

# Jax State CHPW Newsletter

Spring/Summer 2026

## College of Health Professions and Wellness (CHPW) Updates

### Nursing

Jacksonville State University DNP program has received statewide recognition for its nursing education offerings, with its Adult-Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner program ranked No. 2 in Alabama for 2026 by [RegisteredNursing.org](https://www.registerednursing.org). The ranking is part of [RegisteredNursing.org](https://www.registerednursing.org)'s annual evaluation of nursing programs, which assesses schools based on a range of academic and professional criteria. According to the organization, rankings are determined using a published methodology that considers factors such as program quality, student outcomes, and overall academic rigor.



[School of Nursing - School of Nursing](#)

### Kinesiology

It's been a busy and exciting spring for the Department of Kinesiology, highlighted by student achievements, faculty recognition, and continued enrollment growth. Spring and summer graduations include more than 100 students from our kinesiology programs, with many already securing impressive positions in the field. Our students earned numerous awards for their academic and professional excellence, while faculty received national honors for their impactful work.



**KINESIOLOGY**

Looking ahead, we're thrilled to welcome several new faculty members this fall, further strengthening our programs. Together, these accomplishments reflect a department on the move and poised for continued success.

[Kinesiology - Kinesiology](#)

## Alumni Spotlight

### Justin Files MAT, LAT, ATC

We are proud to spotlight Justin Files, a distinguished graduate of the Jacksonville State University Master's in Athletic Training Program, who now serves as the Director of Sports Medicine and Head Football Athletic Trainer at Jacksonville State University. Justin's journey from graduate student to leading the care of Gamecock Football is a powerful reflection of his dedication, clinical excellence, and commitment to the profession of athletic training.



As Director of Sports Medicine, Justin oversees comprehensive healthcare services for student-athletes while providing direct leadership for football sports medicine operations. His expertise in injury evaluation, rehabilitation, return-to-play decision-making, and interdisciplinary collaboration exemplifies the scholarly, patient-centered approach we strive to instill in our students. Justin continues to elevate the standard of care at JSU, serving as both a preceptor and a positive role model for current Masters in Athletic Training students who aspire to follow in his footsteps. We are incredibly proud to call him one of our own!

## Student Spotlight

### Jacob Wimpee, Kinesiology Student

#### *What has been your favorite experience in the program so far?*

My favorite experience in this program so far has been working with the Jax State Football Strength & Conditioning Team. Working with this group of professional coaches during the football offseason has been a joy and has opened up a possible long-term career for me. It's rewarding to see the athletes becoming more proficient week-to-week and to help them in that process.

#### *What is a fun fact about yourself?*

A fun fact about me is that I am the founder and current president of Jax State Powerlifting. Hit me up if you want to join Jax State's collegiate powerlifting team! [jwimpee@stu.jsu.edu](mailto:jwimpee@stu.jsu.edu)

#### *Why did you choose Kinesiology?*

I chose Kinesiology because I want to become a Strength & Conditioning coach. Ever since I personally lost 100lbs, I have wanted to help as many people as I could achieve their athletic or general fitness goals. In the setting of collegiate sports, being a coach goes further than the weight room, but the relationships you build between each person on that team, and that is what I believe is most important.

#### *What are your goals after graduation?*

As I complete my B.S. in Kinesiology, I plan to continue working with Jax State Powerlifting, taking as many athletes as possible to Nationals, Worlds, and many other competitions, to continue



growing my powerlifting coaching business, and begin working on my M.S. in Kinesiology to eventually become a professional collegiate Strength & Conditioning coach.

## Micah Calvert MAT Student

We are proud to highlight Micah Calvert, a dedicated graduate student in the Jacksonville State University Master's in Athletic Training Program at Jacksonville State University. Micah maintains an outstanding 3.9 GPA and is on track to graduate in August 2026, with plans to sit for the BOC exam in June 2026. His commitment to academic excellence is matched by his strong leadership background and community service involvement.



Micah's clinical experiences reflect both depth and diversity. He has completed rotation in high school, collegiate, and orthopedic settings, specially at UAB Football, Northeast Orthopedics, Jacksonville High School, and Corner High School. Certified in CPR/AED/First Aid (American Heart Association), Mental Health First Aid, and Stop the Bleed, Micah demonstrates a commitment to comprehensive patient care and professional readiness. His leadership, strong communication skills, and clinical decision-making abilities position him to make a meaningful impact in the athletic training profession.

We are excited to watch Micah continue to grow as a future leader in Athletic Training!

## Study Abroad CHPW

### London

The London study abroad course, *Medicine, Morality, and Policy: A Study of U.S. and UK Healthcare*, gave students an immersive academic experience that connected healthcare history, ethics, and policy with real-world sites across London. The program used the city as a "living classroom," helping students compare U.S. and UK healthcare systems while examining access, financing, service delivery, patient autonomy, justice, and public health evolution.



### Guatamala

Senior nursing students from Jacksonville State University recently traveled to Guatemala for a transformative study abroad experience. They provided hands-on patient care while building cultural connections, representing the spirit of The Friendliest Campus in the South.



## Student Scholarship and Recognition Corner

### Student Symposium Winner: Best Graduate Presentation- Faith Bonness

Human Performance Graduate Student: Faith Bonness, *Short-Term Rhodiola rosea Supplementation on Cognition and Exercise Performance: A Randomized, Crossover, Double-Blind, and Placebo-Controlled Study*. Faculty Advisors: Majid Koozehchian and Gina Mabrey, Kinesiology



### Student Symposium Winner: Best Paper/Presentation (Graduate)- David Johnson

Master's in Athletic Training Student: David Johnson. Effects of Prehabilitation on Outcomes Following Anterior Cruciate Ligament Reconstruction: A Critically Appraised Topic. Faculty Advisors: Chris Clark, David Kean, and Jennifer Savage Burgett, Athletic Training



### Student Symposium Winner: Best of Showcase- Devin Jones

Master's in Athletic Training Student: Devin Jones, Are Former Athletes with Histories of Multiple Concussions at Increased Risk of Stroke Compared to Former Athletes with No Concussion History? Faculty Advisors: Jennifer Savage Burgett, Chris Clark, David Dean, Athletic Training



### Student Symposium Winner: Best Undergraduate Presentation- Chloey Williams

Sport Management Undergraduate Student: Chloey Dale Williams, *The Growth and Challenges of Women's Professional Sports Leagues*



### Congratulations to the Gamecock Choice Award Recipients

The annual Gamecock Choice Awards provides an opportunity to celebrate the outstanding achievements of student-athletes who exemplify excellence both in competition and in the classroom. The event recognizes student-athletes whose dedication, leadership, and commitment

have made a lasting impact throughout the year. The annual event was held on Monday, April 20th at the Pete Mathews Coliseum.

- **Female Rookie of Year, Performance of the Year, and MVP Softball** -Makenna Moore-ESW Human Performance
- **Female Strength and Conditioning-Softball** -Emma Elrod-ESW Human Performance
- **Female Student Manager**- Emily Coddington- Master of Science, Sport Management
- **Male Student Manager**- Hayden Hinson-Sport Management and Recreational Studies
- **MVP Cheer Spirit Award**- Kaci Boyd- ESW Human Performance
- **MVP Women's Cross Country** -Viola Jepleting-Nursing



## RT Students Attend ASRC Conference

Jax State RT Faculty, students, and alumni attended the 2026 ASRC Conference in Orange Beach, AL.



## HOSA Conference with MAT

In February, the Master's in Athletic Training students from Jacksonville State University and University of West Alabama partnered together at HOSA – Future Health Professionals to showcase the profession of athletic training to future healthcare leaders.



## Research Paper Presentation: Teralyn Foster, Physical Education Graduate Student

Physical Education graduate student, Teralyn Foster, presented her research paper "The impact of large class size on student engagement, participation, and learning in middle school physical education" at the Alabama State Association for Health, Physical Education, and Recreation Spring Conference in Orange Beach, AL



## Drew Ferguson Memorial Scholarship

Master's in Athletic Training Student: Devin Jones was awarded the Drew Ferguson Memorial Scholarship from the Alabama Athletic Trainers' Association. Drew Ferguson initiatives reflected his desire to share knowledge and inspire the next generation of healthcare professionals, athletic trainers, and community members. These efforts have cemented his legacy as a sports medicine leader in Alabama.



## Congratulations to our CHPW Students receiving Scholarships!

In March, the Jax State Foundation hosted a luncheon recognizing students and donors.

- \* Gabriel Cruz, Exercise Science - Clinical, & Molly Graben, Nursing
- \* Micaela Domingo-Pascual, Exercise Science - Nutrition Science
- \* Savannah Helms, Nursing
- \* J'Caius Morre, Sport Management and Recreation



## **Congratulations to our CHPW Honors Students**

On April 29, 2026 we proudly celebrated our 2026 Honors Recipients and Daugette-Forney Awards Program! Congratulations to these outstanding CHPW students for their incredible dedication, hard work, and academic excellence.

Congratulations to Olivia Lyles (Bachelor of Science in Exercise Science/Wellness), recipient of the prestigious General John H. Forney and Colonel Clarence William Daugette, Jr. Award!



We also proudly recognize our Summa Cum Laude graduates, each earning a perfect 4.0 GPA:  
 Christopher Guthery (Bachelor of Science in Nursing)  
 Joshua Sibley (Bachelor of Science in Exercise Science/Wellness)  
 Emily McDaniel (Bachelor of Science in Exercise Science/Wellness)

## **Congratulations RT Student Madison Lankford**

Congratulations to Madison Lankford for being awarded a scholarship from the Alabama Society for Respiratory Care (ASRC)!



# **Faculty and Staff Recognition**

## **2026 Faculty Fellows Award**

Dr. Meghan Burroughs received the 2026 President's Faculty Fellow's Award. The President Fellow program aims to provide faculty members with opportunities for professional growth, collaboration, and the development of innovative initiatives within the university community. Dr. Burroughs' project will focus on quality teaching using AI.



**Congratulations Dr. Chris Clark- Southeast Athletic Trainers' Association SEATA Education/Administration Award Recipient**

Jacksonville State University's commitment to preparing highly skilled, ethical healthcare professionals was recognized on a regional stage this month as Dr. Chris Clark, Master's in Athletic Training Program Director, received the 2026 Education/Administration Award from the Southeast Athletic Trainers' Association (SEATA).

Here is the link to the story: [Dr. Chris Clark Honored with 2026 SEATA Education/Administration Award - Jax State News](#)

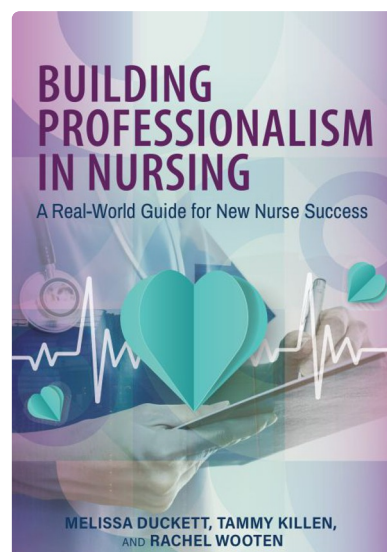


## **Congratulations to Dr. Missy Duckett, Dr. Tammy Killen, and Dr. Rachel Wooten**

We are so proud to celebrate these incredible nurse leaders for co-authoring the brand-new nursing textbook:

“Building Professionalism in Nursing: A Real-World Guide for New Nurse Success (First Edition)”

Their expertise, dedication, and passion for shaping the next generation of nurses shine through every page. This important work will guide new nurses as they grow, lead, and thrive in their careers.



[Building Professionalism in Nursing](#)

## **Congratulations to Dr. Betsy Gulledge**

Big congratulations to Dr. Betsy Gulledge on being selected by the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) for the prestigious AACN-Wharton Executive Leadership Program!

This highly competitive fellowship is designed to elevate chief academic administrators to new levels of leadership through advanced executive training, impactful assessment experiences, and a 3-day intensive leadership program focused on key executive topics. We are proud to celebrate this incredible achievement and look forward to the continued impact Dr. Gulledge will make in advancing academic excellence and leadership!



## **Congratulations to Dr. Jennifer Savage Burgett on being named the 2026 Alabama Athletic Trainers' Association (ALATA) College/University Athletic Trainer of the Year!**

Presented during the annual ALATA Clinical Symposium and Members' Meeting, this prestigious award recognizes an athletic trainer at the collegiate level who demonstrates outstanding service to their institution, community, and the athletic training profession through ALATA involvement.

Dr. Burgett exemplifies excellence through her dedication to student success, clinical education, program leadership, service, and



advocacy for the profession. Her impact extends far beyond athletic training, serving as a mentor, educator, and leader both on campus and throughout the state of Alabama.

## Faculty Research



Congratulations to Majid Koozehchian, Andrew Newton, Gina Mabrey, Faith Bonness, Rafaela Rafajlovska, and Alireza Naderi! In this study, the team examined the effects of short-term *Rhodiola rosea* (RR) supplementation on exercise performance and cognitive function in resistance-trained adults. Read the full open-access article here:

[Dose-Response Effects of Short-Term \*Rhodiola rosea\* \(Golden Root Extract\) Supplementation on Anaerobic Exercise Performance and Cognitive Function in Resistance-Trained Athletes: A Randomized, Crossover, Double-Blind, and Placebo-Controlled Study](#)

Congratulations to Dr. Majid S. Koozehchian, Faith M. Bonness, Rafaela Rafajlovska, Shelby N. Horton, Gina Mabrey, Alireza Naderi, and Dr. Andrew T. Newton on the publication of their research article:

"Effects of Short-Term Low- and High-Dose New Zealand Blackcurrant Supplementation on Exercise and Cognitive Performance in Resistance-Trained Adults: A Randomized, Double-Blind, Placebo-Controlled Crossover Study."

Here is the link to the article: <https://www.mdpi.com/2072-6643/18/12/1929>

## Congratulations to these CHPW Faculty

for their recognition at the University Faculty Awards Ceremony:



**Dr. Majid Koozehchian**  
Faculty Scholar Lecturer Award



**Dr. Meghan Burroughs**  
President's Quality Teaching with AI Cohort



## **Dr. Missy Duckett**

The Cleo & Carla Thomas Community  
Education and Service Award

## **Mrs. Tammy Killen**

Provost Excellence in Teaching Award

## **CHPW Awards Day**

The College of Health Professions and Wellness recognized the following individuals for their outstanding commitment to students during the academic year

### **Congratulations to our Faculty and Staff award winners:**

- Faculty of the Year – Ashley Barker, Brooke Ragsdale, and Alexis Youngblood
- Staff of the Year – Felicia Sessions
- Emerging Leaders Award – Dr. Kelley Swatzell and Dr. Meghan Burroughs
- Community Engagement Award – Dr. Danyel Munster
- Daisy Honoree – Dorothy Whittington

### **Collaborator Recognition:**

During our final CHPW meeting for the year, we recognized a number of college collaborators that have provided support to our programs over the year. The CHPW collaborator award recognizes significant contributions to programs within the CHPW. We believe that our programs should include dedicated and sincere individuals who use their knowledge, energy, expertise, and compassion to enhance and promote the quality of our academic programs. Additionally, we believe that these individuals have a positive impact on the learning environment for those aspiring to enter their chosen profession.



### **Jane Ogles**

Collaborator Award



### **Mallory Glass**

Collaborator Award



### **Sharla Eason**

Collaborator Award



### **Michael Eady**

Collaborator Award



### **Christy Cochran**

Collaborator Award



### **Beth King**

Collaborator Award

Jax State College of Health Professions and Wellness

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**Tammy Johnson**

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