Air Force veteran and retired from the Army Reserves. Mr. Malcom was a former employee of Honda Manufacturing and Lee Brass. He was married to Paula Ann Acker Malcom '69.

Billy Ray McClure '77, Manitou Springs, Colo., December 4, 2014, from injuries sustained in a fall. Mr. McClure first worked as a preparatory and exhibits designer for the Huntsville Museum of Art and then at the Hunter Museum of American Art in Chattanooga, Tenn. He then had a career of almost twenty years as preparatory and exhibits Designer at the Colorado Springs Pioneers Museum.

Brenda Killen Payne '77, Huntsville, Ala., December 8, 2014. She had been employed by Huntsville Hospital.

Donald Ladell Parris '77, Birmingham, Ala., April 9, 2015. Most recently he had worked for the Birmingham Barons organization as an ambassador and elevator operator.

John Albert Ratliff III '77, Jacksonville, Ala., October 14, 2014. He was an Army veteran and had served as an assistant professor in the Department of Military Science at North Carolina State University in Raleigh. After retiring from the military, Mr. Ratliff worked for H&R Block in Jacksonville and as business manager for a Jacksonville medical practice. He also was a military research analyst at the Directorate of Combat Developments at the US Army Chemical School at Fort McClellan, Ala.

Jane Carter Swann '77, Argo, Ala., October 22, 2013.

Edith Carol T. Wagner '77, Guntersville, Ala., date of death unknown. The alumni office was notified by her husband, Gerald K. Wagner '76/'77, that she is deceased.

Walter Maurice Whitlow '77, Arab, Ala., September 28, 2014. He was a retired safety engineer with Monsanto in Decatur with more than twenty-eight years of service. He was an Air Force veteran and served during the Korean War. Mr. Whitlow also served as a fire protection instructor at the Texas A & M Fire Training School in College Station, Texas, for twelve years. The alumni office was notified by a relative of his death.

Iva Nella Honea Cargo '78, Birmingham, Ala., March 6, 2015. She had taught elementary school for twenty-five years.

Willie Mae Milton Davis '78, Alpine, Ala., October 22, 2014. At one time she had served on the JSU Alumni Association Board of Governors.

Rayburn Junior McCormick '79/'83, Ranburne, Ala., January 24, 2015, from cancer. An Army veteran, Mr. McCormick taught for twenty-six years at Ranburne Elementary School.

Margaret "Jo" Turner Reaves '79, Ohatchee, Ala., November 8, 2014. She had taught elementary school for forty-two years.

Billy Wayne Thornton '79, Attalla, Ala., March 18, 2013. The alumni office received information during the annual phonathon that Mr. Thornton is deceased.

1980 - 1989

Grace Penny Jennings '80, Hokes Bluff, Ala., March 13, 2015. She began her career as a nurse at Piedmont Hospital. She served as assistant nursing director at Gadsden Regional and retired as nursing director at Jacksonville Hospital.

James R. "Jim Bo" Lewis '80, Cartersville, Ga., December 23, 2007. He had been a member of Sigma Nu and the alumni office was notified by a fraternity brother that he had passed away in 2007.

Stevie DeLeon Pritchett '80, Oxford, Ala., December 13, 2014. He had served as associate pastor at Nances Creek United Methodist Church for many years. An accomplished artist, he had also owned Pritchett Graphics.

Carol Marie Whiteside '80, Sylvania, Ala., January 6, 2014. She was a retired teacher with the Dekalb County Board of Education.

William Jerry Gatlin '81/'84, Rome, Ga., May 1, 2014, from leukemia. Mr. Gatlin was a Marine Corps Reserves veteran with nineteen years of service. He was a longtime educator throughout Georgia and was a well-known coach and basketball official for more than twenty-five years.

Richie Lynn Ellison '82, Sylacauga, Ala., April 16, 2015. Mr. Ellison was a Navy veteran. He taught and coached for twenty years at Benjamin Russell High School in Alexander City, Ala., and led a number of Science Olympiad teams to competitions. Mr. Ellison was married to the late Cindy Lynn Jones Ellison '81.

Terrie Lisa Hanvey '82, Birmingham, Ala., November 5, 2010. She was a former member of the Southerners.

William Frank Kerr '82, Bentonville, Ark., July 16, 2014. He had been employed by Walmart for over twenty-five years. For the last several years, he had been with Outdoor Cap, Inc. and served on the board of Igloo Corporation.

Carolyn Ramsey Seay '82, Albany, N.Y., February 6, 2015.

Pamela Griffin Reid '83, January 5, 2015. She had been employed as a registered nurse with the Alabama Department of Public Health for twenty-five years. She also served as local director for the Cinderella Scholarship Pageant for the last twenty-eight years.

Lewis Andy Goggans '84/'91, Gadsden, Ala., December 11, 2014, from cancer. He was a Marine and Air Force veteran.

Judy Carol Cook Hoy '84, Albertville, Ala., July 9, 2014. She was a retired teacher with the Albertville City Board of Education.

Harry Andrew Setser '84, Weaver, Ala., November 23, 2014.

Robert Dale Barnwell '85, Jacksonville, Ala., February 12, 2015. For the past twenty-five years, Mr. Barnwell served as the manager of industrial engineering at Fruit of the Loom's Leesburg (Ala.) Yarn Mills.

Philip G. Henson '85, Roanoke, Ala., October 22, 2014. He was retired from the Roanoke City School System, having served as sixth grade science teacher for more than twenty years.

Joseph Lee Owen '85, Jacksonville, Ala., October 18, 2014. Mr. Owen had been a practicing attorney.

Larry Wayne Smith '85, Jacksonville, Ala., February 14, 2015. An Army veteran, he served two tours in Vietnam and played on the army golf team at Ft. McClellan. He then became a golf professional until he retired as a chief warrant officer in 1980. He also taught political science at JSU for two years as an adjunct professor.

Judy Murray Dorris '86/'92, Opelika, Ala., January 9, 2015. She had been a teacher in Chambers County and at Fairfax Elementary in Valley, Ala.

Lula Lee Dobbins Phillips '86, Valley Head, Ala., December 26, 2011. Mrs. Phillips taught home economics at Geraldine High School and was a media specialist at Ider High School where she retired in 2004.

Rodney Mark Allen '87, Birmingham, Ala., March 28, 2013. A medical technologist, Mr. Allen became a specialist in blood banking while working with the Red Cross. He subsequently worked at the University of Alabama at Birmingham in the histocompatibility department then joined Baxter Healthcare where he became a project manager of laboratory operations for the BioLife Plasma Services Division.

Jack Lee Cox '87, Sylacauga, Ala., March 25, 2015. "Granddaddy Jack" was a Gold Medallion Southerner of 1956 and the Southerners drumline's first section leader. The information was provided by members of the JSU Grey Drummers.



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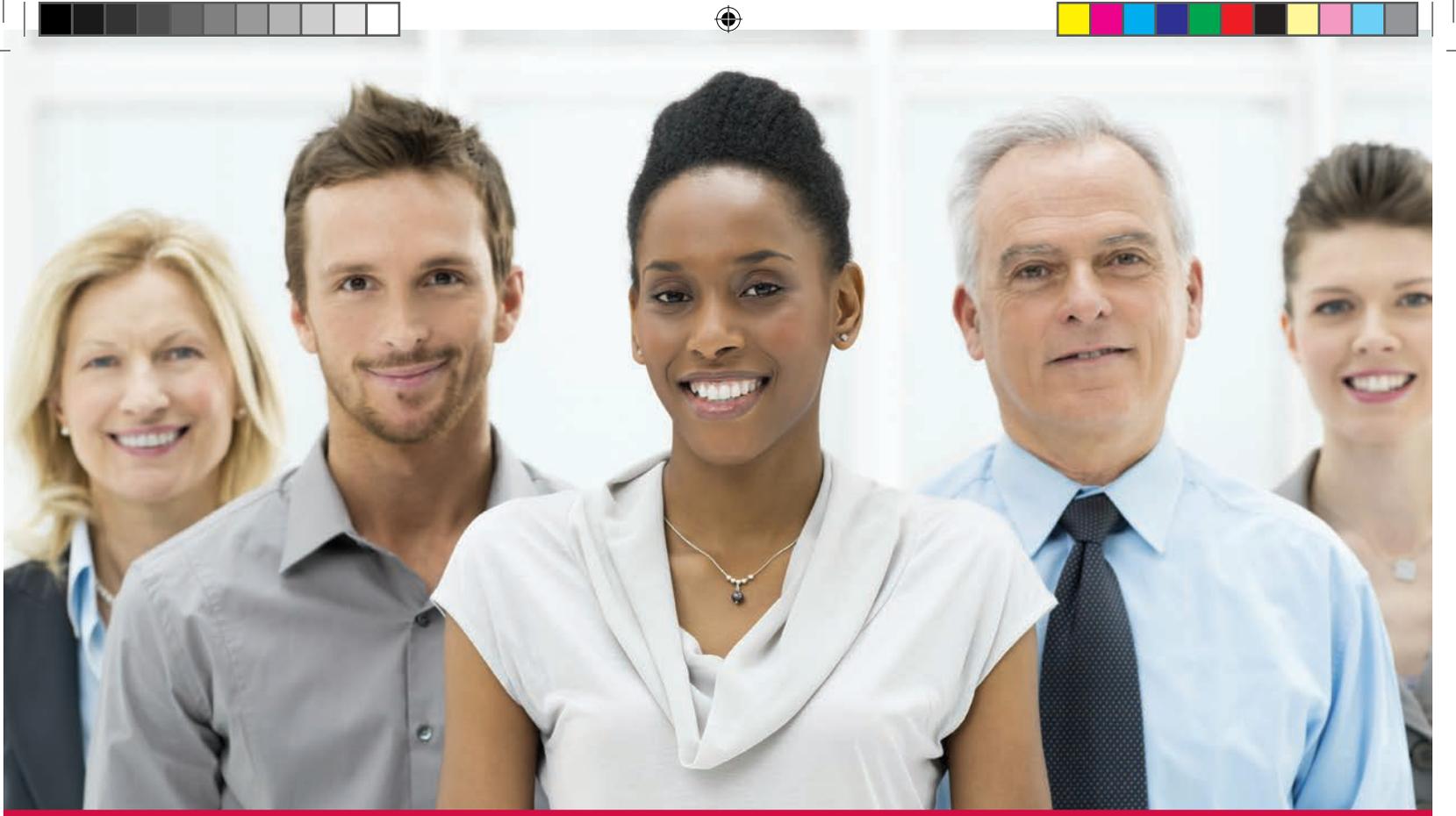
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John Levere Gross '87, Troy, Mich., August 9, 2012. He was an Army veteran. The alumni office received information during the phonathon that Mr. Gross died in 2012.

Hellen Joyce Thompson '87, Jacksonville, Ala., March 22, 2014.

Susan Haynes Weaver '87, Gadsden, Ala., May 24, 2014. A homemaker at the time of her death, Mrs. Weaver previously taught for the Gadsden City Board of Education.

Mary Ann Gaskey Battles '88, Steele, Ala., May 15, 2015.

Geneva W. Coleman '88, Talladega, Ala., November 7, 2014. She had been a teacher for the Alabama Institute for the Deaf and Blind.

1990 – 1999

Rosalie Jennice Bryant Sharp '90, Calera, Ala., December 1, 2014. She worked for years in retail sales, including YP Advertising Solutions. She also held management positions at Radio Shack and Marks Fitzgerald.

Gregory Neal Butler '91, Hokes Bluff, Ala., March 19, 2015. A magna cum laude JSU graduate, Mr. Butler had been a teacher in Rome, Ga.

David Martin Buice '92, Dawsonville, Ga., April 15, 2015, shortly after celebrating his fiftieth birthday with family and friends. He taught at Gadsden Christian School, Oxford High School and Staley Middle School in Americus, Ga. In 2012, he and his wife went into full-time ministry work in Taiwan.

Lisa Rhodarmer Gore '92, Albertville, Ala., July 27, 2014, from brain cancer. A summa cum laude JSU graduate, Mrs. Gore had taught first and second grade in Albertville for twelve years. The alumni office was notified by her husband Jamie of her death.

Minnie Lou Russell '92/'98, Anniston, Ala., March 18, 2015. She was retired from Ft. McClellan after many years of service. She then went on to teach at Gadsden State Community College for seventeen years.

Anthony Lee Walker '92, Woodstock, Ga., May 1, 2015. He was an industrial engineer and worked as a regional sales manager for Helukabel Inc.

Sadie Lee Dobbins Henderson '93, Centre, Ala., March 9, 2015. She taught in the Cherokee County School System and pastored at New Hope United Methodist Church in Odenville. She later pastored at New Bethel United Methodist Church, Ball Play, Ala.

Sharon Anne Rauch '93, Anniston, Ala., February 5, 2015. She taught for thirty years, with the last twenty-four at the Donoho School, where she was known to have cured countless cases of hiccups.

Diana Edith Turley '94/'97, Anniston, Ala., February 21, 2015. She had been a school teacher at Weaver Elementary for thirteen years.

Patricia A. Pike White '95, Boaz, Ala., February 2, 2015. She had been an elementary school teacher for thirty-five years. Mrs. White owned and operated Kiddie College Kindergarten in Hokes Bluff. She taught at Hokes Bluff Elementary School where she retired.

Joseph R. Campbell '99, Pike Road, Ala., November 10, 2014. Admitted to the Alabama Bar in 2003, he practiced law in Montgomery.

Albert Lee "Nicky" Edmondson '95, Atlanta, Ga., March 13, 2015. Mr. Edmondson played quarterback under Coach Bill Burgess at JSU and was also part of the 1991 World Series Championship baseball team under Coach Rudy Abbott. The alumni office was notified by alumnus Ed Canady that Mr. Edmondson had passed away.

2000-2015

Shelly McClain Smith '00/'03, Jacksonville, Ala., February 23, 2015. He had been employed with Lowery Brothers.

Denise Chaney Parker '01, Jacksonville, Ala., January 9, 2015. Mrs. Parker was an educator in the Anniston City School System for seventeen years. She was a member of Delta Sigma Theta.

Allen Franklin Stevenson '02/'04, Bremen, Ga., May 23, 2010. The alumni office received information during the phonathon that Mr. Stevenson had passed away in 2010.

Billie "Jo" Thornton Castleberry '03, Gadsden, Ala., November 16, 2014.

Jimmy McNabb '03, Cerritos, Calif., October 17, 2014. The alumni office was notified by a family member during the phonathon that Mr. McNabb is deceased.

Ginger Lynn McEwen Hemphill '04, Oxford, Ala., February 19, 2015. She previously had been an insurance agent for Allstate.

Stephen L. Guillot, Jr. '05, Franklin, Tenn., December 21, 2013. The alumni office was notified during the phonathon that Mr. Guillot is deceased.

Donna M. Turner '05/'09, Munford, Ala., December 25, 2014. She was a Navy veteran. Ms. Turner played tennis for JSU and was in the chorus.

John Leo Seifert '06, Nederland, Colo., December 10, 2013. He worked in his family's business and was an entrepreneur owning several rental ventures headquartered in Michigan and Colorado. He served as a deputy sheriff in Nederland until his retirement in 2009. He received recognition for meritorious and heroic actions in 2009.

Kimberly Dawn Monroe '07, Anniston, Ala., March 7, 2013. She was a member of the Southerners.

Douglas Randall Pierce '07, Anniston, Ala., April 26, 2015.

ALUMNOTES

**pictured below*

ATTENDED ONLY OR DATE OF GRADUATION UNKNOWN

*Terry Barkley, Monteagle, Tenn., attended from 1968-72 and played in the drumline of the Southerners for three years. He is now a member of the Grey Drummers, the official title of the drumline alumni. Mr. Barkley has just had a new book released through BrayBree Publishing entitled "The Gentle Scholar: The Forgotten Story of John Webb and the Webb School of Bell Buckle, Tennessee." He is a retired professional librarian, archivist, museum curator and former history teacher. An accomplished musician, Mr. Barkley was a working drummer for more than forty years and is listed in the Alabama Music Hall of Fame.



Brandy White Belew, Rogersville, Ala., was inducted into the Lauderdale County Sports Hall of Fame, March 14, 2015.

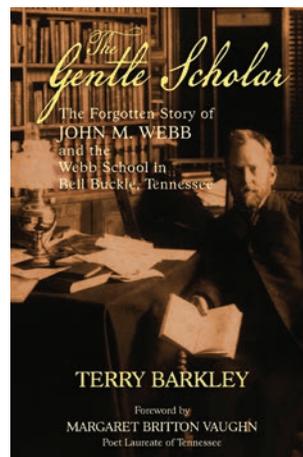
Don Jacobs, Oneonta, Ala., has been inducted into the Jackson County Sports Hall of Fame. He was an assistant football coach at JSU between 1981 and 1983. He also coached at Livingston, SW Louisiana, West Georgia and Troy before moving to the high school coaching ranks at Luverne, Robertsedale, Elkmont and Oneonta.

1930-1939

Quinnis K. "Dusty" Carter '35/'37, now deceased, was inducted into the Jackson County Sports Hall of Fame. A coach for thirty-eight years, he coached basketball at Scottsboro and Paint Rock and had a record of 714-303.

1940-1949

E.C. "Baldy" Wilson '49, Glencoe, Ala., has been honored by the Maj. General Patrick R. Cleburne Chapter, United Daughters of the Confederacy. He served in the Army during World War II and was eligible to receive the UDC World War II Cross of Military Service. Mr. Wilson played football and basketball for JSU, served on the alumni association board of governors, and was honored as JSU's Alumnus of the Year in 1987. He is married to Mattie Jones Wilson '60.



1950-1959

C.B. "Red" Strickland '50, Henagar, Ala., was inducted into the Jackson County Sports Hall of Fame. A coach for thirty-four years, he had coached at Skyline, Section, Geraldine and North Sand Mountain with a career record of 705-264.

Paul Cooley '51, now deceased, was inducted into the Jackson County Sports Hall of Fame. A basketball coach for twenty-three years, all at Pisgah, he had a career record of 536-150. Coach Cooley was married to Elizabeth Gilbreath Cooley '51.

John Meadows '52, Scottsboro, Ala., was inducted into the Jackson County Sports Hall of Fame. Mr. Meadows played baseball and football at JSU and was selected JSU's Alumnus of the Year in 1969. He was married to Glenda Blake Meadows '52.

1970-1979

John Esslinger '71/'88, Scottsboro, Ala., has been inducted into the Jackson County Sports Hall of Fame. He was the cross country and track and field coach at Scottsboro. Coach Esslinger is married to Betty Sisk Esslinger '71.

D. Larry Morris '74, Scottsboro, Ala., has been inducted into the Jackson County Sports Hall of Fame.

Gordon Sumner '75, Springfield, Va., was recently appointed by Lieutenant General Jeffrey W. Talley, US Army, Chief, Army Reserve as an Army Reserve Ambassador for the Commonwealth of Virginia for the next three years. The Ambassador Program was established in 1998 for private citizens to promote awareness of the Army Reserve and the identified goals and objectives of its chief. The position carries a protocol status equivalent to a major general. Dr. Sumner was commissioned through the JSU ROTC and was a member of the Baptist Campus Ministry and the Southerners. He was selected in 1993 as JSU's Alumnus of the Year.

1980-1989

*Steven D. Martin '80, Atlanta, Ga., has been named the 2015 chairman of the board for NAIOP, the Commercial Real Estate Development Association. Mr. Martin is managing principal with SDM Partners in Atlanta. He will lead the association's executive committee and staff in the planning and execution of industry and association-wide initiatives.

Kimberly Oden-Webster '82/'89, Leeds, Ala., has co-authored "God is Not a Deadbeat Dad," a collection of devotionals about experiencing God as a loving father and devoted friend. For more information, email 60daybookclub@gmail.com.

Robert Shannon Robinson III '82, Marietta, Ga., is now the color guard instructor at Kennesaw State University. He is a former member of the Southerners.

James "Mo" Canady '85, Birmingham, Ala., and Kerri Rane Johnson Williamson '92/'95, Trussville, Ala., are the top two employees for a national/international non-profit organization. Mr. Canady is a retired Hoover police officer and is currently the executive director of the National Association of School Resource Officers (NASRO). He was a member of the Southerners. NASRO trains school-based police officers throughout the United States and internationally. Mrs. Williamson serves as the training director for NASRO. She was a member of Delta Zeta.



Jason Wayne Meadows '88, Rogersville, Ala., has been inducted into the Lauderdale County Sports Hall of Fame. He was a three-sport standout in high school. A three-time medalist in the Alabama High School Athletic Association's 3A state track meets in 1982 and 1983, he finished second to the legendary Bo Jackson in the 1982 high jump in the state indoor and outdoor meets. At JSU, Mr. Meadows was a four-year letterman and was named All-Gulf South Conference as a senior.

Jerry Leon "Jay" Prater '88, Auburn, Ala., is now general manager with the Columbus/Phenix City Courtyard (Marriott) Hotel. He previously served as general manager at the award-winning Auburn/Opelika Marriott. Mr. Prater was a member of Pi Kappa Phi and serves on the JSU Foundation Board.

Kamal Ali '89, Albuquerque, N. Mex., has been promoted by BBVA Compass to CEO of New Mexico. He has worked for BBVA Compass for more than twenty years and, most recently, was the Albuquerque president. He also previously worked for the bank as a line-of-business manager for the commercial bank, credit analyst, assistant relationship manager and a relationship manager—all in either Albuquerque or in the bank's headquarters in Birmingham, Ala. Mr. Ali is married to Georgia Denise Moore Ali '94/'99.



Susan Texann Scott Dixon '89/'95, Gadsden, Ala., was recently voted Teacher of the Year. She is in her twenty-sixth year of teaching special education and teaches at Kitty Stone Elementary School, Jacksonville, Ala.

1990-1999

Donna Johnson Steed '91, Jacksonville, Ala., was recently selected Teacher of the Year at Jacksonville High School where she has taught for nineteen years.

*Donald D. Knowlton '95, Vestavia, Ala., has become associated with the law firm of Cusimano, Roberts & Mills. An Army veteran who served in the Gulf War, he has extensive experience in the areas of personal injury, commercial law, domestic relations and litigation.

Billy Glenn Shelton '95, Dutton, Ala., has been named supervision director for the Alabama Science Teachers Association. He is also the assistant principal at Pisgah High School in his twentieth year of education. Before moving into administration, he spent fifteen years as a classroom teacher where he earned National Board Certification in early adolescence science.

Ryan P. Parker '99, New Brunswick, N.J., chief diversity officer, Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital has been named a board of trustees member at The American Conference on Diversity. As chief diversity officer at RWJ, he is charged with aligning diversity and inclusion as a critical business component for advancing RWJ's mission and strategic business objectives. In 2014, Mr. Parker was recognized by Becker's Hospital Review as one of the nation's top 25 healthcare leaders under the age of forty. He was selected Mr. Jax State in 1997.

Steven D. Martin '80 (left), Donald D. Knowlton '95 (middle)

2000-2015

Ashlee Dean Jones '06, Homewood, Ala., is now the media and promotions manager for the Central Region of Coca-Cola Bottling Company UNITED. She has been with Coca-Cola for six years, serving as a classic foods key account manager, no-sale project manager, field marketing representative and, most recently, on premise key account manager for Prestige Properties.

Matthew Grant Whitaker '06, Jacksonville, Ala., has been promoted to city president of the Oxford office location of Noble Bank & Trust. He has six years of banking experience with Noble Bank & Trust, previously serving as assistant vice president and Anniston branch manager. Mr. Whitaker was a member of Kappa Alpha. He is married to Lauren Ashley McGinnis Whitaker '07.

Cody J. Robinson '07, Cave Spring, Ga., is president of HomeFit, a company he started with fellow alumnus, T.J. Crosby '07, over a year ago. It is now the largest in-home fitness consulting company in the state with ten personal trainers and two registered dietitians who are nationally certified. Homefit specializes in training business and medical professionals who are too busy to make it to the gym. Based in Birmingham, they have expanded to Tuscaloosa and plan to continue expansion plans.

Andrea Howard Taylor '09, Weaver, Ala., is the new librarian at R.L. Young Elementary School in Talladega, Ala.

Thomas Arthur "Tab" Brown '12/'14, Jacksonville, Ala., is the new assistant director of bands at Baldwin High School, Milledgeville, Ga. Mr. Brown is a former member of the Southerners and Chamber Winds. He is married to Allison Inglis Brown '05/'07/'10, a former Marching Ballerina.

Joshua Lee Heflin '12, Decatur, Ala., was recently presented the Medal of Valor by the Decatur Police Department. While waiting on a tow truck to move a car, he was approached by a woman whose house was on fire and her brother was still inside. He called the fire department then ran inside and pulled the man out of the house. Mr. Heflin has also served as a Priceville, Ala., volunteer firefighter for the last ten years and was well trained to handle the situation. He was a member of Delta Chi.

Nicholas Hill '12, Huntsville, Ala., received a Fit Check Award from the Decatur Police Department where he is employed as an officer. He was a member of Kappa Sigma.

Brett Allen Johnson '15, Hokes Bluff, Ala., has joined the staff of the Higher Education Partnership, serving in the campus and membership position. He worked with the partnership as chair of the University Students Presidents Council and as a campus STARS leader. He also served as SGA president.

**NEW
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
LIFE MEMBERS**

- RANDALL DOVE III '10
- MICHELLE HOLLAND GARVER '03/'09
- JAMES HAROLD JACKSON '69
- PAUL LINDSAY '12
- GALE SAXON MAIN '89
- SHERRY MCLAUGHLIN
- VANCE MCLAUGHLIN
- MICHAEL DON MITCHELL '13
- DAVID NICHOLS '93
- MICHAEL V. NOYES '74
- DR. WILLIAM POWELL PANNELL '55
- ELI SMITH '10
- LANA OAKLEY SMITH '08/'10
- BRYAN M. TAYLOR '01



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