

# GEM

OF THE HILLS

WINTER 2014



## REMEMBERING MIRIAM HAYWOOD

1949 graduate, lifelong gamecock

## JSU'S RANDY OWEN

hits \$500 million milestone in country cares

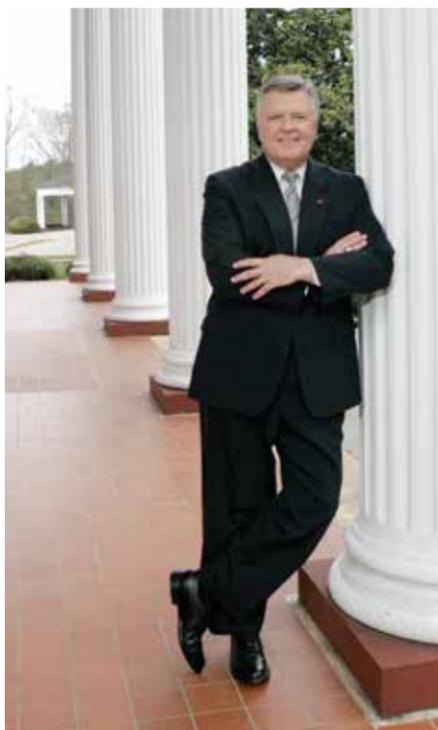
## HOMECOMING 2014

in pictures

## DR. WILLIAM A. MEEHAN TO RETIRE

AFTER HOLDING JSU'S THIRD LONGEST PRESIDENCY

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## DEAR ALUMNI,

As we approach the close of 2014, we are excited to share with you how JSU continues to provide our students with a path to get them where they are going!

In this edition of the GEM, you will learn about our Transition University program in the College of Education and Professional Studies and how it not only assists our education majors but also our local community high school students with disabilities. You will also find out how we will enhance our academic support services throughout the university with a recent \$2.2 million grant award.

Our athletic director, Mr. Warren Koegel has announced his upcoming retirement on December 31. He has certainly left his mark on our athletic program. Read about his success at the helm of the Gamecocks on pages 12 and 13. On page 14 you will find a tribute to Mrs. Miriam Haywood, a beloved member of the Gamecock family, who graduated from JSU in 1949 and immediately became a part of the JSU community.

By now, you probably know that I too, will be retiring at the end of June 2015. My family and I have enjoyed every minute of our journey at Jacksonville State University and we are proud to be a part of such a great tradition of education and service to the region. We will forever be a part of the Gamecock family.

With the holidays upon us, everyone here at Jacksonville State University wishes you and your loved ones a very safe and magical holiday season. We hope you enjoy this edition of the GEM. We look forward to seeing you in 2015!

Sincerely,

William A. Meehan, Ed.D.  
President



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698-14 University Publications 11/14

# JSU Nursing Renames Auditorium in Honor of Lela Sarrell

BY ANGIE FINLEY PHOTO BY STEVE LATHAM



An \$85,000 gift in honor of Mrs. Lela Sarrell, widow of the late cardiologist and Sarrell Dental founder Dr. Warren Sarrell, has retrofitted the auditorium in JSU's nursing building to better serve a tech-savvy generation of students.

The space, renamed the Lela Sarrell Learning Center, is located in Room 200 of Lurleen B. Wallace Hall on the JSU campus. Dozens of nursing students and faculty were on hand on Friday, September 26, 2014 as JSU administrators and Mr. Jeffrey Parker, chief executive officer of DentaQuest Healthcare Delivery that provided the donation, made the presentation to Mrs. Sarrell and her family.

In addition to new seating and furnishings the refurbished space features state-of-the-art technology such as smart boards, computers, cameras and projectors that will enable students on the back row of the 215-seat auditorium to closely observe and participate in even the smallest tasks taking place at the lectern. Nursing faculty member Donna Etheredge demonstrated this technology at the dedication, using a small webcam and a large projection screen to show attendees how to draw precise medication measurements into a syringe.

"This is a wonderful gift that we've received," said JSU president Dr. William A. Meehan of the technology. "Students

today don't learn like they did when I was a student many years ago... today's gift of this learning center will help engage our students of today."

Dr. Rebecca Turner, provost and vice president for academic and student affairs, expressed gratitude for the gift and its role in helping JSU achieve its goal to become a learning-centered university.

"To have spaces like this is exactly what we had in mind," she said. "Our goal is to graduate students who are prepared for 21st Century careers in healthcare; this helps us achieve that goal."

Speaking for DentaQuest Healthcare Delivery, Parker said, "As a leader in oral health care, we are pleased to honor the

Sarrell family, JSU and the college of nursing. We are proud to be able to give the nursing students a world class learning environment."

Dr. Warren Sarrell and Lela Sarrell, a registered nurse, assisted the university in finding qualified instructors prior to the establishment of the Lurleen B. Wallace College of Nursing in 1967, according to Mrs. Sarrell. In addition to his cardiology and internal medicine practices, Dr. Sarrell worked with JSU's wellness program and in 2004 established Sarrell Dental Center, which has been instrumental in bringing healthcare to low-income families, including nearly a half million children.

"I am not a graduate of JSU; I'm sorry about that," Mrs. Sarrell said shortly after accepting the resolution from the JSU Board of Trustees naming the facility in her honor. "But my husband and I worked to establish a scholarship for this college. I applaud Jeff Parker and DentaQuest Healthcare Delivery, who made this possible, and JSU, for a fine job of restoration of this learning center."

Also expressing her gratitude was Dr. Christie Shelton, dean of the college of nursing, who recognized the gift as the largest single contribution in the program's history.

"Times have changed and we looked at the various needs in our college. We looked at our budget and there was no change foreseen. I remember the day that the opportunity that we're celebrating today came to us. My heart was just flooding with joy at the opportunity to make change, to transform something for our students."

One of those students is Andrew Shelton, a second semester nursing student not related to Dr. Shelton. At the dedication, Shelton shared educator Ken Graetz's perspective on the correlation between learning and space:

"Environments that elicit positive emotional responses may lead not only to enhanced learning but a powerful emotional attachment to that space. They may become a place where students love to learn, a place they seek out when they wish to learn, and a place they remember fondly when they reflect on their learning experiences."

Shelton added that he has never felt more comfortable or more at home in any learning setting than at JSU.

At the conclusion of the program, Dr. Meehan, Dr. Turner, Dr. Shelton, Mrs. Sarrell and Mr. Parker cut the ribbon dedicating the center. 📷

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**Marc and Mary Angle**  
**Make Donation to Transition**  
**University & the MBA Program**

BY: JARED JONES

In August, Marc and Mary Angle, both graduates of Jacksonville State University, donated \$25,000 to the university to help fund Transition University and the online Master of Business Administration program. Mrs. Angle, a former Ballerina, graduated in 1988 from the College of Education and Professional Studies with a bachelor's degree in early childhood education, while her husband graduated from the College of Commerce and Business Administration in 1982. Mr. Angle, who was president of the Kappa Alpha Order, was instrumental in establishing the Paul Carpenter Village (Greek housing) on campus in the '90s. The Angles currently reside in Plano, Texas, where Mr. Angle is the president of Regions Bank for the state of Texas. The decision on where to designate their funds was an easy choice. When asked why they chose to donate the larger portion of their gift to Transition University, he said, "It's about doing the right thing. We feel that we are all responsible for helping the less fortunate." Mrs. Angle fell in love with Transition University, especially with her ties to JSU's education program, which is near and dear to her heart. The \$15,000 donation will fund the program for five years. The \$10,000 gift to the online MBA program will help support next level education at JSU and will help grow graduate studies. "Our education at JSU taught us morals and ethics and to help those who are less fortunate," Mrs. Angle said. Mr. Angle summed it all up by saying, "We were blessed by our education at JSU and feel that we will always be indebted to the university. This is about giving back and doing our part." For more information on how you can make a positive difference for future students at JSU, please contact the JSU Foundation at 256-782-5306.

# JSU Transition University

## A Win-Win Program

BY CHRISTINA MACDONALD

Jacksonville State University's Transition University (TU), conceived in Spring 2012, services local high school students with significant disabilities from aged 18 to 21. TU helps prepare these students for the world they will face after exiting high school. In addition to equipping the high school students with various transition skills, TU also provides teacher education candidates at JSU with valuable experiences within their field.

The idea for Transition University originated in the Fall of 2011 when two local high school special education teachers met with Mrs. Lynetta Owens and another JSU special education instructor concerning their students' transition needs. They wanted a better means for preparing their students for life after high school. Dr. Cynthia Connor was asked to join the project when she arrived at JSU in January 2012. She also met with one of the high school teachers to help plan the program, and a few weeks later, Transition University officially began meeting.

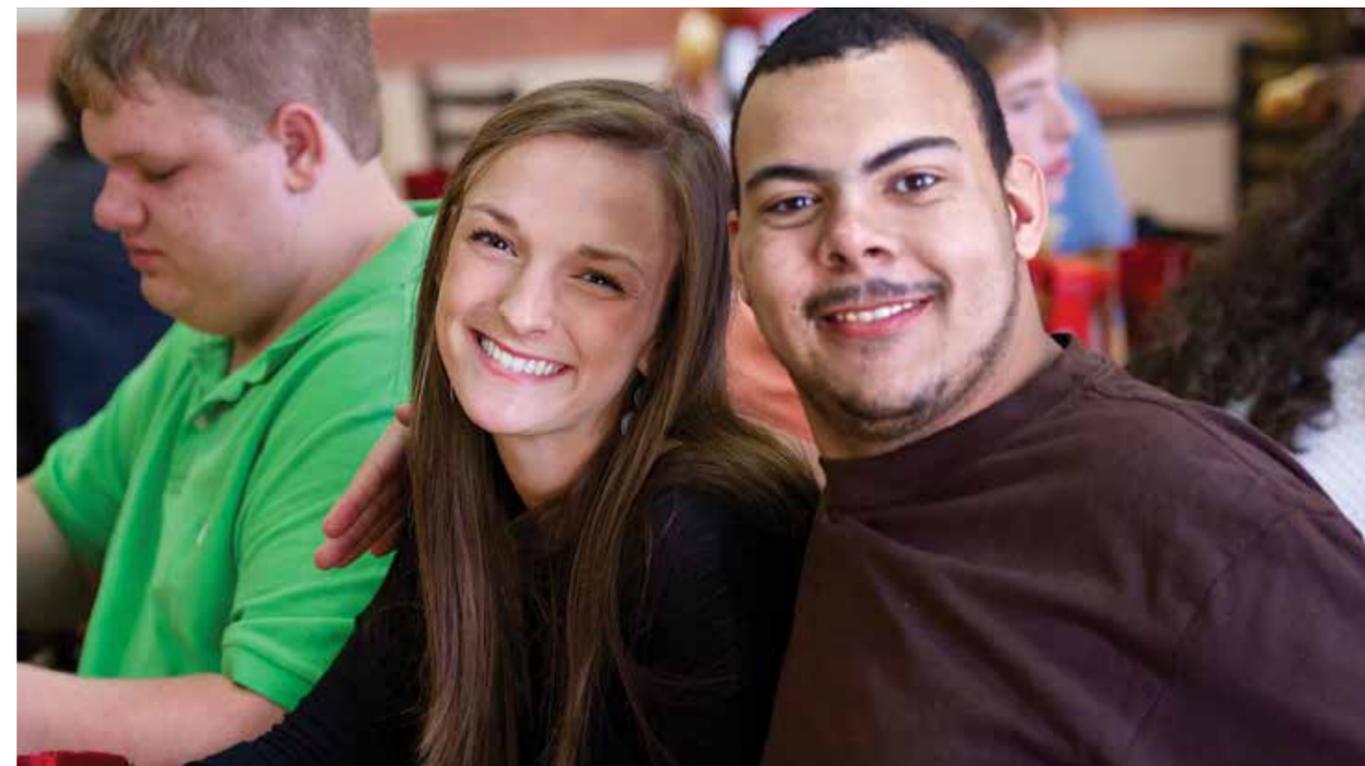
Dr. Connor explained, "The goal of TU is to provide the opportunity for those high school students with special needs aged eighteen to twenty-one to socialize and learn from their peers. Research has shown that students learn well from their peers, but a majority of these students' fellow classmates have already graduated

from high school." This program also provides opportunities for service-centered learning, since a college campus serves as a mini community where transition skills (e.g. social, pre-vocational, self advocacy, etc.) can be enhanced. Mrs. Owens expanded upon this concept, describing Transition University as being a "win-win-win" opportunity for the students of TU as they develop a skill set needed for more independent lifestyles. It is also beneficial for the teachers of those students in the acquisition of success within the transition strands, and for the students of JSU as they obtain hands-on experience with the students they will potentially instruct in the future.

Dr. Connor also explained, "For our JSU students, TU provides the opportunity to experience a 'reverse practicum,' since the majority who participate are candidates for special education teaching degrees."

Through these interactions, the high school students receive both formal and informal instruction in needed transition areas such as community experiences, public transportation, financial management, employment development, self-advocacy, socialization, and recreation.

The high school students travel once a week to the Jacksonville State University campus for this program where the



College of Education and Professional Studies provides a classroom for TU activities. After arriving in the morning, the high school students socialize with JSU peers and students from other participating high schools. JSU special education majors then provide instruction on a particular needed transition area. Afterwards, the entire group embarks upon a trip that coincides with the lesson topic, often using the Gamecock Express as a means of travel. The students visit both on-campus and off-campus sites such as JSU's art gallery, planetarium, post office, library, stadium, and coliseum, in addition to the City of Jacksonville's Walgreens and Community Center. Usually, the final stop for TU is at the Jack Hopper Dining Hall, where at lunch the students have a chance to mingle, make choices, and increase self-advocacy skills. According to Mrs. Owens, "Many students with disabilities tend to be ostracized by society. Our JSU students treat the high school students with respect and provide opportunities that allow for

meaningful decisions for their future employment."

Dr. Connor stated, "When you start something like this, you never know where it is going to go. We have just been amazed. Participation has increased from eight students from two schools in one school system, to over forty high school students representing seven different schools systems, and from three JSU teacher candidates to an average of ten to fifteen per semester. One of our goals was to share our success in hopes that other universities would follow our model. Another goal is to continue and expand our research for this program, so that we can more openly say that this benefits our local high school students with disabilities and our JSU teacher candidates." 📱

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# JSU Awarded \$2.2 Million Grant to “LInC” Academic Learning Communities

BY CHRISTINA MACDONALD

The U.S. Department of Education has awarded Jacksonville State University a \$2.2 million Strengthening Institutions grant to increase student academic engagement by building Learning Intensive Communities (LInCs) on campus.

“The research on college student success tells us that students who are more engaged are more successful,” said Dr. Janet Moore, director of Academic Enhancement and Tutoring Services. “By focusing on increasing opportunities for academic engagement outside of the classroom, it is our hope that students will stay in college and be more academically successful overall.”

Over the next five years, the grant will enhance student support services in a variety of ways. The Academic Center for Excellence tutoring program will expand the number of tutors and the number of courses supported by supplemental instruction. Walk-in tutoring for courses students traditionally find more challenging – such as math, biology, chemistry and physics – will be available. A research and writing laboratory will also be created, as well as a resource library for students and tutors.

“The benefit to JSU students is the extension of current academic support services and the addition of support services that are more tailored to student needs,” Moore said. “For example, non-traditional

students or students who work may have difficulty finding time for a scheduled tutoring appointment each week, therefore the drop-in format might work better.”

Hiring more tutors means additional campus jobs will be available for students. Moore said students who work on campus tend to be more academically successful than those who work off campus – tutors and instructional support workers in particular.

In addition to student workers, three new staff positions will be created at JSU to guide the LInCs efforts: a LInCs coordinator, an administrative assistant and a retention specialist. The team will be responsible for creating a response system to help identify at-risk students in need of academic assistance, connecting those students to the appropriate resources, and monitoring the effectiveness of those interventions. 



## Learning Skills Instructor John Brown Remembered

John M. Brown, instructor in Jacksonville State University’s Department of Learning Skills (Learning Services), passed away on July 29, 2014. Brown had been an employee at Jacksonville State University for twenty-seven years. He was a graduate of the University of North Alabama and Auburn University. JB, as he was known to most, was a writing instructor who taught basic English skills and freshman success courses. His largest influence and teaching contribution came through his many years of dedication to helping students pass the English Competency Exam (ECE). He wrote two textbooks, *Write Away* (1-5 ed.) and *Exploring Correct English*, both of which were instrumental in helping teach grammar, punctuation, sentence structure, paragraph and essay development. He was one of the developers of the successful summer bridge program, ExSEL, which for over twenty years assisted underprepared students in gaining entrance into JSU.



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## Buffy Lockette Named Public Relations Director

Buffy Lockette has been named JSU's new director of Public Relations, assuming the role previously held by Patty Hobbs who retired in June. Lockette brings with her fourteen years of higher education experience, working in public relations at both the University of Florida and Auburn University at Montgomery.

"It was as a student staff writer for the JSU news bureau that I first became interested in working in public relations, specifically academic communications," Lockette said.

Lockette is a native of Ohatchee, where she graduated from Ohatchee High School in 1996. She attended JSU part-time from 1996 to 2000 as a communications major. She married JSU alumnus Tim Lockette (B.A., English, 1998) and moved to Gainesville, Fla., where she completed her bachelor's degree at the University of Florida.



## Dr. Alicia Simmons Promoted to VP for Research, Planning & Collaboration

Alumna Dr. Alicia Simmons returned to JSU in 2005 as the director of Institutional Research and Assessment and was recently promoted to vice president of Research, Planning and Collaboration. In nine years, she has built JSU's sponsored research program from scratch - securing millions of dollars in federal grant funding to enrich and support the campus and local communities. In the past year alone, her department has increased the university's grant awards by 515 percent. A recent \$11.67 million grant from the U.S. Department of Education is bringing technology to high-need, rural classrooms.

"Dr. Simmons is deeply rooted in the JSU family and has an exceptional talent for grant writing," said JSU president Bill Meehan. "Together with her organizational skills and the great team she has assembled, she has provided exceptional support for our faculty and staff, which has resulted in successful grant acquisitions. That makes a tremendous difference during difficult budget times."

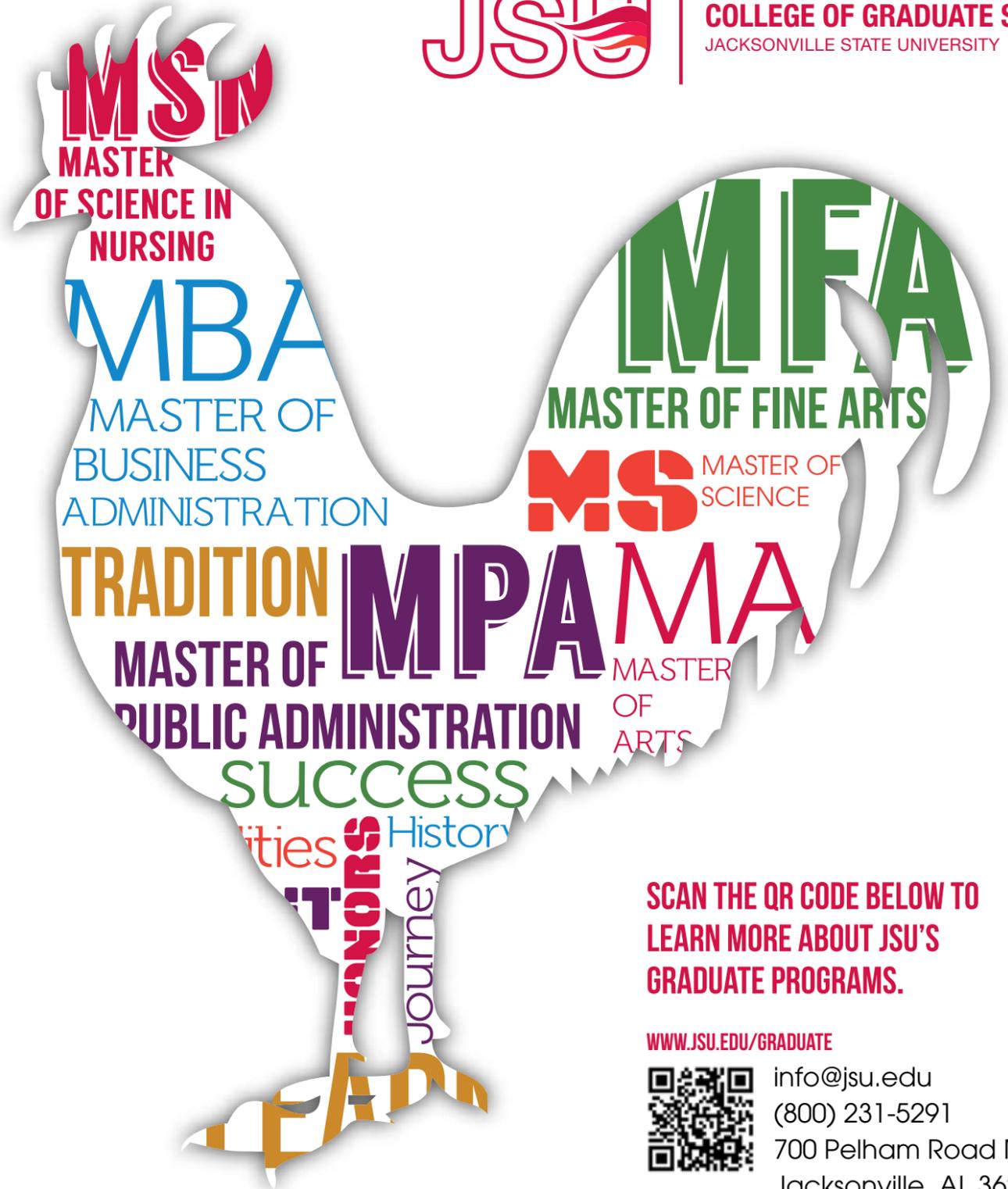
At UF, Lockette served as the spokesperson and editor of publications for the university's largest unit, the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. In 2008, the family relocated to Montgomery, where Lockette was Manager of External Communications for Auburn University at Montgomery until accepting the position at JSU.

Earlier this year, Lockette was awarded national Accreditation in Public Relations (APR). She is currently completing a Master of Liberal Arts degree at AUM, concentrating in communications. She has served on the board of the Public Relations Council of Alabama's Montgomery chapter for the past three years. In the community, she enjoys serving as the communications chair for the Friends of the Alabama Governor's Mansion. 📞

Simmons grew up in Jacksonville, the daughter of an Army chaplain stationed at Fort McClellan. Both of her grandmothers earned teaching certificates from the university back when it was known as the State Normal School at Jacksonville. Her maternal grandmother, Nile Borden Finley, came back and finished a bachelor's in education in 1950 when the institution was known as Jacksonville State Teachers College. Her parents, Tom and Carolyn Smith, met at JSU. Tom (B.S., education, 1962) asked Carolyn, a home economics major, out for their first date on a Bibb Graves Hall staircase just steps from Simmons' current office. The couple has been married for fifty-two years.

Simmons earned a B.S. in sociology, with minors in social work and gerontology, from JSU in 1985. She went on to earn a Master of Social Work degree from the University of Michigan and a Ph.D. in social work from the University of Georgia. 📞

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# WARREN KOEGL

## TO RETIRE DECEMBER 31



Warren D. "Moose" Koegel announced recently that he will retire at the end of the year after more than forty years of being on a college campus, including the last three and a half as athletics director at Jacksonville State University.

"I want to thank Dr. Meehan for the opportunity and the board of trustees for its support during my tenure at Jacksonville State," Koegel said. "We've had a lot of good things happen over the last three and a half years, and I've been extremely blessed to work with some outstanding coaches and staff members."

"I'm extremely grateful for the leadership that Mr. Koegel has provided our athletic department for the last three and a half years," Dr. Meehan said. "The athletic department won numerous conference championships and had a lot of success in post-season competition under his leadership. However, I'm equally proud of the job that he has done with our student-athlete academic success in the classroom and the fact that all sixteen of our teams are above the NCAA benchmark in our academic progress rates," added Meehan.

Hired as the school's sixth full-time athletics director on June 1, 2011, Jacksonville State enjoyed much success during Koegel's three and a half years as

athletics director, winning eleven Ohio Valley Conference championships and finishing in the top six in the OVC Commissioner's Cup, marking the sixth straight year the Gamecocks have finished that high in the standings.

Additionally, numerous facility upgrades have taken place under Koegel's tenure, highlighted by a new \$1.5 million softball upgrade with the addition of new grandstands, pressbox, sunken dugouts and a new home dressing room, which opened for the 2014 season.

Pete Mathews Coliseum has completed phase one of a renovation, and phase two is scheduled to continue next summer, with the addition of a new playing surface and a new seating configuration. Additional facility upgrades are also scheduled for the JSU track and the JSU tennis complex over the next six months. Koegel also made numerous other facility upgrades for baseball, rifle, soccer, the football field house and in the Gamecock weight room.

"Jacksonville State University will always have a very special place in my heart," added Koegel. "I'm very appreciative of the support of the Gamecock community, fans and alumni, and I will cherish all of the friendships that we have made here.

"I'm looking forward to spending more time with my wife, Elaine, my daughter, Kathryn, and the rest of my family," added Koegel.

Over his three years, JSU has claimed OVC Championships in football (2011), softball (2013, 2014), baseball (2014), men's golf (2012, 2014), women's golf (2012), men's tennis (2014) and rifle (2012, 2013, 2014). Koegel also served on the NCAA Football Championship Subdivision Committee that helped expand the FCS playoffs for the 2014 season.

In 2013-14, Jacksonville State had five OVC Player or Most Valuable Player of the Year Awards, nine NCAA All-Americans, sixty-one OVC All-Conference honorees, two teams claiming OVC Team Academic Achievement honors, and four OVC Coach of the Year Award winners.

In 2012-13, JSU had five OVC Player or Most Valuable Player of the Year Awards, seven NCAA All-Americans, fifty-eight OVC All-Conference honorees, two teams claiming OVC Team Academic Achievement honors, and one OVC Coach of the Year.

In 2011-12, Jacksonville State had eight OVC Player or Most Valuable Player of the Year Awards, one NCAA

All-American, sixty-five OVC All-Conference honorees, two teams claiming All-Academic honors, two OVC Coach of the Year winners and one OVC Scholar-Athlete of the Year.

Gamecock student-athletes have also excelled in the classroom after ten teams posted a combined grade point average of 3.0 or higher and the department finished above a 3.0 grade point average every year under Koegel.

Several teams have claimed the OVC Team Academic Achievement Award for their sports, and more than 375 student-athletes have been named to the OVC Commissioner's Honor Roll over the last three years. Additionally, almost sixty student-athletes have been named to the OVC Medal of Honor Roll with a perfect 4.0 grade point average, while close to 450 student-athletes posted a 3.0 grade point average or higher during the last three academic years.

Prior to joining JSU in 2011, Koegel spent ten very successful years as director of athletics at Coastal Carolina University,

where the Chanticleers made fifty-six NCAA Championship appearances, won forty-eight Big South Conference Championships and won the Sasser Cup, which is awarded to the top athletic program in the Big South Conference, five times.

Koegel was named the 2008 NACDA Southeast Region Division I FCS Athletic Director of the Year. He also has experience on the NCAA level, having served on the Football Championship Subdivision Committee, Football Issues Committee, and the Football Academic Working Group.

Koegel went to Coastal Carolina from the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga, where he had served as an associate athletic director from 1998-2000 under former JSU athletics director Oval Jaynes.

Prior to his stint at Chattanooga, he had served on the football coaching staffs at the University of Connecticut, Rutgers University and the University of Wyoming. During his tenure on the

football coaching staff at the University of Connecticut from 1992 to 1997, he was recruiting coordinator and defensive line coach as well as interim head coach in 1993. Koegel was an assistant football coach at Rutgers University from 1984 to 1990 and Wyoming University from 1977 to 1983.

Koegel played in the National Football League from 1971 to 1975, spending time with the Oakland Raiders, St. Louis Cardinals and New York Jets. He starred at Penn State University under legendary football coach Joe Paterno, where he earned All-American honors. He was co-captain of the Nittany Lions his senior season and earned a bachelor's degree in 1971.

During his college career, he was a Third Team All-American as a senior and played on two Orange Bowl championship teams. He also played in the Hula Bowl, East-West Shrine Game and the College All-Star Game. Koegel received Penn State's Dedicated Player and Outstanding Senior Awards. 

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# Remembering Miriam Haywood

1949 Graduate, Lifelong Gamecock

BY ANGIE FINLEY



**T**O SOME, SHE WAS THE “LITTLE GENERAL.” ACCORDING TO JACKSONVILLE STATE UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT DR. WILLIAM A. MEEHAN, SHE WAS “NOT LARGE, BUT DEFINITELY IN CHARGE.” ON THURSDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2014 FORMER JSU PERSONNEL DIRECTOR MIRIAM HAYWOOD, ONE OF JSU’S MOST ENTHUSIASTIC LIFELONG FANS AND SUPPORTERS, WAS LAID TO REST. SHE PASSED AWAY ON OCTOBER 19 AT THE AGE OF 89.

Although she was small in stature, Miriam W. Haywood leaves some mighty big shoes to fill at JSU. A 1945 graduate who worked for the university for more than thirty-five years, she remained a very active alumna her entire life and made numerous lasting contributions to her alma mater along with her husband James, also a JSU retiree now deceased. The Haywoods started the Honorary Coaches Club, which evolved into the present Gamecock Club/J-Club. Mrs. Haywood also served as the JSU cheerleader sponsor for a decade and started the Gamecock Chicks, a group of females that functioned as pep squad, campus hostesses and tour guides.

In addition to their time, the Haywoods made many large and small monetary contributions to the university. Perhaps the most significant was their personal commitment to help finance the educations of many young people. While Mrs. Haywood was cheerleader spon-



sor, they often financed air travel for the cheerleaders to away games. The couple financed and furnished the university’s very first Cockey mascot suit in 1966. They purchased many items for the university, from the Good Luck Gamecock and the American flag at the stadium to the dogwood trees surrounding Bibb Graves Hall. They were instrumental in raising funds for the construction of the university’s marble monolith on Pelham Road and spearheaded a successful drive to raise money to reestablish the athletic training table for the football team. As their final gift to the university they loved so dearly, the Haywoods have bequeathed their estate to help fund a bell tower.

Mrs. Haywood was a charter member of Alpha Xi Delta, JSU’s first sorority, and the first Alpha Tau Omega fraternity Sweetheart, having helped establish the chapter. On November 20, 2009, Miriam and her late husband were presented the Jimmy Bryan Award during the Jacksonville State University Athletic Hall of Fame banquet. The award was given for their exemplary contributions and years of dedication to the success of Jacksonville State University Athletics.

Ward Pell, widow of former JSU football coach Charley Pell, was particularly close to Mrs. Haywood. In fact, in 1979, when the Pells relocated to the University of Florida so that Coach Pell could lead the program there, the newly retired Haywoods followed them there. Pell says knowing Miriam Haywood was like having a mother, best friend and sister all in one and, as they did with many other families,



the Haywoods adopted the Pells and their children as their own.

“They adopted us in ‘69 and God knows we needed it,” Mrs. Pell recalls with a laugh.

“She was just such an incredible individual. She did like to supervise and tell folks how to do things, which is why she’s often referred to around the J Club as the ‘Little General.’

“She and James helped a lot of young people go to college at Jacksonville State. They subsidized scholarships; they did anything that was needed to take this school to the next level. They were so caring of young people and the education of young people.”

JSU alumni director Kaci Ogle remembers Mrs. Haywood as the backbone of the Football J-Club, without whom the organization will never be the same.

“For years she cooked them meals and desserts for their monthly meetings. She absolutely loved those guys,” she says. “She was a very proud Gamecock and wanted everyone else to show their pride as well. She will be greatly missed!”

Dr. Meehan recalls the Haywoods’ shared enjoyment of cooking. Haywood served as JSU’s dining services coordinator and was known for his lavish culinary spreads. Mrs. Haywood could be counted on to decorate for each occasion.

“Both Miriam and James loved to cook. They even had their home remodeled so they could have his and her kitchens. Miriam was famous for her banana pudding among other wonderful dishes. Many of the men in the Gamecock family



will say they have never had better banana pudding than Mrs. Haywood’s,” he adds.

“I know that we would not have the Coxwell Room and the adjacent players honors court without her leadership. She was a ‘Bantam Hen’ and one heck of a Gamecock! She will be greatly missed!”

Funeral services for Mrs. Haywood were Thursday, October 23 in Jacksonville. Many in attendance wore JSU red as a tribute to their friend, and then sang in unison as the JSU Fight Song and “I’ll Fly Away” played during the recessional.

Memorial donations may be made to Miriam Haywood Chimes, c/o the JSU Foundation, 700 Pelham Road N., Jacksonville, AL 36265.

May we all live our lives as did Miriam Haywood - full speed ahead and wearing Gamecock red! 🐓

# JSU'S RANDY OWEN HITS \$500 MILLION MILESTONE

## in Country Cares for St. Jude Kids

Country music legend, Jacksonville State University alum and trustee Randy Owen recently completed a significant milestone on a fundraising project begun twenty-five years ago.

In 1989, Owen had the opportunity to meet television icon and St. Jude Children's Research Hospital founder Danny Thomas. From then on, Owen has called upon the music world and radio stations to support St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, thus birthing the Country Cares for St. Jude Kids Program, which has since become one of America's most successful annual radio fundraising events.

In January 2014, Owen's fundraising endeavor celebrated its twenty-fifth anniversary and the momentous milestone of more than \$500 million in donations.

Leading the way in how the world understands, treats and defeats childhood cancer and other deadly diseases, St. Jude Children's Research Hospital holds to the belief that all a family should worry about is the health of their child when fighting childhood cancer. Thus, families never receive a bill from St. Jude for treatment, travel, housing and food. The generous St. Jude donors make this possible. Since the majority of St. Jude Children's Research Hospital funding comes from individual contributors, St. Jude has the freedom to focus on what matters most – saving kids, regardless of their financial situation.

The hospital is also a leading center of research. Treatments invented at St. Jude have helped boost the overall childhood cancer survival rate from twenty percent when the hospital opened its doors in 1962 to more than eighty percent today.

St. Jude also freely shares the breakthroughs it makes, and every child saved at St. Jude means doctors and scientists worldwide can use that knowledge to save thousands more children.

Today, country musicians such as Taylor Swift, Rascal Flatts, Keith Urban, Tim McGraw, Carrie Underwood, and many more can be found on the Country Cares website as some of the various artists or "clubs" under which Country Cares fans can make donations.

During the annual Country Cares seminar, artists and others from the music and radio industries from around the world come together to learn more about what St. Jude is and how they can help.

These artists also often visit the kids in the hospital and make lasting impressions as they did for Jessica Turri, who, at the age of nine, was diagnosed with leukemia and became a patient at St. Jude.

"My whole world changed," explains Turri, a Memphis native who was told that she would need to undergo two and a half years of weekly chemotherapy. "Everything, all of a sudden, didn't matter. The only thing my family and I could think of was what the next two and a half years would look like and what life would be for us."

While in the hospital, Turri recalls meeting Martina McBride and talking with her for about thirty minutes.

"She was just so lovely," states Turri. "I was not a country music fan and my family didn't listen to that genre, so that night I told my dad that we needed to figure out who that lady was and go hear her music. So, we went to the public library...

and checked out her current album at the time, which was Evolution. Her song 'Happy Girl' became my mantra to get me through therapy."

The next year, Turri had the opportunity to meet Keith Urban and even received a phone call from him on her birthday.

Turri explains, "Those are just big days for the kids because it gives you the strength to get through and gives you something positive to concentrate on. You have those things to kind of lean on and keep you going. So, Country Cares is a magical day at the hospital each year."

Turri is now twenty-five years old, cancer free and in remission.

She currently works in Nashville for American Lebanese Syrian Associated Charities (ALSAC), the fund-raising arm of St. Jude. She is on the radio development team, assisting St. Jude radio partners to continue to excel at their radiothon fundraisers.

She recalls meeting Randy Owen while a patient at St. Jude and was able to later reconnect with him as an employee at St. Jude last year.

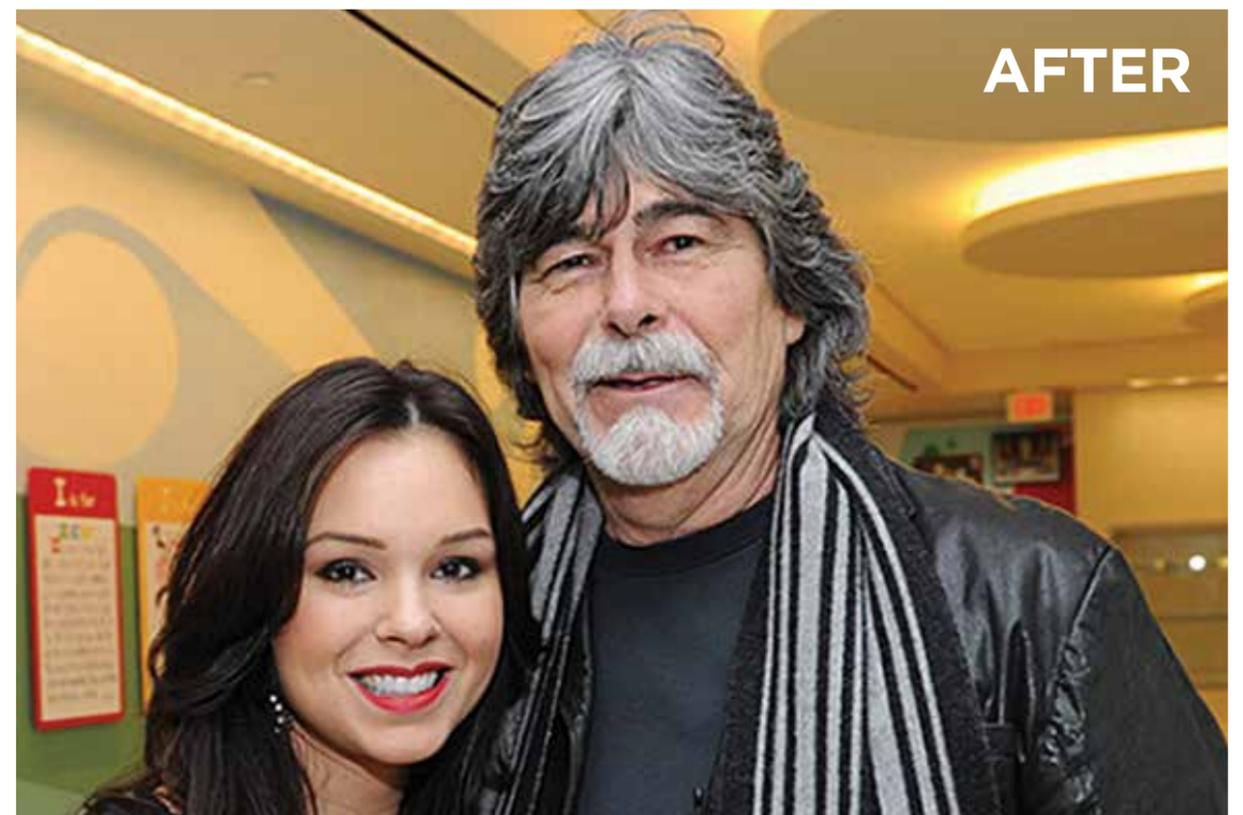
"He [Owen] is the reason why Country Cares exists, so we owe it all to him," states Turri.

Jacksonville State University is very proud of the great legacy Owen has been blazing, not only at the university and in the music world but also in the lives of thousands of children through Country Cares for St. Jude Kids.

**Learn More About Country Cares for St. Jude Kids visit the website at [www.countrycares.org](http://www.countrycares.org)**



**Above, Jessica Turri, a young patient at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, poses with country music superstar Randy Owen at the Country Cares Seminar in 1998. Below, fourteen years later, Turri, now cancer free, in remission and a St. Jude employee, poses again with Owen at the Seminar in 2012. (photos by ALSAC/St. Jude)**





# DR. WILLIAM A. MEEHAN

To Retire After Holding JSU's Third Longest Presidency

BY HEATHER GREENE | PHOTOS BY STEVE LATHAM

In 1968, William Arthur Meehan first came to Jacksonville State University as a student and “fell in love with the institution.” Since then, he has transitioned from the classroom to the “oval office,” where he has diligently served the faculty, staff, and students as president for nearly sixteen years. After dedicating forty-seven years of his life to JSU – forty as an employee – Meehan will retire from the university on July 1, 2015.

#### *From Alumnus to President*

After completing his Bachelor of Science in biology in 1972 at JSU, Meehan returned for his master’s and worked as a graduate assistant in the admissions office. “I had great mentorship here with the faculty in the biology department and other administrators,” he said.

Upon graduating with his Master of Science in biology in 1976, he was approached by Dr. Theron Montgomery and asked to stay as a full-time biology instructor.

“That was a great transition right there,” said Meehan. “You always think of how nice it would be to teach at your alma mater, or even your high school, and to be able to come back and do that at my university was very, very special. I had no idea I would be president and have that opportunity.”

But the road between the classroom and the presidency consisted of a few steps along the way. Meehan served in several other roles including coordinator of medical technology, director of academic advisement, assistant to the vice president for academic affairs, acting vice president for academic affairs, associate vice president for academic and student affairs, and acting vice president for institutional advancement.

In 1999, Meehan earned his doctorate in higher education administration from the University of Alabama. His dissertation was “An Analysis of Sabbatical Application Patterns, 1988-98, at Jacksonville

State University.” On July 1, 1999, Dr. William A. Meehan became the eleventh president of JSU.

#### *Meehan Family Grows Up on Campus*

Meehan and his wife Elizabeth moved to campus with the youngest and most children of any other JSU president: five-year-old twin boys, Drew and Will, and baby Carol Grace. The President’s Home had to be childproofed and renovated to accommodate the family of five. The Meehan children have called JSU home for most of their lives.

“They went to every university event that we went to,” Meehan said. “In order to keep the family lifestyle, whether it was a basketball game or a community event, we would include them and would all go.” Meehan fondly recalls how his children would often ask, “Daddy, are you speaking again? Do we have to listen to you again?”

Currently, Drew and Will are juniors at Auburn University, but return to Jacksonville each summer for classes. Prior to moving to Auburn, they both completed dual enrollment courses at JSU while in high school and were prepared to step into the college lifestyle having grown up on a college campus.

Carol Grace, 15, is a sophomore at Jacksonville High School and an avid volleyball player. During the Fall 2015 season of Gamecock football, she will be sitting with her parents in the stands, something they have never been able to do as a family.

Like so many other couples, Dr. and Mrs. Meehan first met at JSU. "Jax State brought us together," Mrs. Meehan laughed. "I got two JSU degrees - a real academic one and an Mrs. degree!"



Although an avid horseback rider after graduate school and a marksman, Meehan has had little time for hobbies with his 24/7 schedule of running the university and raising a family. In retirement, he plans to travel and renovate the couple's other home, the Dogwood House.

"I was told I have the outside and she does the inside," explained Dr. Meehan on the subject of their upcoming home renovation projects.

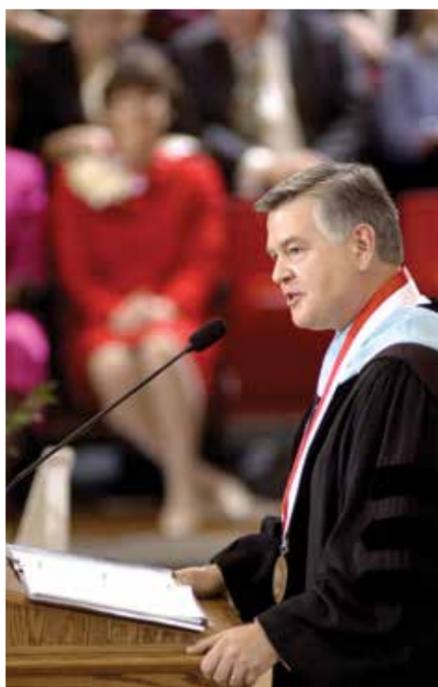
In addition to their home renovations, the Meehans will accompany the JSU alumni group on a trip to Ireland in March 2015 and have some road trips planned.

*The Meehan Legacy*

"When I went into this business, it was to teach and to be with students," Dr. Meehan said. "I think helping students reach their goals, and being able to add value to the experience of all those at the university - to the students, to the faculty

With numerous conference championships, Meehan has also witnessed much athletic growth in the university, especially in regard to the Gamecocks' breathtaking football performance in the fall of 2013 and the excitement of this current season. It was under his administration that the JSU athletic program became a member of the Ohio Valley Conference (OVC).

Should he give a current "State of JSU" address, Meehan said, "We have improved the academic offerings for students. We have consistently provided



After transferring from Samford University to JSU as an undergraduate student, the former Elizabeth Stevens met Meehan, who had been asked by a friend to encourage her to come to JSU to finish her degree. She finished her undergraduate degree in education, focusing on social sciences, at JSU in 1989 and went on to earn her master's in counseling from the University of Montevallo.

Six years after first meeting, the couple went on their first date on January 11, 1992. That same year, they were married. In December 2014, they celebrated their twenty-second anniversary.

**"I think helping students reach their goals, and being able to add value to the experience of all those at the university...that's been the most rewarding part." - Dr. William A. Meehan**

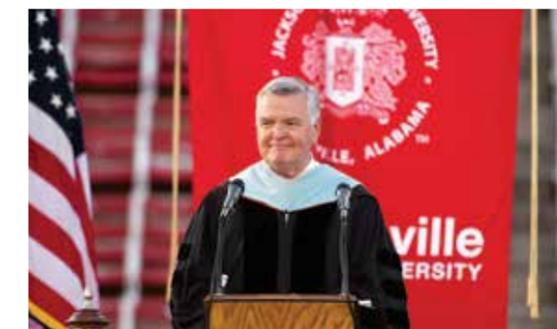


and staff - if I can say I've added value to that experience, that's been the most rewarding part."

In terms of the changes he has seen throughout his tenure as president, Meehan states, "Academically, we have grown. We have grown into offering doctoral programs, and that is an entirely new level and new role for us."

After experiencing success with its first doctoral program - the Doctor of Science in Emergency Management - Meehan said JSU is now approved to offer a total of three doctoral programs.

Of the major academic changes during Meehan's time at JSU, perhaps the biggest revolution has been the influx of technology into the classroom. Recalling a time when slide rules and overhead projectors were cutting edge technology, Meehan now observes students and teachers incorporating the latest tablets and gadgets into learning, giving students the skills needed in today's technologically driven society.



more scholarship opportunities through our capital campaigns. We have improved retention for our students. The highest retention ever was this last year - from freshmen to sophomore, over seventy-two percent were retained. We have more scholarship dollars now and more opportunities than we have ever had before. Our faculty scholars program has brought in great new students. Our ACT score average for first-time freshmen has continued to go up; now it's 22.6. Our transfer students now have scholarships. Colleges and universities have increased tuition and JSU has also but we have been able to provide more financial aid for students who are doing well academically and will graduate.

"We are well positioned in what we want to be, which is an economic engine for our community and for our students. If you look at what colleges and universities do - which is help our students find something they love to do so they can find someone to pay them to do it for the rest



It is rare to find a university president who will go out on a sweltering Saturday morning and help freshmen move into the dorms on move-in days, a president who takes time to know students and faculty by name and greet them with a smile, and who always has the best interest of the students at heart.

There is no doubt that Jacksonville State University is a better place because of Dr. and Mrs. Meehan and their family. They have left a lasting legacy upon JSU and the numerous students who have had the privilege of attending the university under the Meehan administration.

Jacksonville State University would like to thank Dr. Meehan and his family for their time, effort, and service over last sixteen years and wish them the best in the years to come. 🍷



of their lives - it's exciting. That is future driven and that's what we are about. Fortunately, JSU has great roots in this community and we are always well received."

For those who have wondered, the answer is yes, Dr. Meehan does walk to work, unless he has an appointment off-campus that would require him to leave. He explains that he truly enjoys walking around campus because it gives him an opportunity to meet and chat with students, allowing him to maintain a solid connection to the student body of JSU.

When asked how students have changed while he has been connected to the university, Meehan responded, "They have changed a great deal! I think that's along with the generational changes - what I like most about seeing our students today is that they are much more service-oriented than previous generations of students. They are willing to reach out. They want to do more volunteer work. You see a lot of altruism in our students today and I'm very proud of that."



# A Walk Down MEMORY LANE

A look back at Dr. William A. Meehan and his years of dedication and service to Jacksonville State University.

- |   |  |   |   |  |  |   |   |
|---|--|---|---|--|--|---|---|
| <b>1972</b><br>Graduated from JSU with a B.S. in biology  | <b>1972</b><br><b>1974</b><br>Taught high school biology & earth science                         | <b>1976</b><br>Earned a M.S. in biology from JSU  | <b>1977</b><br>Became a JSU biology instructor  | <b>1977</b><br><b>1979</b><br>Served as Coordinator of Medical Technology at JSU | <b>1979</b><br><b>1982</b><br>Worked as Director of Academic Advisement at JSU                               | <b>1982</b><br><b>1988</b><br>Served as Assistant to the VP for Academic Affairs at JSU | <b>1984</b><br><b>1985</b><br>Received Faculty Research & Service Award |
| <b>1987</b><br><b>1989</b><br>Received Most Outstanding Student in Administration of Higher Education Award, College of Education, University of Alabama                            | <b>1988</b><br><b>1998</b><br>Associate VP for Academic & Student Affairs at JSU                 | <b>1992</b><br>Married JSU Alumna Beth Stevens  | <b>1992</b><br><b>1993</b><br>Served as JSU's Acting VP for Academic Affairs  | <b>1998</b><br><b>1999</b><br>Acting VP for Institutional Advancement            | <b>1999</b><br>Earned a Doctorate of Education from the University of Alabama                                | <b>1999</b><br><b>Named the 11<sup>th</sup> President of JSU</b>                        |   |
| <b>2000</b><br>Received Calhoun County Chamber of Commerce's W. Roy Crow Leadership Award & the Association of Public Safety Communication Officials' Outstanding Achievement Award | <b>2002</b><br>Presented the Boys and Girls Club's Eagle Award for Outstanding Community Service | <b>2003</b><br>Received the Silver Beaver Award from the Greater Alabama Council of the Boy Scouts of America | <b>2005</b><br>Educator of the Year by the Calhoun County Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities and received the Open Door Award from the National Alliance on Mental Illness | <b>2007</b><br>Named Citizen of the Year by the <i>Anniston Star</i>             | <b>2008</b><br>Presented the Distinguished Citizen Award from the Boy Scouts of America Choccolocco District | <b>2012</b><br>Named National Alumnus of the Year for the Delta Chi Fraternity          | <b>2015</b><br>Retires as president of JSU                              |

It just wouldn't be homecoming without the ELC!



# AX Austin Peay

# Homecoming 2014



Past presidents and officers of the JSU National Alumni Association honored Dr. and Mrs. Meehan with a resolution in appreciation of their support during his presidency.



Even though it was a cold day, JSU alumni gathered with family and friends to enjoy the homecoming activities.



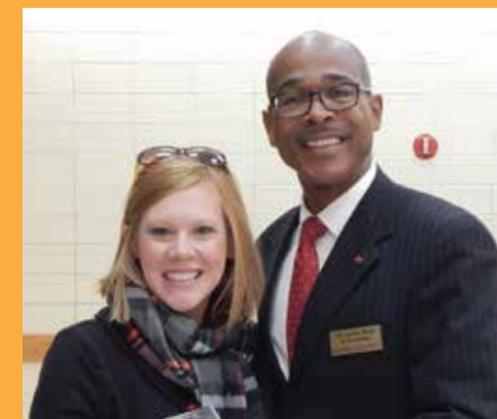
The 2014 Outstanding Alumni of the Year were recognized at halftime.



Class of 1964 Golden Gamecock Reunion



The annual U.N. Day Tea was held on Sunday, November 2.



Alumni board president Darren Douthitt recognizes board members Sara Underwood and Valencia Russell whose terms expire December 31.

# ALUMnotes

## BIRTHS

*\*pictured below*

### 2000-2013

Jenni Evonne Nelson '07 and Lawrence "Larry" K. Nelson III '08, Yuma, Ariz., welcomed the birth of their fourth child, Joshua, on September 6, 2014. Mr. Nelson was a member of the JSU rifle team.

Tabatha Nicole Rankin Ashley '08 and her husband Jarrod, Oxford, Ala., announce the birth of their baby, Kamdyn Kohl, on July 15, 2014.

\*Derrick Willingham '12 and his wife Rachel, Millbrook, Ala., welcomed their first child, Amelia Jo, on June 23, 2014.

## WEDDINGS

*\*pictured below*

### 1990-1999

April L. Jones '98/'06 and Mark Hobbs, Oct. 11, 2014, in Gatlinburg, Tenn. Mrs. Hobbs is employed by the Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services.

### 2000-2014

Devin D'Juan Beasley '00 and Makesha Reed, May 17, 2014, in Huntsville, Ala. He was a member of the men's basketball team from 1998 to 2000. The couple resides in Huntsville.

Patrick Roszell '00 and Lauren Lingerfelt '12, June 7, 2014, in Geraldine, Ala. Mr. and Mrs. Roszell were members of the Southerners. The couple resides in Boaz, Ala.

\*Jeremy Stovall '03/'05 and Noelle Lynn Millirons '12, May 17, 2014, in Anniston, Ala. Mr. Stovall was a member of the Southerners, Hardcorps pep band, Show Choir and was principal saxophone in the concert band. He currently is the assistant director of University Bands at JSU and works with the Southerners, directs the Hardcorps pep band and is the music director and pit conductor for the JSU drama musicals. Mrs. Stovall was a member of the Marching Ballerinas, a GoGo with the pep band, a JSU GO! Leader, a JSU Ambassador, a patrons director for the JSU radio station, 91.9 WLJS, and a graduate assistant in the Office of Student Life. She is the coordinator for the Marching Ballerinas and GoGos dance teams at JSU and is currently in the Master of Public Administration program at JSU. Mrs. Stovall is also a dance and baton instructor with the Calhoun Academy of Dance. The couple resides in Jacksonville, Ala.

Julie Anne Beam '05 and Joseph Scott Barnett, April 26, 2014, at the Bell House Wedding & Event Barn. Mrs. Barnett is employed by Head to Tail Petcare.

Lana Hurst '08/'10 and William Eli Smith '10, October 11, 2014, in Southside, Ala. Mrs. Smith is employed by Anniston Army Depot as a material management analyst. Mr. Smith is also employed by Anniston Army Depot as a workload analyst.

\*Samantha Anne Magee '08/'09 and Andrew Scott Lindsey '09, September 6, 2014, in Hiram, Ga. Mr. and Mrs. Lindsey were former GO! Leader Coordinators. She also served as a former president of Alpha Xi Delta and currently serves as the membership advisor. Mr. Lindsey was a JSU Ambassador and officer of Delta Chi and is currently serving as the chapter advisor for the fraternity. Mrs. Lindsey is employed by the Rome (Ga.) City Board of Education. Mr. Lindsey is employed by the Polk County (Ga.) Board of Education. They reside in Rockmart, Ga.

Brandi Elizabeth Chaffin Arrington '09 and Christopher Barrett Cosby, May 24, 2014, in Anniston, Ala. Mrs. Cosby is employed by Anniston Family Practice.

Molly Victoria Benefield '09 and Joshua Lee Gaines, September 20, 2014, in Anniston, Ala. Mrs. Gaines was a member of Zeta Tau Alpha. In 2014, she obtained her Doctor of Pharmacy degree from Auburn University Harrison School of Pharmacy and is employed by CVS Pharmacy.

Whitney LeAnn Clifton '09 and Charles Dustin Remington '12, May 24, 2014, in Anniston, Ala. Mrs. Remington was a member of Phi Mu and was a JSU Ambassador. She is employed by the Calhoun County School System. Mr. Remington is employed by the Calhoun County Sheriff's Office. The couple resides in Oxford, Ala.

Megan Brooks '11 and Justin Moore, September 27, 2014, in White Plains, Ala. Mrs. Moore is employed by the Alabama Teachers Credit Union as a teller.

Jonathan Frederick Gasbarro '11 and Chelsie Alora Brock '12, May 3, 2014, in Guntersville, Ala. Mr. Gasbarro was a member of Delta Chi. Mrs. Brock was a former president of Alpha Xi Delta. The couple resides in Huntsville, Ala.

Whitney Carol McCarson '11 and Charles Brian Anderson, August 2, 2014, in Oxford, Ala. Mrs. Anderson is employed by the Calhoun County Department of Human Resources as a social worker.

Lauren Ashlee Davis '12 and Theron Collier Smith IV, May 10, 2014, at The Sonnet House. Mrs. Smith was a member of Alpha Omicron Pi and played volleyball for JSU. She is employed by Waste Connections of the Carolinas. The couple resides in South Carolina.

\*Eric Allen Shierling '12 and Rebekah Katherine Wallace '13, June, 2014, at the JSU Alumni House. Mrs. Shierling is employed by Aviagen, Munford, Ala. Mr. Shierling is employed by the Ford Meter Box Company, Pell City, Ala. The couple resides in Munford, Ala.

Erin Beason '13 and Kyle Lovell, March 22, 2014, in Oxford, Ala. Mrs. Lovell was a member of Delta Zeta and is employed by Cleburne County Elementary School.

Sarah Emily Blakney '13 and Justin Alan Alexander '13, December 28, 2013, in Oxford, Ala. Mrs. Alexander is employed by Eye Care Associates, Wake Forest, N. Car. and Mr. Alexander is currently in the master's program at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest.

Katie Combs '13 and Jeremy Fleming, April 27, 2014, in Pell City, Ala.

Haley Brooke Elders '14 and Grant Colton Cobb, March 22, 2014, at the Michael Wedding Barn.

Chelsea Ann Jones '14 and Jordan Williams, April 19, 2014, at Panama City Beach, Fla. Mrs. Williams was a member of the Southerners

## OBITUARIES

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

### RETRACTION

In the Spring GEM magazine, the following alumni were listed in error as deceased or information in the listing was incorrect. We apologize to our alumni, their families and friends.

Thomas Sidney Downing '72/'73, Anniston, Ala.

Barbara Gooden Garrett '61, Pensacola, Fla.

Hugh A. McWhorter, Sr. '90, Gadsden, Ala. Information was listed in his obituary that he was commissioned through the JSU ROTC program which is incorrect. His son, Hugh A. McWhorter, Jr. '86/'90, was commissioned and not the senior Mr. McWhorter.

### JSU FACULTY/STAFF

Marian L. Huttenstine, April 6, 2014, Ohatchee, Ala. Dr. Huttenstine was an instructor in the communication department. She had also taught at Lake Lehman High School, Lock Haven College, the University of Alabama, Radford University and Mississippi State University where she chaired the Department of Communications. She was a nationally recognized authority in the field of communication law and served as a consultant to media and government officials.

Leomey Roberts Jackson, August 9, 2014, Jacksonville, Ala.

Joe Leonard Langston, June 20, 2014, Birmingham, Ala. In 1964, he joined the staff at WBRC-TV in Birmingham as a news reporter/news anchor. Later he joined the news team at WVTM TV but later returned to WBRC as news director. During his years in television, he received every major award from the Associated Press and United Press International Broadcasters Association. He was inducted into the Alabama Sportscasters Hall of Fame in 2009. In 1989, Mr. Langston retired from WBRC to accept an endowed chair in the Department of Communication at JSU where he retired his post in 1998.

Lt. Col. Victor L. Miller, U.S. Army Retired, September 18, 2014, Jacksonville, Ala. After his retirement from the Army in 1969, he became the associate food service director at JSU for five years. Later he accepted a position with the University of Florida (Gainesville) as associate food director in the athletic department.

Dr. William James Reid, Jr., August 20, 2014, Central, S. Car. A World War II veteran, he also served in the South Carolina National Guard. Dr. Reid served as chairman of the science and engineering department at JSU from 1968-1994 where he published twenty-eight professional papers, served as chairman of the Alabama Academy of Physics and as president of Alabama Physics Teachers. After retiring from JSU, Dr. Reid and his wife moved back to South Carolina.

Dr. Jerry B. Wilson, June 25, 2014, Troutman, N. Car., after a lengthy illness battling Parkinson's disease. He was a professor of ethics and theology for over twenty years at JSU.

### ATTENDED ONLY OR DATE OF GRADUATION UNKNOWN

James Grady "Jim" Beene, Jr., Thompson's Station, Tenn., June 5, 2014. He was a sales manager with Walker Chevrolet and had been in the car business for over thirty years in the Nashville and surrounding area. Mr. Beene played tennis for JSU and was a member of Sigma Nu.

John Powell Deason, Jr., Wilkesboro, N. Car., September 30, 2013. The alumni office was notified by his daughter that Mr. Deason had passed away. He had played basketball at JSU and later served as a member of the National Alumni Association Board of Governors.

James Wesley Hodges, Jr., Greensboro, Ga., December 14, 2012. He served in the U.S. Navy then worked as a graphic illustrator for NASA at Marshall Space Flight Center, Huntsville, Ala., for forty-one years, where he received numerous awards of achievement. He retired in 2005.

Johnny Mack Johnston, Acworth, Ga., April 22, 2011. The alumni office was recently notified by his wife that Mr. Johnston had passed away in 2011. He played football at JSU.

James L. Stephens, Horton, Ala., September 24, 2014. A veteran of World War II, he served with the 8th Infantry in Germany, Austria and the Philippines. An educator for thirty-eight years, he was principal at Curtiston and Stowers Hill for many of those years.

Bradley "Scott" Stuart, Talladega, Ala., October 3, 2013. He had been employed by the Talladega Water Department. Mr. Stuart played football for JSU from 2001 to 2004.

Kathy Jo Ward, Mineral Wells, Tex. The post office notified the alumni office that Ms. Ward is deceased.

William Wayne Watson, Anniston, Ala., August 3, 2014. A highly respected community leader in Calhoun County, he served many years as a board member of the Chamber of Commerce. He was retired from B.R. Williams Trucking Company, Inc. where he served as terminal manager, director of operations and the office of secretary for the corporation.

### 1940-1949

Edna Bailey Mayne '45, Schoharie, New York, November 16, 2013. The information was received during the annual JSU phonathon from someone at her home phone number.



Dr. John Acker Vanderford '46, Jacksonville, Ala., May 25, 2014. A World War II veteran who served in the U.S. Army Air Corps in Alaska, he had been an educator for his entire career. Dr. Vanderford taught English at Ohatchee High School, became principal at Weaver High School and later Alexandria High School before moving away from Alabama to take an administrative position at Shorter College in Rome, Ga. He also served as an education specialist and chief of staff and faculty development for the Military Police School. When it moved to Fort McClellan, Alabama, Dr. Vanderford moved to Jacksonville. He served as adjunct faculty at Gadsden State Community College and at JSU. He was married to Kathryn Casey Vanderford '47.

Lewis S. Bates '47, Arab, Ala., March 4, 2014. Mr. Bates played basketball for JSU.

Marcus Lafayette "M.L." Roberts, Jr. '47, Tuscaloosa, Ala., July 5, 2014. He began his teaching career in 1947 at Tuscaloosa High School, where he served as chair of the business education department until 1954. He was appointed registrar and instructor at the University of Alabama. He served in many other capacities at the University of Alabama before retiring in 1987 when he was appointed professor emeritus of curriculum and instruction. Dr. Roberts was a member of the International House program at JSU.

Willie Ann Albea '48, Anniston, Ala., April 26, 2014, after a lengthy struggle with Alzheimer's disease. She had a teaching career that spanned twenty-five years. In her health struggles she began an exercise program that included walking, jogging and then running which led to competitive running. Ms. Albea competed in many 5K and 10K races and a few marathons throughout the Southeast and set records in her age group that still stand.

Barbara Cayley Ford '48, Thomasville, Ala., November 24, 2013. She was a retired teacher with the Thomasville City Schools.

Dr. Raymond Hugh Lindsay '49, Chelsea, Ala., September 8, 2014. Dr. Lindsay taught school in Florida and then served in the U.S. Army. He retired as director of pharmacological research at the Veterans Administration Hospital, Birmingham, Ala., and served for many years as a professor of pharmacology at the School of Medicine, University of Alabama in Birmingham. As a worldwide leader in the field of thyroid diseases, conducting on-site programs in foreign countries and publishing over eighty research articles, he was awarded the title of research career scientist in 1979 by the Veterans Administration. Dr. Lindsay played basketball while at JSU.

A. Harlan Mathews '49, Nashville, Tenn., May, 2014, from a brain tumor. A World War II Navy veteran, he began his career in government at the State Planning Office in Tennessee. In 1961 he was appointed Tennessee commissioner of finance, a post he held for ten years, one of the longest tenures in state history. He was elected state treasurer in 1974 and remained in that post until 1987 when he resigned to become deputy governor. After Sen. Al Gore was elected vice president, Mr. Mathews was appointed to fill his vacancy in the U.S. Senate. Upon leaving the Senate in 1994, he joined the Nashville office of the law firm of Farris, Mathews, Bobango PLC but remained active in the legislature and politics, serving as an informal advisor and fundraiser for the governor. Mr. Mathews was selected as JSU's Alumnus of the Year in 1988.

Estelle Sprayberry Robertson '49/'62/'71, Anniston, Ala., May 10, 2014. She was an educator for more than forty years in Calhoun County and in Anniston. She taught at Wellborn High, Saks High, DeArmanville Junior High and Anniston High School. She was coordinator of instruction at Anniston High and then principal at Constantine Elementary and Tenth Street Elementary in Anniston. She also taught at Gadsden State Community College and Anniston School of Nursing. After retiring, she continued to work at JSU as the supervisor of student teachers.

#### 1950-1959

Christine Ethridge '51, Hueytown, Ala., September 28, 2014. She taught school for forty-nine years. She taught for fifteen years at B.M. Allen School and thirty-two years at Hueytown Elementary School.

Reba Nina Ketner Gibbs '51, Rossville, Ga., August 13, 2013. Mrs. Gibbs was a retired educator and musician. She taught for thirty-three years at Lakeview High in Rossville, Ider High in Dekalb County (Ala.), Mortimer Jordan High in Birmingham, Ala. and retired from Dalton Junior College, Dalton, Ga. in 1984 with sixteen years of service. Mrs. Gibbs also taught piano and other instruments for twenty-seven years.

Walter Eugene "Gene" Lusk '51, Huntsville, Ala., April 11, 2014. He was a principal and a coach at Big Cove and Central Junior High until he began a career with the army and NASA at Redstone Arsenal. He still loved coaching and spent many years coaching girls and women's fast pitch softball.

Harvey E. Stewart '51, Huntsville, Ala., August 27, 2014. He was commissioned through the JSU ROTC program and had an outstanding military career. In 1969, JSU selected him as its Military Alumnus of the Year. Mr. Stewart was a veteran of WWII, Korea and Vietnam. After his retirement from the army in 1975, he dedicated himself to the Christian ministry, serving on the staffs of several Alabama churches and conducted several mission trips. He felt JSU was a very important part of his formative years and continued to feel blessed by his college experience. The alumni office was notified by his wife that he had passed away.

Catherine Howard Thomason '51, Memphis, Tenn., April 4, 2014. Mrs. Thomason taught for thirty-five years with the last twenty-seven at Peabody Elementary.

Bernice Angel Knighton '52, Arab, Ala., February 12, 2014. Mrs. Knighton taught school in Georgia and in Ohatchee, Ala. before moving to Arab where she taught for many years.

Alverine Cleland Gann '53, Crossville, Ala., January 2, 2004. The alumni office was recently notified by Mrs. Gann's sister that she had passed away in 2004.

William Richards "Bill" Giles '53, Jacksonville, Fla., February 24, 2009. He served in the Army Air Corps in Italy during WWII as a member of the 454th Bomber Group. Mr. Giles was retired as president of Florida Equipment Sales, Inc. after fifty-four years with the company.

Dan C. Henderson '53/'60, Oxford, Ala., August 19, 2014. He taught at Saks, White Plains and Coldwater. He served as principal at Coldwater School and served in the superintendent's office as director of the instructional materials center, testing and guidance. Mr. Henderson was a WWII Veteran and served in the Asiatic Pacific Theater of Operations. He was assistant superintendent over personnel services and then served the Superintendent's Office as director of the Calhoun County School System. Mr. Henderson also worked for the State Department of Education in Montgomery for two years.

Jesse Thomas Edge '54, Wadley, Ala., September 27, 2014. A U.S. Navy veteran, he served as a radioman. He taught vocational skills to returning servicemen in Randolph County and remained active in the military, serving in the Alabama National Guard and retiring as a lieutenant colonel in the Army Reserve. Mr. Edge taught at Valley and Wadley High Schools before joining the faculty of Southern Union College. He later retired as business manager and then financial aid manager for Southern Union.

Gary Franklin Burns '56, Gadsden, Ala., August 8, 2014. He was a member of the Etowah County Bar, American Bar, and Alabama State Bar Associations, the Association of Trial Lawyers of America, the Alabama Trial Lawyers Association and served as county attorney from 1962 to 1966. Mr. Burns was a member for the State House of Representatives from 1962 to 1965. He practiced law for fifty-five years in Gadsden and throughout Alabama. Mr. Burns also served in the Army National Guard. He was commissioned through the JSU ROTC program.

John W. Lee '56, Nauvoo, Ala., September 18, 2010. The alumni office was notified by a family friend that he had passed away.

Thomas Edison Blake '57, Rainbow City, Ala., August 31, 2014. He was a Korean War army veteran. Mr. Blake taught for over thirty years in Florida and Illinois.

Thelma "Sissy" Southern Gilliland '57, Pell City, Ala., July 28, 2014. The alumni office was notified by the family of Mrs. Gilliland's passing.

Billy Sandal Godfrey '57, Centre, Ala., May 31, 2014. Mr. Godfrey was a retired educator with the Cherokee County Board of Education. He was a WWII veteran, serving with the marines.

James Glenn Davidson '59, Gadsden, Ala., July 27, 2014. Mr. Davidson was retired from Republic Steel in Gadsden.

Kermit Lee Huddleston '59/'63, Heflin, Ala., September 1, 2014. Mr. Huddleston was a Korean War army veteran. He started his teaching/coaching career at Ragland High in St. Clair County. In 1964, he became principal at Ranburne High in Cleburne County but the position actually covered the elementary, junior high and high schools. He retired from Ranburne High in 1987 after twenty-four years. From 1988 to 1993, he was elected superintendent of education for Cleburne County Schools. After retiring for the second time, he became a cattle farmer, gardener and substitute teacher.

Gerald Eugene McCarver '59, Roswell, Ga., June 10, 2014. Mr. McCarver served in the navy during the Korean War. He was retired from Shaw Industries in Dalton, Ga. At JSU, he was a member of the Baptist Campus Ministry.

Rev. William Allen Payne '59, Rainbow City, Ala., February 11, 2013. Rev. Payne served in the U.S. Coast Guard. He worked for thirty-eight years for the U.S. Postal Service, retiring in 1988 as postmaster in Rochester, Minn. He was also an ordained minister who pastored many different churches in Alabama and South Carolina over the course of a fifty-two year career.

#### 1960-1969

Theodore "Ted" J. Leonard '60, Las Vegas, Nev., April 11, 2014, after a long battle with cancer. He was a retired U.S. Army colonel. He served thirty-two years in the Adjutant General Corps.

Henry Durwood "Durk" Nichols '60, Southside, Ala., June 2, 2014. He served in the U.S. Navy and was retired from Republic Steel after forty years of service.

Betty A. Stewart '61, Piedmont, Ala., May 26, 2014. She began her teaching career in Etowah County at Hokes Bluff High and retired after many years of teaching at Piedmont High School.

Thomas Van Whitt '61, Troy, Ala., April 16, 2013. A U.S. Army veteran, he was a former insurance salesman with Jefferson Pilot, office manager at Roadway Express, former employee of Burlington Industries and owner/operator of Whitt's Tire Outlet.

Charles Lee Bohannon '62, LaGrange, Ga., April 17, 2014. He served in the Alabama Army National Guard and U.S. Army Reserve. Mr. Bohannon had worked for West Point Pepperell, Goodyear, Inc., Industrial Supplies and DAYCO until he retired in 1990. He played baseball for four years at JSU. The alumni office was notified by his wife, Phyllis, of his death.

Bobby Lee Cochran '62, Rainbow City, Ala., September 15, 2014. He was a U.S. Navy veteran and had served during the Korean War. Mr. Cochran was employed for thirty-eight years by Goodyear Distribution Center. After retirement, he worked as a bailiff for Circuit Judge William H. Rhea III.

Wiley Asbury Gammon '62, Stone Mountain, Ga., July 26, 2014. He was a U.S. Navy WWII veteran. He later joined the army and retired as a colonel after serving in Korea and Germany. He was employed by Southern Bell for more than thirty-seven years, retiring as an area manager in 1983. The alumni office was notified by his wife of his death.

Nancy Simmons Hill '62, Gadsden, Ala., April 29, 2014. She was a retired teacher from both Southside High and Westbrook Christian School. Mrs. Hill was a former member of the Marching Ballerinas.

Paul T. Powell '62, Oxford, Ala., July 4, 2014. He worked for the U.S. Postal Service for thirty years, serving as postmaster in LaFayette, Sylacauga, Anniston and at Fort McClellan. He then opened his own business at his home where he would rebuild and sell automobiles. Knowing nothing about golf, he decided one day to join the golf club at Fort McClellan. He became a four-time overall winner of the Calhoun County Senior Golf Tournament and a nine-time winner of his age group. He played in the Georgia Preachers Golf Association Tournament at Calloway Gardens (Ga.) through the 1990s where he won five titles. At McClellan's Cane Creek he was an overall club and senior champion in 1985, senior club champion in 1988 and 1990 and super senior (75 and over) club champion in 2007 and 2008.

Sam Bradford Smith '62, Pell City, Ala., July 26, 2014. He was an army veteran.

Samuel "Lee" Barnes '63, Williamsville, Ill., September 9, 2014. He had worked his entire career in the insurance industry, most recently as a vice president at Horace Mann until his retirement. Mr. Barnes served on the Williamsville School Board for eight years, the village board for eleven years and as mayor in the late 1990s and early 2000s.

Katherine Taylor Cook Grizzard '63, San Antonio, Tex., July 3, 2014. A military wife, her husband's army career took them to assignments in Europe and throughout the United States. She also worked for the U.S. Civil Service until medical issues forced her retirement.

Jerry Sparks '63, Oxford, Ala., May 19, 2014. He had been commissioned through the JSU ROTC program.

James Edward "Ed" Jones '64, Gadsden, Ala. July 4, 2010. He served in the U.S. Navy, attaining the rank of lieutenant and served on the USS Roosevelt, USS Independence and the USS John F. Kennedy. Mr. Jones worked at DuPont, Dan River, Inc., and Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co.

James F. Knight '64, Gadsden, Ala., July 31, 2014. Mr. Knight was owner and operator of River Country Campground and Summer Chase Apartments. He was the former vice president of East Gadsden Bank as well as a commercial real estate entrepreneur.

Mary Sue Taylor Rylant '64, Jasper, Ga., November 17, 2007. She was married to William Gordon Rylant '65.

## HOW TO SUBMIT INFORMATION

If you would like to submit information please email [alumni@jsu.edu](mailto:alumni@jsu.edu) or mail the information to JSU Alumni Relations Office, 700 Pelham Road North, Jacksonville, AL 36265.

# NEW

## ALUMNI ASSOCIATION LIFE MEMBERS

David Scott Cates '84

Colin Cotton '95

Charles D. "Chad" Hoffman III '09/'11

Thomas Hutchins '84

Clyde Lane '86/'12

Eraina Victoria Perrin '13

Brigadier General Curt A. Rauhut '84

Peggy Jean Garrett Laird '65, Waco, Tex., April 17, 2014. Mrs. Laird taught for thirty-three years, the last twenty-nine years at Connally High School.

Joe B. Hitt '66, Oxford, Ala., July 9, 2014. He was a retired health inspector with the Calhoun County Health Department. Mr. Hitt was commissioned through the JSU ROTC program.

Doyle Vernon Miller '66/'76, Alexandria, Ala., September 6, 2014. Mr. Miller was retired from Alexandria High School.

Christine McClellan Rentschler '66/'67, Anniston, Ala., June 11, 2014. She had taught at the Episcopal Day School at JSU and retired from Anniston High School after teaching for twenty years.

Jimmy Dale Wilson '66, Jacksonville, Ala., August 31, 2014. He taught at Cedar Springs, Post Oak Elementary, and Saks Jr. High. He also taught adjunct classes for JSU at Gadsden State Community College. Mr. Wilson was a member of the Baptist Campus Ministry and the Southerners. He was commissioned through the JSU ROTC program and was married to Barbara Tinker Wilson '67.

Robert L. "Bob" Dellinger '67, Fort Payne, Ala., August 16, 2014. He spent forty-two years as a purchasing director for Nucor/Vulcraft.

Thomas A. Gilbreath '67, Boaz, Ala., June 20, 2014. Mr. Gilbreath was commissioned through the JSU ROTC program.

Betty Morris Beasley '68, Hokes Bluff, Ala., July 29, 2014. She had taught at Hokes Bluff, Weaver High and Calhoun County Area Vocational Center.

John Edward "Ed" Jordan '68/'75, Jacksonville, Ala., August 20, 2014. Mr. Jordan worked for the FBI, the Northeast Alabama Police Academy and AmSouth Security. He wrote the successful grant application to acquire Jacksonville's first ambulance and was the city's first paramedic. He was a firefighter/EMT for twenty years and served two terms on the Jacksonville City Council. Mr. Jordan was married to Jeanne Howell Jordan '76.

Jerry W. Brooks '69/'72, Boaz, Ala., July 3, 2014. Mr. Brooks was a retired teacher with the Etowah County Board of Education. He had played basketball for JSU. The alumni office was notified by his wife that he had passed away.

Eugene Griep '69, Guntersville, Ala., June 13, 2014. He was a retired teacher/coach with the Marshall County Board of Education. Mr. Griep played football for JSU.

Charles Dow Grimes, Jr. '69, Mount Olive, Ala., March 3, 2014. Mr. Grimes served in the Alabama Army National Guard. He was a licensed real estate appraiser (SRA) and had served twice as president of the Society of Real Estate Appraisers in Birmingham.

### 1970-1979

Mary Ellen Smith Carter '70, Gadsden, Ala., August 15, 2014. She was a former social worker for the Etowah County Department of Human Resources.

Reuben Wayne Eason '70, Chickasaw, Ala., May 18, 2012. Mr. Eason donated his body to the University of South Alabama College of Medicine. He was married to Tonia Thompson Eason '69.

Bobby Ray Goins '70, Roswell, Ga., August 4, 2014 after a battle with leukemia. He had been an executive with Omni-Source Corporation. He had been commissioned through the JSU ROTC program.

David Bradford Huff '70, Montgomery, Ala., April 16, 2014. Mr. Huff served in the Alabama Army Reserve 375th Support Group for twenty-two years and retired as a master sergeant. He was also retired from the Alabama State Department of Education after more than thirty years. Mr. Huff had been a member of the Baptist Campus Ministry while at JSU.

Bobby Ray Huffaker '70, Montgomery, Ala., August 17, 2014. He was retired after forty-one years with the Alabama Marine Police Department.

Paula McRay McDonald '70/'74, Gadsden, Ala., August 27, 2014. She was a teacher for thirty-two years in the Etowah County School System and taught at West End Elementary, Sardis High and Southside High.

Sammy K. Terrell '70, Oxford, Ala., September 12, 2014. He had been an employee of Tyson Foods for over thirty years.

Floyd C. Brumbelow '71, Huntsville, Ala., May 30, 2014. He was a navy veteran and then worked for the army at Redstone Arsenal. After graduating from JSU, he started his own business, Brumbelow Accounting Services, which later became known as Brumbelow and Barnes, CPAs serving the Huntsville area.

Sue Carpenter Johnson '71/'77, Rainbow City, Ala., September 9, 2014. Mrs. Johnson taught at Weaver High School for over thirty years.

Emma Kane Jordan '71, Fort Payne, Ala., September 30, 2013. Mrs. Jordan was a retired teacher. She was a master gardener and one of the original founders and former director of the Fort Payne Depot Museum.

Paul Randall Ramsey '71, Bremen, Ga., October 1, 2014. He retired in 2011 after serving as the band director at Haralson County High School for twenty-two years. Mr. Ramsey was a former member of the Southerners.

Dorothy "Dot" Kualheim Thomas '71, Anniston, Ala., July 14, 2014. Mrs. Thomas had served as secretary at Trinity Lutheran Church.

Delight Randolph Watson '71, Fort Payne, Ala., September 26, 2012. The alumni office was recently notified by the postal service that Mrs. Watson is deceased.

Dianne Earline Godbey Betts '72/'76, Ohatchee, Ala., April 20, 2014. Mrs. Betts taught history at Saks High School from 1973 to 2000.

Mildred Mosley Donald '72, Birmingham, Ala., June 29, 2014. Her teaching career began at Wilcox County High School. She later became an English teacher and student adviser at Carver High School in the Gadsden City School System. She served the latter part of her career as senior counselor and adviser at Gadsden High School. Mrs. Donald's career spanned forty-nine years. She was a life member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.

Bobbie Jean Pierce Dulaney '72/'79, Anniston, Ala., September 19, 2014. She was a retired teacher from the Talladega County Board of Education after thirty-two years of service.

Silas Phillip Brown, Jr. '73, Muscadine, Ala., September 9, 2014. He was retired from the U.S. Air Force and had served in the Korean War.

Gary Lester Green '73, Cedar Bluff, Ala., July 18, 2014. He had been an instructor at Northeast Alabama Community College.

George W. Holcombe, Jr. '73, Columbiana, Ala., July 29, 2014. Mr. Holcombe played football for JSU.

Kenneth Eugene Rich '73, Anniston, Ala., May 11, 2014.

Susan Cheyne Wallis '73/'76, Anniston, Ala., June 21, 2014. Mrs. Wallis was an educator with the Calhoun County Board of Education for twenty-five years and was a member of Delta Kappa Gamma where she also served a term as president. She was a former member of the Southerners.

Juanita Savage Wilson '73, Gadsden, Ala., March 30, 2014. Mrs. Wilson began her teaching career at Nancy Oden Jr. High School. She later transferred to Gadsden High School where she remained until her retirement in 1989. She continued as an educator, serving the Gadsden City Schools as a substitute teacher and member of the city school board. She served twenty-five years as an educator.

Margaret Snarr Bennett '75, Jacksonville, Ala., June 27, 2014. She had served as a teacher at Kitty Stone Elementary School. She was married to retired JSU instructor, Dr. Veldon J. Bennett.

Billy Ross Cagle '75/'77, Albertville, Ala., March 21, 2014. He had been a contractor.

Margaret Julia Wilson '75/'79, Crossville, Ala., January 22, 2014. She was a retired counselor with the Dekalb County Board of Education.

Mickey L. Pledger '76, Spanish Fort, Ala., May 9, 2014. He served in the U.S. Army for twenty years, retiring at the rank of major. In 2009, he retired from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security with twenty years of service. Mr. Pledger was a private pilot and loved flying and working on home-built aircraft. A member of Sigma Nu, he was a charter member of the fraternity's Iota Lambda chapter at JSU. He was commissioned through the JSU ROTC program.

Mable C. Wilson '76, White Plains, Ala., April 17, 2014. After twenty-six years of service, Ms. Wilson retired from teaching at White Plains High School. She had also worked at the Cottaquilla Girl Scout Camp and volunteered with 4-H.

John Wallace Adcock '77, Anniston, Ala., June 10, 2014. An Army veteran, Mr. Adcock played on a basketball team that won the 3rd Army Division Championship in Germany and was chosen one of ten players in Europe to represent the United States in different countries. After graduation, he began his coaching career at Walter Wellborn High School where he coached varsity basketball and assisted in coaching football. The gym at Wellborn High now bears his name. He has been inducted into the Calhoun County Sports Hall of Fame, the Young Harris (Ga.) Sports Hall of Fame and the Coweta County (Ga.) Sports Hall of Fame.

Janie Nunnelley Clemons '77/'82, Orange Beach, Ala., August 2, 2014. Mrs. Clemons had been a counselor for the Marshall County Board of Education and then served as a teacher and counselor for the Boaz City Board of Education. She had been a member of Phi Mu.

Lela Locklin Crawford '77, Talladega, Ala., July 29, 2014. Mrs. Crawford retired from teaching in 1984 to become a stay-at-home mom

Paul Davies Pitman '77, Lumberton, N. Car., June 25, 2014. Mr. Pitman served as band director at Lumberton Senior High and was a member of the Second Time Around band. He formerly worked for the Lumberton Rescue & EMT Service and Robeson County Ambulance Service. He also had been an RN at Southeastern Regional Medical Center of Lumberton for many years. Mr. Pitman had been a member of the Southerners.

Jean Starkey Lanier '78, Oneonta, Ala., September 27, 2014. She was a retired teacher with the Blount County Board of Education.

Gary Eugene Ledbetter '78, Jacksonville, Ala., September 6, 2014. He was a U.S. Army veteran. Mr. Ledbetter worked at the Anniston Army Depot and in Huntsville at Redstone Arsenal. He had thirty-eight combined years of government service. He also served as a chaplain at Northeast Alabama Regional Medical Center, at Golden Living Nursing Home and the Calhoun County Jail Ministry.

Earl Frieman Patterson, Sr. '78, Dothan, Ala., August 11, 2014, after a brief battle with cancer. He was a Marine Corps veteran. Mr. Patterson served as a police officer in Birmingham prior to his employment with the Jefferson County Sheriff's Department, where he retired as a captain after thirty-five years of service. He was also a graduate of the prestigious FBI National Academy.

Carl Owsley Treppard '78, Chattanooga, Tenn., December 26, 2013. He was a veteran of the U.S. Navy. After twenty years of service, Mr. Treppard retired from the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) as labor relations manager in nuclear power in 1990. He began a second career and retired as COO of CADAS in 2001. Mr. Treppard was married to Patricia Morris Treppard '79.

Connie Leah Boyd '79, Dalton, Ga., July 10, 2014. She was employed in the banking industry. Ms. Boyd was a former member of the Southerners.

Maj. Guy Albert Foster '79/'93, Leawood, Kan., April 8, 2014. He was retired from the U.S. Army.

### 1980-1989

Nellie S. Blevins '80, Gadsden, Ala., February 26, 2013. She had been employed by the Etowah County Board of Education.

Joan Badgett Dobson '80, Collinsville, Ala., February 14, 2011. She had been the owner of Joan Dobson Tax & Accounting Service. The alumni office was recently notified by a family member that Mrs. Dobson had died in 2011.

Charley William Richardson '80, Ohatchee, Ala., August 5, 2014. He was retired from the U.S. Air Force after twenty years of service where he held the rank of master sergeant.

Cindy Jones Ellison '81, Sylacauga, Ala., September 18, 2014. She had taught in Talladega County Schools, Sylacauga City Schools, and at Knollwood Christian School. Her career culminated at the Sylacauga Alliance for Family Enhancement (S.A.F.E.) where she served as the facilitator for the Living Well Alabama program which brought nutritional education to residents of Talladega, Coosa and Clay counties. Mrs. Ellison was a member of the Baptist Campus Ministry and was married to Richie Lynn Ellison '82.

James "Jim" Harold Young, Jr. '81, Raleigh, N. Car., June 27, 2014. He worked in the computer industry, first at Intergraph Corporation (Huntsville, Ala.), then at Red Hat, QNX and finally at SAS Institute, Cary, N. Car., until he was forced to retire due to suffering from chronic Lyme Disease. Mr. Young was a member of Pi Kappa Phi and had been voted Mr. JSU. The alumni office was notified by his sister, Priscilla Braselton, that he had died.

Willodean Morris McMurry '85, Hokes Bluff, Ala., June 10, 2014. She was a retired teacher from Coosa Christian High School.

Melanie Warren Lusk '86, Jacksonville, Ala., May 1, 2014. She was a retired Anniston police officer. After retirement, Ms. Lusk served as WMD instructor with the Department of Homeland Security.

Cindy Smith Willoughby '86, Hokes Bluff, Ala., May 2, 2014. She had been employed by Gadsden Regional Medical Center for twenty-two years.

Vincent Blaine England '87, Dallas, Tex., May 20, 2013. The postal service notified the alumni office that he is deceased.

Ken Coleman Holston '87, Harpersville, Ala., August 18, 2014. The alumni office was notified through the annual JSU phonathon that Mr. Holston had passed away.

Harriet M. Wood '87, Guntersville, Ala., September 20, 2014. She was retired from the Guntersville City Board of Education.

Jane Womack Scott '89, Dallas, Ga., November 16, 2012. Mrs. Scott was retired from the Paulding County School System where she served for thirty-seven years as a social studies teacher, assistant principal and the director of student information.

### 1990-1999

Jesus Mario Aguilar '90, Jacksonville, Ala., July 24, 2014. He spent fifteen years with the JSU International House where he touched lives, made memories and was a friend to all. Mr. Aguilar was married to Ena Aguilar, who recently retired from the JSU International House.

Anthony R. Jones '93, Pell City, Ala., April 19, 2014. He was previously employed with Louisiana Pacific and Georgia Pacific. He was an associate minister with Kelly Springs Baptist church. Mr. Jones was a peer counselor at JSU and was a member of Alpha Phi Alpha.

Kenneth "Scott" Helms '94, Prattville, Ala., April 22, 2014. He had been a member of the Baptist Campus Ministry and was married to Sondra Jean Harcrow Helms '93.

Melissa Catherine "Lisa" Smith Means '94/'96/'98, Gaylesville, Ala., July 4, 2014.

Vilean H. Stubbs '92, Austell, Ga., December 22, 1994. The alumni office was just recently notified by the postal service that Ms. Stubbs is deceased.

Jennifer Martin Wright '94, Southside, Ala., September 18, 2014. She had been a nurse at Trinity Medical Center.

Michael Todd Reaves '95, Sylacauga, Ala., November 3, 2013, after a short battle with kidney cancer. Rev. Reaves had been a pastor for over twenty-three years and had pastored at many churches in the area. He was currently employed by Childersburg High School as an assistant coach for the softball team. He previously taught and was the head baseball coach at Irondale Community School and was a contracted special education teacher at Winterboro High. The alumni office was notified by his wife, Alicia "Lisa" Golden Reaves '91, that he had passed away.

Margie Lucille Morris Davis '98, Gadsden, Ala., May 9, 2014. She had been employed by Gadsden Surgery Center.

Janet Elizabeth Sizemore Sandberg '98, Jacksonville, Ala., May 7, 2014.

**2000-2014**

Molly Elizabeth Vines Barnes '01, Gaylesville, Ala., September 3, 2012. She had been employed as a pre-K teacher by the Cherokee County Board of Education.

Christopher Robertson Safi '03, Moody, Ala., April 6, 2014. Mr. Safi was a housing RA at JSU and a member of Sigma Nu.

Wendy E. Roberson '12, Glencoe, Ala., July 10, 2014. The alumni office was notified by her mother that Ms. Roberson had passed away.

Sheena Nicole Warren '12, Lineville, Ala., June 15, 2014.

**ALUMNOTES**

\*pictured below

**ATTENDED ONLY OR DATE OF GRADUATION UNKNOWN**

Former JSU golfer, Daniel Willett, made his U.S. Open debut at Pinehurst Resort and Country Club in North Carolina. He qualified from the Walton Heath sectional in Surrey, England. It will mark his sixth PGA start.

**1930-1939**

\*Margueritte Posey Bryant '39, Charlottesville, Va., now resides at a retirement community in Charlottesville known as the Martha Jefferson House. She enjoys reading, current events and is an avid recycler. One of our oldest living graduates, Mrs. Bryant was voted Miss JSTC (Jacksonville State Teachers College) in her junior year and Miss Personality. After graduation, she served as a primary school teacher at Blue Mountain, Alabama, public schools. She later married M. Howard Bryant and worked for many years as a clerk with the FBI.

**1960-1969**

Raymond H. Higginbotham '68, Marietta, Ga., retired from the Federal Aviation Administration and has established "Recruiting and Hiring Students and Recent Graduates." The Pathways Programs provide talented individuals who are in school or who have recently received a degree with greater access to federal jobs and internships, as well as meaningful training, mentoring and career development opportunities.

Bruce Pickette '68, Montgomery, Ala., was recently elected to the position of librarian general for the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution and will serve a one-year term for this heritage organization. He was commissioned through the JSU ROTC program.

**1970-1979**

Kenneth Wesley Boyd '74, Birmingham, Ala., has published his first internationally-distributed book entitled *The Art of the Locomotive* based on his thirty-seven years of locomotive photography. For more information go to [www.kenboydphotography.com](http://www.kenboydphotography.com). Available through Amazon, Barnes & Noble, Books-a-Million and most major booksellers.

Thomas B. Holmes '75, Mobile, Ala., retired June 30, 2014, after thirteen years as CEO/executive director of The Arc of Alabama, Inc., the largest volunteer, membership-based statewide organization advocating for the rights and needs of all people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Mr. Holmes received his undergraduate degree in 1967 from Mobile College (now the University of Mobile) as a member

of the Charter Class. He later served as president of the Association of Mobile College Alumni in 1968 and 1970. He received the first Master of Public Administration awarded by JSU in April 1975. From 1990 to 1994, he completed graduate studies in the Ph.D. program in public administration at Auburn University. Prior to joining The Arc of Alabama, Inc., in June 2001, he retired from the State of Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs, after more than thirty years of public service.

\*Bruce E. Anderson '76, Poquoson, Va., a research scientist at NASA's Langley Research Center in Hampton, Va., recently received the Distinguished Service Medal from NASA. The medal is NASA's highest form of recognition, awarded to government employees who, by distinguished service, ability or vision, have contributed to NASA's advancement of the United States' interests. He earned his medal for sustained distinguished service, leadership and technical excellence within the research aviation community and for advancing understanding in earth science and aeronautics. Mr. Anderson has been at NASA for twenty-four years and currently serves as project scientist for the Alternative Fuel Effects on Contrails and Cruise Emissions (ACCESS) experiment.

William Dwight Payne '76, Rome, Ga., is an attorney and has been a member of the State Bar of Georgia since 1983. He is the former director of the Northwest Georgia Regional Police Academy. Mr. Payne has recently accepted a position to become a full-time faculty member as an associate professor of criminal justice at Florida Gateway College in Lake City, Fla. He is a former member of the Southerners.

Eugene S. Wright III '76/'90, Lithia Springs, Ga., retired August 23, 2014 as the chief, Enterprise Integration, located at Maxwell AFB-Gunter Annex, Ala., after thirty-five years of service. He began his career in 1979. During his retirement ceremony, Mr. Wright received the Outstanding Civilian Career Service Award. He is married to Juanita N. Wright '90.

**1980-1989**

Dr. Gregory H. Robinson '80, Athens, Ga., a noted University of Georgia professor, has become an internationally-recognized scientist and today is working in Germany with chemists at Technische University in Berlin as a result of being awarded the Humboldt Research Award in 2012. This spring he was honored as the University of Georgia's 2014 recipient of the Southeastern Conference Faculty Achievement Award. This award is given to professors who serve as role models for faculty and students and Dr. Robinson is now the university's nominee for the SEC Professor of the Year Award. Dr. Robinson has received at least twelve different professional awards or academic distinctions. He has made internationally-recognized discoveries in organometallic chemistry, an area of science that examines the composition of metals associated with organic compounds. Dr. Robinson played football at JSU and was selected as JSU's 1994 Alumnus of the Year. He is married to Cynthia Walker Robinson '80.

\*Lelia B. Vann '80, Norfolk, Va., has won the Distinguished Service Medal from NASA where she worked as a research scientist for thirty-two years before recently retiring. She was one of only twenty-three agency employees who were awarded this medal in 2014. In her long career with NASA, Ms. Vann made significant contributions in the management of science and technology at numerous NASA centers.

Brenda Lindley-Anderson '81, Huntsville, Ala., has received a group achievement award presented to the Space Launch System Systems. NASA established an internal training program for safety engineers since no university currently offers such a degree. There are four levels and Mrs. Anderson has completed level 4 and is the first engineer at NASA to proceed to the peer review panel for certification. She was honored as JSU's 2010 Alumna of the Year and was a member of the Baptist Campus Ministry while in school.

Brigadier General Curt Rauhut '84, Milledgeville, Ga., recently retired from the U.S. Army after thirty years of distinguished service, and has joined Georgia Military College as the school's first chief operating officer. As senior vice president and chief operating officer, he is responsible for managing the ten GMC

campuses located statewide and for ensuring that the college's enrollment and retention objectives are achieved. Gen. Rauhut most recently served as the Army's director of resource management for the Installation Management Command, San Antonio, Tex., where he directly managed \$11 billion to operate 152 military garrisons and activities around the globe. Gen. Rauhut has been selected as JSU's 2014 Military Alumnus of the Year. He was a member of Kappa Alpha and was commissioned through the JSU ROTC program. He recently became a life member of the JSU National Alumni Association.

\*John Christopher Hamilton '86, Wetumpka, Ala., and his wife Jenny just returned from a trip to Austria and Italy where he proudly wore his JSU shirt all over Europe. Mr. Hamilton was a member of Alpha Tau Omega and is a life member of the JSU Alumni Association.

Renee Simmons Morrison '89, Anniston, Ala., recently won a Wild South Roosevelt-Ashe Conservation Award honoring outstanding conservation work in the South. She has been the assistant director for the JSU Environmental Policy and Information Center and Field Schools for the past decade. She previously served as the director of education for ten years at the Anniston Museum of Natural History. Over the past twenty years, Mrs. Morrison has been a catalyst for increasing awareness, stimulating appreciation, and connecting the community to public lands and she has presented over 6000 EE (environmental education) programs for more than a half million participants.

**1990-1999**

Alicia Ann Robertson Laros '92, Talladega, Ala., is the new principal at Pleasant Valley Elementary School in Jacksonville. She taught at several schools in Talladega and then was hired as principal of Hal Henderson Elementary in 1995. In 2001, she was principal at both Hal Henderson and Houston Elementary. She has been in education for twenty-two years.

Lori Doyle Steward '93, Anniston, Ala., has been hired as a psychometrist at Jacksonville High School and Kitty Stone Elementary in Jacksonville, Ala. She is married to Jeff Alan '94. Mrs. Steward has worked at Oxford Middle, Trussville Middle, William Hart Elementary (New Orleans, La.), St. Paul Lutheran (New Orleans), Faith Christian and in the Cleburne County Schools during her career.

\*John Davis Ingram, Jr., '95/'96/'03, Arab, Ala., was inducted into the 2014 Marshall County Sports Hall of Fame. Mr. Ingram played football for JSU. He is married to Cindy Renee Holt Ingram '93. He is principal at Arab Junior High School.

Aubrey Wayne "Rusty" Thrasher '95/'08, Jacksonville, Ala., is the new assistant principal at Jacksonville High School. He is a nineteen-year veteran of education and is married to Aimee Cassell Thrasher '98/'02 who is employed at Jacksonville Christian Academy. He was a teacher/coach for the first fifteen years of his career. Mr. Thrasher also served as assistant principal for three years at Wellborn High and one year at Southside High in Gadsden.

Stephanie Lynn Andrews Blair '97 (Magna Cum Laude), Bremen, Ala., recently was awarded the Alabama Career Technical Education (ACTE) Teacher of the Year Award. She is a family and consumer sciences teacher from Cold Springs High School and has been teaching in her field for fifteen years. She has also taught at Curry High and Minor High School. During her career, she has received the FCCLA Master Advisor Award, the FCCLA Marketing Award, served as FCCLA State Officer Advisor, won the National FCCLA Leadership Service in Action Award, and created a visual presentation for the FCCLA state meetings.

\*Caryn Paula Pearson Caratelli '99, Raleigh, N. Car., has been promoted to vice president with Gibbs & Soell, an independent business communications firm. She will oversee multiple account teams and lead critical projects that generate measurable business results. Mrs. Caratelli has more than fifteen years of experience in a wide range of communications disciplines.



\*Kelly Marie Cheatwood Goodwin '99, Jacksonville, Ala., recently received the Jacksonville Kiwanis Outstanding Educator Award. Mrs. Goodwin has taught kindergarten at Pleasant Valley Elementary School for the past fourteen years. Prior to that, she taught pre-school at First Baptist Church of Williams for two years. She was a member of the Baptist Campus Ministry and is married to Derrick Jerome Goodwin '00, a teacher at C.E. Hannah Elementary School.

Donna Kaye Slick Harbin '99/'14, Weaver, Ala., is the new assistant principal at Pleasant Valley Elementary School in Jacksonville. She previously taught at Wellborn Elementary and then became the school improvement specialist at Weaver Elementary.

Becky Dean NeSmith '99, Oxford, Ala., is teaching tenth grade English at Jacksonville High School. She is currently pursuing an Ed.D. in English as a Second Language at Northcentral University. Mrs. NeSmith has also taught at Oxford High.

**2000-2014**

Joshua David Brandon '08, Athens, Ga., was recently admitted to candidacy at the University of Georgia where he is working on his doctorate in music education with emphasis in educational leadership and curriculum design. He also was recently hired as a middle school band director at Union Grove Middle School with the Henry County (Ga.) Schools. Mr. Brandon was a member of the Southerners.

Andrew Christopher Green '05/'08, Anniston, Ala., hasn't left the JSU campus since he was eighteen years old! After graduating in 2005, he was hired at JSU and currently serves as director of enrollment Management, overseeing undergraduate admissions, which includes the recruiting and processing of applications, campus tours and dual enrollment. In 2013, he received JSU's Outstanding Faculty/Staff Award.

Mr. Green is married to Brandie Lee Pollard Green '07 and they have one child, Jackson who is eighteen months old. He was a JSU Ambassador, peer counselor and served on the SGA while a student. Mrs. Green was also a JSU Ambassador, president of the HPER Club and a JSU cheerleader. Mrs. Green is currently a P.E. teacher at Iola Roberts Elementary School in Pell City, Ala.

Joseph Matthew West '07, Centre, Ala., is teaching seventh and eighth grade English at Jacksonville High School. He has taught at Gaylesville High and Adamsville High and at Adairsville Middle (Ga.) in his career.

Danielle Jones-Pruett '08, Salem, Mass., has received a \$30,000 2014 Rona Jaffe Foundation Writer's Award, given annually to six women writers who demonstrate excellence and promise in the early stages of their careers. Her poems have appeared in *Beloit Poetry Journal*, *Cider Press Review*, *Southern Poetry Review*, and many others. She recently finished her first collection of poems and is eager to begin work on a new project which, she says, has been haunting her for over a year. The poems are set in Anniston, Ala., where she grew up during the period when a major chemical company's long history of polluting the area finally came to light. Mrs. Jones-Pruett currently is program coordinator for the Writers House at Merrimack College.

\*Beverly Diane Neal '08, Hinesville, Ga. entered the Army shortly after her high school graduation in 1989 and is currently on active duty with the 3rd Sustainment Brigade (FWD) at Kandahar, Afghanistan. This is her fifth tour of duty deployed to the Southwest Asia area in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation New Dawn. She has been awarded numerous awards, accommodations and citations to include a Combat Action Badge in '04 for receiving direct incoming fire near the Pakistan border. She is working on her master's at Webster University and plans to retire soon and attend the Cumberland School of Law in Birmingham, Ala., in the hope of becoming a judge in her local area. She recently had her book *A Spiritual Health Assessment for Military and DOD Civilians* published.

Chad Hoffman '09/'11, Hawley, Tex., is now the principal at Hawley Middle School, Hawley, Tex. He was a JSU cheerleader and ambassador and is a life member of the JSU Alumni Association.

Emily Nicole McGowan Smith '10, Southside, Ala., was recently hired as the director of community relations at Legacy Village, an assisted living and senior care facility in Jacksonville, Ala. She will lead the facility's efforts to develop partnerships with local organizations that are focused on serving seniors, their families and the community.

Byron Martin Bibbs '12, Anniston, Ala., is serving as the in-school suspension officer and access facilitator at Jacksonville High School. He previously taught at Saks High School.

Kenley Russell Gardner '12, Alexandria, Ala., is teaching kindergarten at Kitty Stone Elementary School in Jacksonville. In her second year of teaching, Mrs. Gardner previously filled in for numerous long-term substitute positions.

Jake Green '13, Jacksonville, Ala., teaches AP (advanced placement) biology, AP environmental science and pre-AP biology and biology at Piedmont High School. He recently was one of fourteen first-year teachers in Alabama schools to receive \$1000 grants for classroom materials and supplies from the Alabama Power Foundation.

Jody Wayne Hodge '13, Calera, Ala., has been hired by the Jefferson County Emergency Management Agency as its newest officer. He works as the liaison with the volunteer and non-profit agencies in the county as well as acts as the agency's grants coordinator. Mr. Hodge also spends time with a local business continuity group to learn more about how businesses continue to operate when there is a severe disruption due to weather or other disaster event. While a student, he served as the president of the JSU chapter of the International Association of Emergency Managers.

Jessica Arighi '14, Huntsville, Ala., has been accepted into the University of Alabama-Birmingham School of Optometry.

JoElla Marie Bujan '14, Gadsden, Ala., was hired by MDA Professional Group, P.C.



Kelly Marie Cheatwood Goodwin '99 (left), Beverly Diane Neal '08 (right)



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*A snowball fight breaks out at Burgess-Snow Field at JSU Stadium during the unexpected snow in January 2014.*