

THE MAGAZINE OF JACKSONVILLE STATE UNIVERSITY

GEM

OF THE HILLS

FALL 2018



JSU STRONG | SPECIAL ISSUE



DEAR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS,

As the university prepared to close for spring break on Friday, March 16, 2018, we had the content for the spring edition of GEM magazine completed and ready



GREETINGS GAMECOCKS!

Our world turned upside down on March 19, but it is amazing how far we have come since that day. At graduation in May, I welcomed over 700 graduates to our

to hand off to the designer for finalization and mailing to you in April. We all know what happened next.

Just three days later, on Monday, March 19, an EF-3 tornado devastated our campus, damaging 50 out of 70 buildings and rendering Merrill Hall and your beloved Alumni House to rubble. The spring issue of this magazine had to be completely rewritten, removing articles about new facilities that no longer exist. Yet, we discovered in the days and weeks ahead that the storm could never destroy the bond of the JSU Family and the strength of the Gamecock spirit.

The positive side to the disaster, other than the great blessing that we suffered no loss of life, was that it brought our campus community closer together through this devastating event. We were able to achieve the impossible - reopening campus in weeks, completing the spring semester, graduating our seniors in a glorious

alumni family. I told them that we may be a little battered and bruised right now but we will come back stronger than ever because that is what Gamecocks do!

While we have lost our beloved Merrill Hall and the Alumni House, we will always have our memories of what once was. We miss them dearly, but we will rebuild and have new facilities and create new memories. We thank you for your love and support and ask that it continues as we move forward in the recovery and rebuilding process.

We are ready for our students to return in a few weeks and to see you back on campus for Homecoming on September 29. Join us on the alumni house front lawn for this year's alumni tailgate. You can find the complete homecoming schedule on page 20.

We hope to see you there! Until we can rebuild, you can reach us at the School of Business and Industry Complex at the

unified spring commencement, securing and developing new classrooms and offices, and carrying on with our summer and fall semesters.

By the time you visit campus for Homecoming on Sept. 29, campus should start looking like home again. We have suffered a great loss, but I assure you JSU is going to rise up even stronger, better, and more beautiful than before. We are forever #GamecockStrong!

Go Gamecocks!

John M. Beehler

John M. Beehler, PhD and CPA
President and Professor of Accounting

former Kitty Stone Elementary School located at 115 College Street SW, just a couple of blocks off Mountain Street.

We hope you enjoy this edition and remember we love to hear from you! Email or call me if you need anything.

Go Gamecocks! Blow Southerners!

Kaci Ogle

Kaci Ogle, '95/'04
Director of Alumni Relations

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BUILDING HOME- GROWN TALENT

applied engineering
supports booming
alabama industry

By Brett Buckner

The Department of Applied Engineering has an unofficial motto: “Anyone who wants a job, gets a job.”

More than 94 percent of applied engineering graduates find work in their chosen field, though the actual number is higher, explained Chris Marker, interim department head.

“We could advertise that the employment rate is really over 100 percent because a lot of our students get hired as juniors and seniors,” Marker said. “Our students are often out and working even before they graduate, but we don’t advertise that because it sounds unbelievable.”

In applied engineering, students learn by doing. All programs are designed for hands-on application. Students are working with the latest manufacturing technology in order to better apply concepts in real-world work environments.

“Our students are taught how to use the latest industrial technology,” Marker said. “Where traditional engineers are designing new technologies, our students are learning to use the newest technologies.”

Applied engineering graduates have secured jobs in a wide range of fields, including:

- Automation engineering
- Manufacturing engineering
- Production engineering
- Process engineering
- Development engineering
- Project engineering
- Design engineering
- Production supervising
- Maintenance supervising

At JSU, the goal is not only educating the next generation’s industrial workforce, but also keeping those future engineers close to home.

“Our big difference is that we are a regional investment, meaning that many in our program want to stay in the area and work for regional manufacturers,” Marker

said. “That’s not always the case with more traditional engineering programs. Often times, students at Auburn or Alabama come from out of state, graduate and then leave the state. Most of our students stay here.”

Joy Pinckard is such a student. The 19-year-old applied manufacturing engineering major has been living in Jacksonville for five years. She moved here when her mother, Donna Perygin, got a job as a chemistry professor at JSU. It was around that time, when she was 14, that Pinckard discovered her interest in technology, especially robotics.

“I would build small robots with an Arduino – a popular, inexpensive programmable circuit board – and toy car motors,” she explained. “Soon after that I took up programming. I enjoyed it so much that I decided to make a career out of it.”

Pickard’s story is common among applied engineering students. While not all may have a passion for robotics, inspiration can come from anywhere, Marker said.

“We get students who love working with their hands, who like to build things, love computers or just want to understand how things work,” he said. “Even those who grew up playing games like Minecraft will find out that they’ll fit right in with our engineering program.”

CENTER FOR MANUFACTURING SUPPORT

Applied engineering students are not simply building a future for themselves, but for the entire region. By encouraging graduates to stay close to home, the department has forged mutually beneficial relationships.

Students enter the program with the promise of a career in manufacturing and engineering, thus providing local businesses with a pipeline of potential employees who already have hands-on experience with the machines they’ll be

using. The epicenter of this cooperative is JSU’s Center for Manufacturing Support, which serves as a proving ground for future applied engineering students and a testing site for regional industries looking to become more efficient.

Having officially opened in 2016, the center provides manufacturers with services ranging from design and prototype development to research and education – all while providing applied engineering students with job opportunities. What began as a pilot program two years ago has already outpaced expectations, Marker said.

“We thought this could be significant, but the feedback has already been better than we’d hoped for,” he said. “It’ll take a couple of years to build the program up, but already our biggest problem has been keeping up with the demand.”

The center has been successful on two fronts – as a boost to local economic development and as a source of pride for the university.

“JSU, on numerous occasions, has helped us tip the scales and bring in industry...we already use and tout the applied engineering school there quite a bit,” Don Hopper, executive director of the Calhoun County Economic Development Council, told the Anniston Star in October 2016. “This is another opportunity to sell the area as well as work with existing businesses.”

Companies can use the center with minimal cost. It’s the students who do most of the work, providing them with experience and opportunity to network with potential employers.

“We’re putting the students in front of the people who will be hiring them,” Marker said. “It’s a lot different than when I was in school and we learned everything from a book. This gives students so much more confidence. They already know they can do the work.”

The accomplishments within the applied engineering department and the

reputation those accomplishments have built within the industry are especially meaningful for Marker, who could be described as a JSU lifer. He received both his undergrad and graduate degrees from JSU. His father and sister are JSU professors. Before coming on full-time and eventually as interim department head, he was an adjunct professor teaching night classes. He’s also been out in the real world, having spent 17 years at Alabama Laser.

“I’m happy to give back to JSU because JSU has given so much to my whole family,” he said. “It was like coming home. Of course, I never really went away.”

MEET BAXTER

As if being a catalyst for regional economic growth weren’t enough, the applied engineering department’s Robotics Team has also built a strong reputation for itself. Since its inception, the JSU Robotics Team has won the national title at the annual Association of Technology, Management and Applied Engineering

Student Robotics Competition two out of the five years it has competed. The team most recently took home first place in November 2015 at the competition in St. Louis, Mo.

“It’s really something to be proud of,” Marker said. “They’re going out there, competing against programs that have been around for 30 years, and winning.”

All those trophies and accolades have practical purposes as well, like honing those competitive skills for on-the-job training with industrial robots like Baxter. Yet Baxter is unlike any robot you’ve ever seen. He is a “new generation” robot called a co-bot – or collaborative robot – because he is designed to work safely alongside humans, like an actual co-worker. Baxter’s design is intuitive, allowing for ease of programming.

“Baxter has a built-in safety system that detects when it has collided with anything – for instance, a person,” said Pinckard, who has worked with programming the co-bot. “That way, if Baxter is swinging

its arm around and it makes contact with someone or something that isn’t supposed to be there, it will stop moving immediately. I’ve tested this myself and it works very well.”

Baxter is not programmed in the traditional sense. Instead, he is trained.

“In other words,” Pinckard said, “To train Baxter to pick up a box, you would literally hold its hand and guide it through the motions. It’s considered a collaborative robot because it can be trained by someone without any programming experience.”

Baxter should pique the interest of students looking to study robotics.

“Ease of training makes Baxter accessible to new and future students who are unfamiliar with programming languages,” Pinckard said. “Because it’s safe to work around and intuitive to train, Baxter is an excellent tool for guiding future engineers to our program.”

To learn more about JSU Applied Engineering, visit www.jsu.edu/applied-engineering.



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from *home to rome*

southerners plan spectacular season

Over the past 25 years, the rich traditions and kinship of the Marching Southerners have served as the inspiration propelling the band to international acclaim. From the shores of Hawaii to the ancient streets of Europe, “Alabama’s Best Marching Band” has truly left its mark on the world. But no matter how many miles are traveled or how many years come and go, there is a path of love, family and tradition that always leads them home.

In celebration of the silver anniversary of Dr. Ken Bodiford’s tenure as director of the band this fall, the Southerners will present “When I Think of Home” – a soundtrack for the memories of every band member and fan, past and present, young and old.

The production opens with Benji Pasek and Justin Paul’s “From Now On” from

the hit musical drama, “The Greatest Showman.” Fred Ebb and John Kander’s “And All That Jazz” from “Chicago” will provide the perfect backdrop as the Ballerinas take center stage in a feature that pays tribute to both their traditional roots and modern transformation.

Dr. John T. Finley set the Southerners’ sound on a more symphonic course over 60 years ago. One of the most cherished memories from this period was Dr. Finley’s brass choir performing “Going Home.” The trademark power of the Southerners’ horn line will be unleashed with Antonín Dvořák’s “Largo” from the New World Symphony. The strains of this hauntingly beautiful melody will echo off of the Appalachian foothills once again.

While the Marching Southerners call Jacksonville home, the fiery spirit of Latin

music has always been near and dear to the band program. The show will conclude with a brand new, over-the-top arrangement of one of the band’s trademark selections – Ernesto Lecuona’s “Malagueña.”

After concluding what is sure to be a crowd-pleasing season, the Southerners will take their signature sound across the globe again to perform in the New Year’s Peace Parade in Rome, Italy – which will culminate with a blessing from the Pope in Vatican City. Be sure to come “home” to JSU Stadium this fall to witness what is sure to be an unforgettable halftime experience! 🎵

University Selects Two New Deans

New deans have been selected to lead two of JSU’s academic schools: Dr. Staci Stone is heading up the School of Arts and Humanities while Dr. Tommy Turner is over the School of Education.

As the granddaughter of former JSU President Ernest Stone, Dr. Staci Stone is no stranger to the university. She comes to the position with 18 years of teaching and administrative experience under her belt at Murray State University, which includes serving as professor in the school’s Department of English and Philosophy. Within that time, she also served as an instructor in Western Kentucky University’s Cooperative Center for Study Abroad programs. Her administrative posts include interim dean, department chair, experiential

education coordinator and associate dean at Murray State. She holds a BA in English and advertising from the University of Alabama and an MA in English, a graduate certificate in women’s studies and PhD in English from the University of South Carolina.

Dr. Tommy E. Turner has been named dean of the School of Education having served in the position on an interim basis since October 2016. He joined Jacksonville State in May 2003 as an assistant professor of counselor education. The ordained minister has more than four decades of teaching experience, including positions at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, University of Alabama and Samford University. He

holds an associate’s degree from North Florida Junior College, a BA in math and religion and an MA in religion and philosophy from Samford University, a Master of Divinity degree from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary and a PhD in educational psychology from the University of Alabama.

Both deans look forward to working with their schools’ alumni to grow JSU to even greater levels of success. 🎓



ABOVE: Dr. Staci Stone, Dean School of Arts and Humanities



ABOVE: Dr. Tommy Turner, Dean School of Education



*** FROM LEFT TO RIGHT:** Clarence Daugette, President John and Dr. Pamela Beehler, Ann Daugette Renfrow and Alburta Daugette Lowe

DAUGETTE FAMILY Hosts Gadsden Meet & Greet

President John and Dr. Pamela Beehler met with Etowah County business and community leaders at a special reception in April at the Gadsden Country Club hosted by the Daugette family and Life Insurance Company of Alabama.

Following a presentation on the March 19 tornado by President Beehler and moving remarks by the first lady Dr. Pamela Beehler, three JSU alumni shared what the university means to them: Carol Griffith, District Attorney's Office of Etowah County; Grover Kitchens, Snead State Community College; and Sherman Guyton, Mayor of Gadsden. *****

RIGHT: Ann Daugette Renfrow and Lynne Lowe chats with friends. *****

BELOW: Scott Lee, owner of Maraella Winery and Vineyard in Hokes Bluff, mingles with guests.



*** ABOVE:** Grover Kitchen of Snead State Community College.



art and theatre



ART GALLERY EXHIBITS FOR FALL

The **JSU Department of Art** welcomes a new gallery coordinator this fall, Morgan Worsham, who graduated with a BFA in photography from JSU in December 2017. Previously, she worked at JC Morgan Art Gallery in Oxford. Mark your calendar for the following opening receptions:

AUGUST 25, 5-7 PM
Alumni Pop-up Show
Hammond Hall Gallery

AUGUST 30, 5-7 PM
Young Lee
Hammond Hall Gallery
Christian Dunn and Trey Ingram
Round House Gallery

OCTOBER 4, 5-7 PM
Faculty Show
Hammond Hall Gallery
Mark Bueno
Round House Gallery

Most art gallery exhibits are on display for about a month after the opening reception. Stop by anytime during gallery hours to check out the latest exhibit. **Admission is free.** Hours are **Monday-Friday, 9 AM to 4 PM,** and **Friday-Saturday, 10 AM to 3 PM.** Contact **Morgan Worsham** at mworsham@jsu.edu for more information.

OCTOBER 25, 5-7 PM
Will Bryant
Hammond Hall Gallery
Taylor Weaver
Round House Gallery

NOVEMBER 29, 5-7 PM
BFA Senior Show
Hammond Hall Gallery

ENJOY ANOTHER SEASON OF OUTSTANDING STUDENT THEATER

JSU's talented student actors and musicians are gearing up to enchant audiences with another year of breathtaking performances. **Mark your calendar for these upcoming 2018-2019 productions!**

OCTOBER 26-29
"She Kills Monsters" by Qui Nguyen, presented by JSU Drama

NOVEMBER 29-30
"The Flick" by Annie Baker, presented by JSU Drama

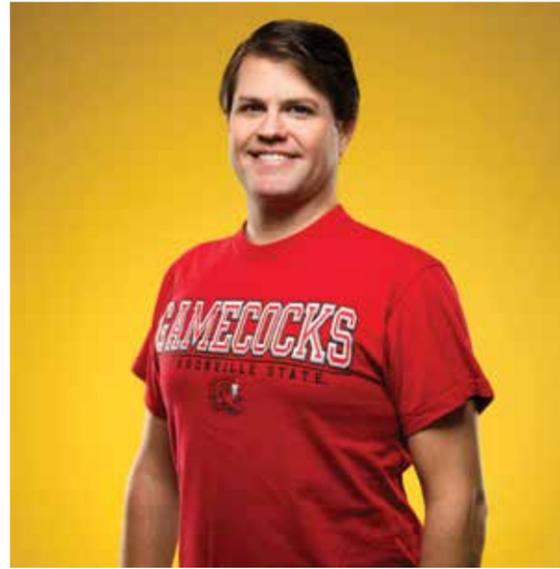
JANUARY 31-FEBRUARY 1
Southern Playwrights Competition Winner (TBA) presented by JSU Drama

MARCH 8-11
"Company" by George Furth with music and lyrics by Stephen Sondheim, presented by JSU Drama

APRIL 4-5
JSU Student Showcase presented by JSU Drama

APRIL 18-19
"How I Became a Pirate" by Janet Yates Vogt and Mark Friedman, presented by JSU Drama

Tickets can be found online at www.jsu.edu/drama



CELEBRATING OUR DIFFERENCES

By Brett Buckner

Diversity – a single word that encompasses everything.

Diversity is about our differences. It's about race and religion, gender and ethnicity, sexual orientation and economic background. Diversity is about bringing those differences together and giving all people a place to belong.

The antithesis of diversity is segregation, but it might as well be ignorance. We learn more from those who are different than those who are the same. We learn more about ourselves in the process.

JSU is in the business of education. But education doesn't always come strictly from homework, class projects and final exams. That is why JSU is embracing a variety of diversity initiatives in order to make its campus, its classrooms and every facet of the university more inclusive.

"Our goal is to expand the definition of diversity," said Dr. Heidi Louisy, JSU's Chief Human Resources and Diversity Officer. "I'm not thinking just about race and gender, but all areas of potential impact."

According to its Commitment to Diversity statement, JSU's Office of Diversity and Inclusion "seeks a campus climate that embraces, celebrates and promotes respect for the entire variety of human experience."

To accomplish this, JSU's newly formed Diversity and Inclusion Committee initiated the Diversity and Inclusion Strategic Plan for 2017-2022, in an effort to become a "national leader and model for the institutional integration of diversity, inclusion and acceptance in higher education for the 21st century."

The committee established a series of goals to bring this promise to fruition:

GOAL 1

Develop and implement educational opportunities for the JSU community about the importance of diversity, inclusivity and cultural sensitivity

- Develop ongoing training opportunities for current employees
- Provide diversity and inclusion awareness during the onboarding stage of all new employees
- Promote the tenets of Diversity and Inclusion to all students.

GOAL 2

Cultivate an Inclusive Campus Climate

- Recruit and retain diverse and engaged workforce
- Recruit, retain and graduate a diverse and engaged student body
- Provide an accessible environment with appropriate resources

GOAL 3

Develop an exemplary Diversity and Inclusion program

- Promote and participate in community partnerships
- Present the JSU Diversity & Inclusion Program to other universities and affiliates
- Identify means/resources to offer diversity focused grants

ROLE MODEL

Since 1995, Minority Access, Inc. has assisted colleges and universities in becoming more diversified. The organization recently named JSU to its annual list of Institutions Committed to Diversity.

If there is a human embodiment for JSU's diversity aspirations, it would be biology professor Mijitaba Hamissou who was named a Minority Access Role Model, which honors those who expand the pool of minorities in fields underrepresented by minorities.

"Jacksonville State University is among the institutions that supports diversity and inclusion," Hamissou said. "One of my roles as a faculty member is to help JSU in that aspect. JSU is a good learning environment that has diverse faculty and staff, and we want to make sure students know that all are welcome here at JSU."

During his 16 years at JSU, Hamissou has worked with numerous organizations, including Quality for Minorities, a forum organized by the National Science Foundation to inspire minority students' involvement in science. He serves as the advisor for the Japanese student organization, Sakura-Union, which taught him the value of diversity firsthand.

"When students noticed that there is someone like them in a setting – be it a class, a student organization – they tend to feel included and become successful," he said. "Working with Sakura, I learned that irrespective of their geographic origin, students are more academically engaging when the environment is composed of diverse individuals."

'PICTURES SPEAK'

Diversity is based on perspective. Perhaps this is best illustrated in nursing.

"Diversity to me is defined contextually," said Dr. Christie Shelton, dean of the School of Health Professions and Wellness. "If you're in an area like nursing, which is largely female, then diversity would be improved by having men of any social or ethnic background because there are so few. But that's certainly not what diversity looks like in the business world."

JSU's Department of Nursing is addressing diversity by putting more male nurses "front and center" on its various marketing efforts – websites, brochures, etc. "Pictures speak," Shelton said. "Being a nurse, working with the variety of patients we see in the hospital, it's helpful to have diversity. Being a nurse isn't about being male or female, and men in nursing isn't a new concept, but moving the needle forward has been difficult."

The needle is moving. According to the Alabama Health Action Coalition (AL HAC), JSU's Department of Nursing had "significantly higher percentages of

TRANSFORMATIONAL EXPERIENCE

Exposure to diversity is a transformational experience with the potential for a far-reaching impact.

According to the American Association of State Colleges and University's Diversity Statement, "Our economic future, democracy and global standing will suffer if the next generation is not ready to engage and work with people whose backgrounds, experiences and perspectives are different from their own."

As vice president for student affairs, Dr. Tim King believes current students, with few exceptions, are more receptive of diversity than previous generations.

diversity" in ethnicity and number of male students. With 42 male students enrolled in the fall of 2015, JSU's male population made up 17.5 percent of its nursing student population, compared with less than 12 percent among other schools. For the fall of 2016, that number increased to 44 students – 18.8 percent.

Several factors contributed to this, according to Dr. Betsy Gullede, head of the JSU nursing department and associate dean of the School of Health Professions and Wellness.

"We have a commitment to mentoring, remediating and maintaining as many students as we can," Gullede said. "Our NCLEX (National Council Licensure Examination) pass rate is high but our graduation rate is also high when usually those are inversely related. Many of our students are first generation college students, and we have a commitment to mentoring and helping those students."

"For the most part, this generation gets it better than any generation has before them," he said. "With regards to JSU's current level of diversity, I believe we are representative of our community. Nevertheless, we always want to improve and do more."

The Office of Student Affairs will soon open a Multicultural Center in the basement of the International House.

"My hope," King said, "is that students from diverse backgrounds will see the Multicultural Center as JSU's commitment to promoting diversity among our students."

The overarching goal is to make JSU a destination for all students.

"MY HOPE," KING SAID, "IS THAT STUDENTS FROM DIVERSE BACKGROUNDS WILL SEE THE MULTICULTURAL CENTER AS JSU'S COMMITMENT TO PROMOTING DIVERSITY AMONG OUR STUDENTS."

"One of the things we need to continue to do is to tell our story – not just locally or regionally, but nationally," Louisy said. "We're not just a gem, we're a hidden gem, so we're working to get the word out – at national conferences and events – about our plans and goals."

By getting the word out, JSU will attract the best and brightest employees and students, Louisy said.

"We don't cast our nets in shallow waters when we are recruiting," she said. "We cast a large net in deep waters. We're not where we want to be, but we're working hard to get there." 🌊

DIVERSITY – A SINGLE WORD THAT ENCOMPASSES EVERYTHING.

FOOTBALL

PREVIEW



- 8.25 NORTH CAROLINA A&T (ESPN) at 6 PM in Montgomery
 - 9.8 * MISSISSIPPI VALLEY STATE at 6 PM // Band Day
 - 9.22 * TENNESSEE TECH at 6 PM // Family Day
 - 9.29 * AUSTIN PEAY at 3 PM // Homecoming
 - 10.6 EASTERN KENTUCKY at 3 PM
 - 10.13 * EASTERN ILLINOIS at 3 PM // Preview Day
 - 10.20 SOUTHEAST MISSOURI STATE at 1 PM
 - 10.27 MURRAY STATE at 3 PM
 - 11.3 * UT MARTIN at 1 PM // Southerners Reunion
 - 11.10 TENNESSEE STATE
 - 11.17 KENNESAW STATE TBA at SunTrust Park
- * HOME GAME

GAMECOCKS SEEK 5TH CONFERENCE TITLE

The Gamecocks are coming off a 2017 season that saw them win a fourth-straight league title – tying the Ohio Valley Conference record for consecutive championships with Middle Tennessee (1956-59), Tennessee Tech (1958-61) and Eastern Kentucky (1981-84). Will they become the first to make it five?

They open the season in front of a national audience on Aug. 25, when they will play on ESPN in the Guardian Credit Union FCS Kickoff for the second-straight season. The game at Montgomery's Cramton Bowl will pit JSU against North Carolina A&T at 6 p.m. The non-conference slate closes the year against Kennesaw State on Nov. 17 in the first football game ever played at SunTrust Park, the new home of the Atlanta Braves.

Tickets are available for purchase online at www.JSUGamecockSports.com or by calling the ticket office at 256-782-8499.

HOME TEAM REBUILDS HOME:

student-athletes rally to support campus, city

By Chris Allen Brown

It all happened so fast. One moment Ray Harper and the Jacksonville State men's basketball team were putting the finishing touches on their 80-59 win at Central Arkansas in the quarterfinals of the College Basketball Invitational. An hour later, the immediate area surrounding JSU's campus went pitch black. The air was cool, crisp. Only consistent lightning lit the sky enough to help vehicles hurry home.

An EF3 tornado was on its way – the first EF3 tornado in the U.S. since May 16, 2017, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). For a record-long stretch of 306 days, no one felt the wrath of an EF3 tornado – that was until March 19, 2018.

For some, they were fortunate with only minor damage. For many, though, there was nothing. No roof. No walls. No car. Nothing.

As emergency services from across the state raced towards the broken city, countless students and community members were left sitting on a curb with their faces glued to the inside of their palms as tears rolled down. No one had any idea what to do or where to go.

This wasn't supposed to happen. Not here. When the sun broke over Chimney Peak the following morning, it gave many an opportunity to see the true amount of damage hidden by the cloudy sky of the night before. Many, including JSU head

football coach John Grass, knew there was a lot to do.

"When we finished each day of spring practice, we would take our pads and whistles off and put on work clothes and get back to work," Grass said. "I don't think people realized how bad it really was because there were no lives lost. We had 40 guys displaced and 22 lost everything. The rebuilding process wasn't going to happen overnight, it's still an ongoing process today."

That process was sped by the amount of JSU athletes who were still in town, while many others were away for spring

"For many, though, there was nothing. No roof. No walls. No car. Nothing."

break. Pictures, videos and news articles flooded social media for the remainder of March and better part of April.

"I think it was very good for our kids to get out there to help clean up," said JSU softball head coach Jana McGinnis.

"For as much as we helped other people, they helped us just as much. I think, honestly, there was a sense of guilt that the girls were leaving campus to go play games while everyone was still working so hard."

For countless years, McGinnis has

looked around University Field and saw nothing but stands filled with fans cheering on her championship-winning teams. Each year the JSU softball team holds an event to acknowledge fans and let them know how much they mean to her and the program. But getting her fellow coaches and players out in the community to help the rebuilding process was something that carried more weight than Fan Day.

"I say it every year, we want our program to be the program of everyone who shows up to that event," McGinnis said. "We want everyone to be a part of our family and that's what they do, they go out and help others. The community is always there to support us, so in return, I'm glad we were there for them."

As the time since March 19 ticks, calendars flipping from month to month, the rebuilding process Grass talked about is still ongoing. The bond

between JSU student-athletes and the community that McGinnis spoke of is now everlasting. Jacksonville is home to so much more than squirrels wandering around and cars surrounding Loco Mex on Tuesday night.

Jacksonville is home to Jacksonville State University, "the Friendliest Campus in the South." It's home to a group of people who take care of their own during a time /of need.

MEN'S BASKETBALL TO COMPETE IN CANCUN CHALLENGE

The Jacksonville State men's basketball team is slated to compete in the 11th annual Men's Cancun Challenge. The Gamecocks are set to play two mainland games in early November before squaring off in tournament play at Cancun's Hard Rock Hotel Riviera Maya during Thanksgiving Week.

JSU opens the invitational Nov. 12 at Penn State in the first game of the mainland bracket. The Gamecocks then travel to Peoria, Ill., on Nov. 14 to take on Bradley University for the Challenge's final game inside the U.S.

Following mainland play, the field splits into two divisions. Jacksonville State, North Florida, Southern Miss and Western Carolina will make up the Mayan Division and the Riviera Division will consist of Bradley, SMU, Penn State and Wright State. The Gamecocks take on Western Carolina on Nov. 20 at 11:30

p.m. CT and move on to play a fourth and final game on Nov. 21. Both games will be streamed live on CBS Sports Digital.

"I think this tournament is a great opportunity for our team," head coach Ray Harper said. "On the basketball side, we are getting to play against some great basketball teams. Penn State is the defending NIT champion. They barely missed the NCAA Tournament last year and will probably be in it this year. Penn State, Bradley, Western Carolina and the fourth game we draw will all be great tests before we dive into conference play."

The 2018 Cancun Challenge serves as the first tournament outside the contiguous US for JSU since competing in the 2013 British Virgin Islands Tropical Shootout and is the second Cancun Challenge a Ray Harper team has been a part of. Harper led Western Kentucky to a 4-1 record in the 2012 Cancun Challenge,

earning wins over Austin Peay, Western Carolina and DePaul with his only loss in the tournament coming against Iowa.

"I think it is always good to play in a tournament like this," Harper added. "A tournament like this takes our kids to a place they may never get to visit again. We will work in a day where our guys can get out, experience a different culture and enjoy being somewhere they've never been. It's about more than just basketball."

Seating is limited for this exclusive event, and all fans are encouraged to book land travel packages through Triple Crown Sports for admission to games in Mexico. Travel packages are the only way to guarantee admission to games at this time. For travel package information, contact Sarah Sullivan at 970-672-0533 or tosarah@triplecrownsports.com or visit the website at www.cancunchallenge.net.

WINNING THE GAME & EARNING THE GRADE:

JSU Athletics Posts Highest GPA in Department History

It was another banner year for JSU student-athletes in the classroom during the 2017-18 academic year as the Gamecocks posted a 3.26 cumulative grade-point average among all varsity programs.

A total of 16 programs boasted team GPAs above a 3.0, including nine that featured marks of 3.4 and higher. The 3.26 cumulative score is the highest in the athletic department's history. JSU student-athletes earned a 3.23 GPA for the fall 2017 semester, before registering a 3.29 during the 2018 spring term.

"This was another outstanding year for our student-athletes, both on the field and in the classroom," Athletic Director Greg Seitz said. "I couldn't be more proud of the effort that our student-athletes put forth to be great representatives of JSU

in competition, the classroom and the community."

JSU's women's cross country program led the way with a 3.83 GPA, followed by women's golf with a 3.71 and women's tennis at 3.64. The indoor and outdoor track and field teams posted 3.55 GPAs, just ahead of softball with a 3.50, while soccer and volleyball earned GPAs of 3.48 and 3.47, respectively.

"Our student-athletes put in a lot of hours to meet the high standards that come with wearing that Gamecock logo on their uniforms and I want to congratulate them for their hard work in the classroom," Seitz added. "It is also a testament to the hard work of our coaching staff and the academic staff we have to help our student-athletes be successful."

2017-18 TEAM GPAs

Women's Cross Country - 3.83
Women's Golf - 3.71
Women's Tennis - 3.64
Track & Field - 3.55 (Indoor & Outdoor)
Softball - 3.50
Soccer - 3.48
Volleyball - 3.47 (Indoor & Beach)
Men's Golf - 3.26
Men's Tennis - 3.24
Women's Basketball - 3.24
Men's Cross Country - 3.17
Rifle - 3.17
Baseball - 3.13
Football - 3.08
Men's Basketball - 2.76

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HOMECOMING 2018

JSU VS. AUSTIN PEAY • "COCKY FOR GOVERNOR"



ALUMNI AND FRIENDS

The March 19 tornado might have taken our House but it hasn't taken our **HOME**. Please join us for a very special homecoming this September – the first since 1982 not celebrated in the Alumni House.

We will join together on the lawn where the house once stood to honor the past and celebrate the future. **As long as we have the Gamecock Family, we are JSU Strong!**



FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

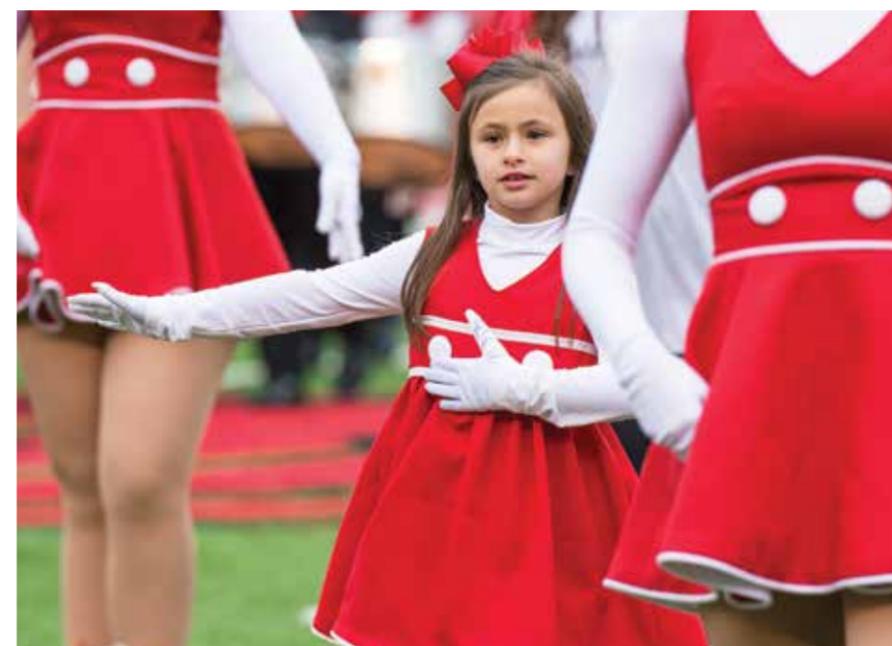
Class of 1968 50-Year Celebration
ROTC 70th Anniversary Alumni Banquet
Sixties Group Alumni Dinner

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 29

- ▶ **10:30 AM**
Homecoming Parade
- ▶ **11:00 AM**
Alumni Tailgate
Lawn of the former Alumni House
- ▶ **11:00 AM to 2:00 PM**
School of Science Alumni Tailgate
Lawn of the former Alumni House
- ▶ **12:00 PM**
Gamecock Orientation Reunion Tailgate
Dillon Field
- ▶ **3:00 PM**
JSU vs. Austin Peay
(Presentation of the Alumni of the Year
Award Winners and Homecoming Queen
and King—Halftime)
- ▶ **POST-GAME**
Gamecock Orientation Reunion Event
Hampton Inn in Jacksonville

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 30

- ▶ **2:00 PM**
UN Day Tea
International House



NATIONAL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION WELCOMES TWO NEW CHAPTERS

The Alumni Association Board of Governors recently approved the establishment of two new affinity chapters at its May meeting:

THE GREEK ALUMNI CHAPTER
President Angela Morgan '93,
angelamorgan.100@gmail.com

THE LGBTQ ALUMNI CHAPTER
President Matt Morgan '07,
matthewprestonmorgan@gmail.com

Welcome to our alumni family!
We are excited to offer additional avenues for alumni to get involved.

JSU ALUMNI ASSOCIATION UPCOMING EVENTS

SEPTEMBER 22

J-Club Reunion Weekend
Family Day/Preview Day

SEPTEMBER 26

Alabama Benefit Concert
at Burgess Snow Stadium

SEPTEMBER 28

▶ **HOMECOMING WEEKEND!**
Class of 1968 50th Year Reunion
ROTC 70th Anniversary Alumni Banquet
Sixties Group Reunion

SEPTEMBER 29

▶ **11:00 AM to 2:00 PM**
Alumni Tailgate
School of Science Alumni Tailgate
Gamecock Orientation Reunion Tailgate
and Post-Game Reunion
Halftime
Alumni of Year and Homecoming Court
Recognition

OCTOBER 11

Calhoun County Shrimp Boil

OCTOBER 13

Fab 40s/Nifty 50s Lunch

NOVEMBER 3-4

Southerners Reunion Weekend

NOVEMBER 16-17

Atlanta Area Pre-Game Gathering at
JSU vs. Kennesaw State at SunTrust Park

DECEMBER 27-JAN. 4

Marching Southerners Trip to Rome, Italy

Stay up to date on all alumni events at
www.jsu.edu/alumni/events and
www.facebook.com/jsualumniassociation.

ALUMNI

OF THE YEAR

AWARD WINNERS WILL BE RECOGNIZED AT HALFTIME OF THE HOMECOMING GAME ON SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 29



Judge Randall Cole '65



Dr. Danna Benefield Jones '88



Josh Robinson '14/'17



Col. Chuck Buxton '91



Jennifer Foster '94/'96/'97



ALUMNUS OF THE YEAR

JUDGE RANDALL COLE '65

After earning a BA in political science from JSU in 1965, Judge Randall Cole went on to receive a JD from the University of Alabama in 1968. Following law school, he served as a law clerk on the US Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit and afterward returned to Fort Payne where he practiced law for five years before his election to the bench. He currently serves as circuit judge for DeKalb and Cherokee counties. First elected to that position in 1974, he has served over 43 years on the bench making him the longest serving judge in Alabama. He was honored by the Alabama State Bar in 2007 with the Judicial Award of Merit, and was named Trial Judge of the Year in 2015 by the Alabama Chapter of the American Academy of Trial Advocates. In 2017, the Fort Payne Chamber of Commerce awarded him with the V.I. Prewitt Life Time Achievement Award. He is a trustee of the Community Foundation of Northeast Alabama Community College and past member of the advisory board of the North Alabama Boy Scout Council, among many other leadership positions. He is an Eagle Scout and he and his wife, Barbara Smith Cole '66, reside in Fort Payne.

ALUMNA OF THE YEAR

DR. DANNA "DEE DEE" BENEFIELD JONES '88

Dr. Danna "Dee Dee" Benefield Jones earned a BS in elementary education from JSU in 1988. She continued her education at UAB, earning an MA in elementary and early childhood education in 1991 and a doctorate in educational leadership in 2008. She is the superintendent of Hartselle City Schools. Her 30-year career in education includes serving as the director of teaching and learning for Hartselle City Schools and secondary curriculum and career tech supervisor, elementary principal, middle school assistant principal, reading specialist and middle school language arts teacher in Decatur City Schools. Currently, she also teaches at the University of Alabama Birmingham as an adjunct professor. She has been awarded the 2013 Educational Leadership Award from UAB as well as the Professional Women's Excellence of Leadership Award for Personal Achievement. She was selected as a Who's Who Among American Teachers in 1996 and 2003, among many other recognitions. She is very active in her church where she serves as keyboardist. She and her husband, Joe Thomas Jones, III '88, have two daughters and reside in Decatur, Ala.

YOUNG ALUM OF THE YEAR

JOSH ROBINSON '14/'17

Josh Robinson earned two degrees from JSU - a BS in management in 2014 and an MBA in 2017. As an undergraduate, he was involved in various aspects of campus life including Omicron Delta Kappa Leadership Honor Society and Campus Ambassadors. He was also a Gamecock Orientation Leader, IFC President and Mr. Jax State. He now serves as the Assistant Dean of Students over Fraternity and Sorority Life at Jacksonville State. In this role, he provides guidance and encouragement to assist the fraternities and sororities at JSU to be the best in the nation. Under his leadership, JSU Fraternity and Sorority Life has received numerous regional and national awards. He is an alumnus of Pi Kappa Phi Fraternity and resides in Jacksonville, Ala.

MILITARY ALUMNUS OF THE YEAR

COL. CHUCK BUXTON '91

Col. Chuck Buxton was commissioned as an Alabama Army National Guard Ordnance Officer in April 1990. After earning a BS in biology from JSU in 1991, he went on to earn an MS in public health from the University of South Florida and an MS in strategic studies from the US Army War College. He has completed the US Army Command and General Staff College, the US Army War College and the US Army Airborne School. His assignments include Tank Platoon Leader and Armor Company Commander, 1st Battalion 152nd Armor, Operations Officer 152nd Chemical Battalion, Intelligence Officer 31st Chemical Brigade, Intelligence Officer 135th Expeditionary Sustainment Command, Battalion Commander 203rd Military Police Battalion, and G3 167th Theater Sustainment Command. He currently serves as the Commander, 111th Ordnance Group (Explosive Ordnance Disposal). He has been employed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention since 2000 and currently serves as the Deputy Branch Chief of the Maternal and Infant Health Branch in the Division of Reproductive Health. He and his wife, Maya Lenox '93, have two daughters and reside in Duluth, Ga.

OUTSTANDING FACULTY/STAFF MEMBER OF THE YEAR

JENNIFER FOSTER '94/'96/'97

Upon earning her BA and MA in English at JSU, Jennifer Foster began teaching in the English department at her alma mater. She was one of the first instructors at JSU to teach online English courses, and since that time, she has offered the majority of those courses in hybrid, flipped or online formats. She recently completed an MS in instructional technology and is currently pursuing an MBA, which she plans to complete in Summer 2019. She co-authored a textbook on public speaking and interpersonal communication entitled, "Grownup to Grownup," and presented at the American Association of State Colleges and Universities Conference in San Antonio on her goals of creating a freely accessible repository of American Literature to alleviate the costs of purchasing expensive anthologies on college students. She has been a recipient of the George Mehaffy Excellence in Learning Technology Award and the Earlon and Betty McWhorter Outstanding Teacher Award. Since 2015, she has served as Gamecock Orientation Advisor Coordinator. She and her husband, Joey, reside in Leesburg, Ala., with their two dogs, Annie and Ruben.

ALUMNI CHAPTER OF THE YEAR

THE BLACK ALUMNI CHAPTER

The Black Alumni Chapter is led by President Amiko Johnson '86 of Stone Mountain, Ga. The chapter has an established leadership team of members residing in Texas, Tennessee, Georgia and Alabama. It has raised \$5,000 within the past year to award to deserving JSU students. If you would like to get more involved with the chapter, email jsbacinfo@gmail.com

To nominate someone for the 2019 Outstanding Alumni of the Year Awards, complete the form online at www.jsu.edu/alumni by Feb. 1.

WOMAN OF IRON AND STEEL

By Brett Buckner

JSU GRAD SHARON COLGIN
NEVER WONDERS "WHY ME?"



Sherry Colgin believes she is the luckiest woman in the world, and she's got the scars to prove it.

At age 63, the retired orthopedic surgeon and 1976 JSU graduate has endured numerous surgeries, survived a heart condition known as the "widow maker" and been the posterchild for "the agony of defeat" to millions watching the Ironman triathlon – yet she refuses to quit.

"Everybody gets knocked down," Colgin said from her home in Birmingham. "You've just got to keep getting up – I'm no different."

Colgin's family has a long history with the university. Her grandmother used to take the train from Ohatchee to campus back when it was known as the Jacksonville Normal School. Her mother attended JSU and her father taught there. When the Alexandria native first enrolled, it was with dreams of becoming a professional musician.

"But when I looked at the curriculum for a music major," she said, laughing, "I realized pretty quickly that I didn't have the chops for a music career."

Colgin eventually decided to major in biology, though she didn't give up on music. She played trombone and served as captain of the color guard and assistant drum major in the Marching Southerners. But becoming a surgeon became her ultimate goal – and she wanted to do it as

a JSU graduate, something conventional wisdom at the time said was impossible.

"I thought that was just ridiculous," Colgin said. "I'd spent two semesters at Auburn University, which JSU prepared me for, so I was determined to get accepted into med school as a graduate of JSU. I knew JSU was just as good as any school, and I was going to prove it."

Colgin did just that, attending the University of Alabama Medical School from 1981-1985, serving as chief surgical resident in 1987, and was awarded the Hugh Linder Award for Surgical Excellence. In 1990, she was named JSU's Alumna of the Year. That same year, she accepted a fellowship at UAB instructing in hand and microvascular surgery.

"I was something of an anomaly,

**"EVERYBODY GETS KNOCKED DOWN," COLGIN SAID.
"YOU'VE JUST GOT TO KEEP GETTING UP – I'M NO DIFFERENT."**

coming in from a background of plastic surgery," she said. "I worked all the time. I was married to my job and didn't have any kind of outside life. It takes a toll."

Despite not being an athlete at Alexandria High School or in college, Colgin started running. From there she became interested in triathlons, which incorporates running, cycling and swimming in a single race.

"I wasn't really a great swimmer," she said. "I could ride a bike and was an OK

runner, but somehow by putting all those things together, I was fairly successful."

But in 2002, it all came crashing down.

Colgin was in a spin class at the gym when she started "feeling weird." She went home, got some sleep and spent the next day operating on patients. Later that afternoon, she mentioned how she felt in class to a friend. Their conversation was overheard by a cardiology resident, who immediately took Colgin to his office for a stress test. She was running on the treadmill when the technician administering the stress test said, "you need to stop...now."

The EKG showed that Colgin, at just age 47, had 99 percent blockage in her heart, a condition commonly known

as "the widow maker" because "the first symptom most people have is dropping dead," Colgin explained. "They caught mine in time, barely." But not in time to save her career. By 2005, after multiple heart surgeries – including having a pacemaker put in – she was told the stress of being a surgeon was simply too much for her heart to take.

"I was lost," Colgin said. "I felt like I'd just hit my stride. My practice was really taking off. I was completely devastated."

From 2005 to 2010, Colgin was the swim coach at Birmingham's Lakeshore Foundation, helping adults with physical handicaps compete on a national and international level. Slowly, her own health improved, until she regained enough strength to start competing in various triathlons, with the ultimate dream of entering the grueling Ironman triathlon – consisting of a 2.4-mile open water swim, 112-mile bike ride, followed by a 26.2-mile marathon.

Her chance came in 2009 when she received a lottery slot to compete in the 2010 Ironman race in Kona, Hawaii. But as so often is the case, this high was soon followed by a painful low. While skiing on Christmas day she shattered her right shoulder on a slope in Colorado named,

of all things, "Purgatory." "How about that for luck?" Colgin asked.

Then, just a couple of months out from that shoulder surgery, while walking down the wooden steps from her home during a rare snowy day in Alabama, she slipped and broke her arm. It was February, the same month as The Ironman, but Colgin was determined. She "drug" herself to a triathlon in Indiana, needing to qualify in order to secure her lottery spot. She was the last person to



finish the race, doing so with two minutes to spare.

Colgin spent six weeks training in Hawaii. "I was ready to go," she said. During the bike portion of the race, she hit a lava rock which threw her off the bike, landing "fortunately" on her left shoulder. She thought nothing of it, until she was in the midst of the swimming portion of the race. She knew something was wrong. She was so close to the finish line of the event, but her shoulder made it impossible to fight against the current. She reached the end of the swimming leg 26 seconds too late to qualify for the next leg. Her race was over, and the NBC cameraman was there to capture her devastation.

"My face was the agony of defeat," she said. "I was crying at the bottom of those steps because I knew it was over."

Colgin was determined to redeem herself the next year. She trained harder than ever. In August 2011, while out in Pell City for a six-hour bike ride, another rider cut her off. She woke up in an ambulance with a skull fracture. Again, she refused to give up her dream of racing in the Ironman, and race she did. After completing the swimming leg, she stopped on mile 97 of the bike ride because her head hurt too much to continue.

"But at least I vindicated myself against anymore footage," she said. "I felt good about that."

Colgin still races in triathlons, though she hasn't returned to Hawaii for another Ironman. To date, at the age of 63, she has had 12 shoulder surgeries, two shoulder replacements, two open heart surgeries, a skull fracture, and had her neck fused. Those are just realities, not excuses.

"People always say that I've had such bad luck," Colgin said. "But I think I'm the luckiest person in the world. I survived something that kills 99 percent of the people who have it. I got the golden ticket to get into the Ironman. I hear the gun go off. I never, ever say 'Why me?' when the bad things happen because I didn't say 'Why me?' when I survived." 🍀

GREEK LIFE

celebrates 50 years at JSU



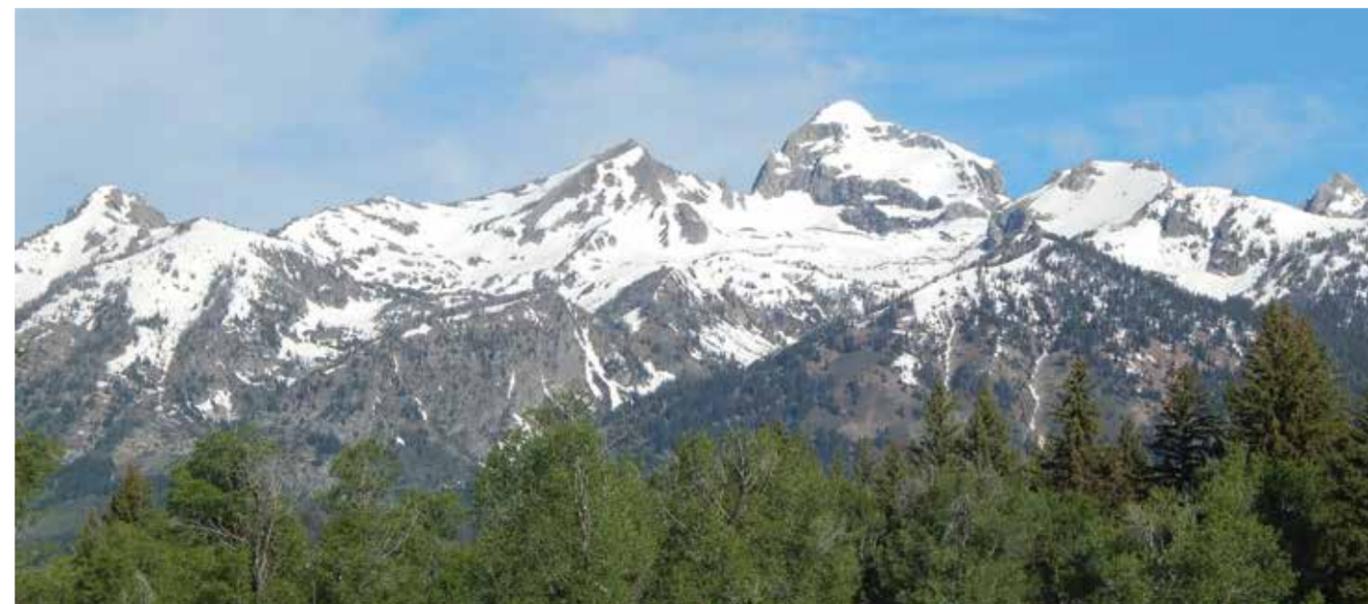
ABOVE: Alpha Xi Delta, the first sorority on campus, chartered on March 2, 1968. **BELOW:** Delta Chi, the first fraternity on campus, chartered on May 4, 1968.



This year marks the 50th anniversary of Greek life on campus. On March 2, 1968, Alpha Xi Delta Sorority was chartered followed by Delta Chi Fraternity on May 4, 1968. The first sorority on campus, Alpha Xi Delta, celebrated its 50th anniversary on March 3 with over 200 alumni and members in attendance. The sorority's national president, Micaela Isler, was the keynote speaker for the event. Delta Chi celebrated its 50th anniversary on June 23 on campus, with more than 150 alumni and guests in attendance. All Greek sorority and fraternity organizations are invited to celebrate this 50-year milestone on Saturday, September 8, at an anniversary tailgate on Dillon Field prior to the JSU vs. Mississippi Valley State kickoff at 6 p.m. 🍀

COCKY COWBOYS

travel west



President John and Dr. Pam Beehler joined JSU alumni and friends as they travelled out West for eight days in June through cowboy country – Wyoming, Montana and South Dakota. The group made stops in Jackson Hole, Yellowstone National Park, Grand Teton National Park, the Badlands, the Crazy Horse Memorial and Mt. Rushmore. The trip was sponsored by the JSU Alumni Association and hosted by Collette Tours and R&R Travel. If you are interested in being a part of the Cockey Traveler Program, contact Alumni Relations Director Kaci Ogle at kogle@jsu.edu or 256-782-5405 for information on upcoming trips. 🍀

ROTC CELEBRATES



YEARS OF EXCELLENCE

1948-2018

By Clif Lanham '62

The Department of the Army activated the Field Artillery Senior Division, Reserve Officer's Training Corps, at Jacksonville State Teachers College on July 11, 1948. By the mid-1950s the branch designation of Artillery was changed to a general military science education allowing cadets to select from a broad range of branches. In 2018, the ROTC program continues to set the standards at Jacksonville State University.

According to ROTC graduates Marion Johnson '50 and Rex Wallace '51, the junior class of 1948/49 worked in concert with the newly formed cadre, consisting of two Regular Army officers and four non-commissioned officers, to train the incoming freshmen of 1948. The Professor of Military Science for those first two years was Col. Thomas B. Whitted.

Wallace remembers, "The 1948/49 classes of ROTC were a mixture of prior service and young men straight from the small towns of North Alabama." Johnson added, "Many of the first classes of the Jacksonville ROTC were made up of veterans that had served during WWII and had returned to civilian life to use their educational government benefits (the GI Bill)." Enrollment was said to be about 176 cadets for the school year of 1948-49. By 1951, the enrollment was over 349 cadets. At that time, all male students were required to be a part of the ROTC program.

The Military Science Department today is called the Gamecock Battalion and is ranked as one of the top producing military science departments in the country. Its enrollment and numbers

commissioned each year are in the top percentages within the southeast region of the country. There are 78 cadets enrolled in the program this year, 33 of them are currently receiving scholarships from the JSU ROTC Alumni Chapter and scholarship contributors. Rest assured, the JSU ROTC program is healthy and growing.

For more information about the JSU ROTC Alumni Chapter, contact chapter president Anthony Whitley '92/'99 at Anthony.whitley36@yahoo.com. Learn more about the Military Science Department at www.jsu.edu/depart/rotc.



JTSU STRONG

march nineteen two-thousand eighteen

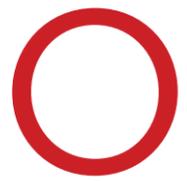
despite devastating tornado,
university vows to come back
“better than ever”

By Brett Buckner

ON THE
COVER



the sight of so many young people whose lives were only just beginning reminded everyone of the blessings amidst destruction.



On May 4, Jacksonville State University held its annual spring commencement. It was an early summer day filled hope and promise as limitless as the cloudless blue sky above JSU Stadium, where some 800 students dressed in caps and gowns, took selfies with friends, waved at their mothers and fathers grinning from the stands, and reflected on some of the best times of their lives. It was also a day that made everyone wonder about what could have been. The historically large graduation, which combined three ceremonies into one, was held at the football stadium after a March 19 EF-3 tornado caused nearly \$40 million in damages, including to Pete Mathews Coliseum, where commencement exercises are normally held. The sight of so many young people whose lives were only just beginning reminded everyone of the blessings amidst destruction. Had the tornado struck a few days earlier, more than trees and buildings could have been lost. But since it happened during spring break, campus was virtually empty. “In a way, we were lucky,” Provost Rebecca Turner said on graduation day. “It’s hard to imagine just looking around, but really it could have been so much worse.” JSU students might not have completed the semester were it not for their pride and determination, as well as what Turner calls “creative compassion” on the part of their professors and the university’s administration and staff. “As Gamecocks, we are resilient,” JSU President John Beehler told the crowd on graduation day, just 45 days after the storm. “We will rebuild. Our campus will be more beautiful than ever; our university will rise to new heights. We are transformative, innovative, and engaged for success. We are JSU strong.”

TOOK A TURN

On Monday, March 19, an EF-3 tornado with winds upwards of 140 miles an hour, tore across the JSU campus, tossing cars, peeling the roofs off buildings, and splintering trees like a toddler breaking toys during a temper tantrum.

The tornado first touched down west of US Highway 431 north of Wellington at 8:23 p.m. It rapidly intensified and widened, creating a damage path more than 34 miles. By 9:10 it vanished into the darkness that spawned it. At its most violent, the tornado hit maximum wind speeds of 150 miles per hour near the Talladega National Forest, tossing 800-pound hay bales 300 yards to the east.

Bill Fielding, dean of JSU’s School of Business and Industry, was watching Birmingham meteorologist James Spann’s coverage and wondering when it might be time to seek shelter.

“We were watching the weather and for a while it looked like it was going to miss Jacksonville,” said Fielding, whose home was spared. “But then all of sudden – it turned.”

stopping for gas, he headed to the house on 13th Avenue he shared with roommate David Smith. They were preparing a steak dinner, with home fries and all the trimmings.

Outside, the storm was gathering. During dinner, Smith kept his eye on the \ weather – curiosity turning to concern.

“He had his cellphone camera up,” du Pont said, “taking pictures of the yellow and green in the sky and trying to catch the lightening.”

Their neighborhood was officially under a tornado warning, meaning that a tornado was imminent – it was just a matter of when and where it would hit. The roommates headed for the basement, just as du Pont heard the trademark sound of an oncoming train.

About 30 seconds after making it safely downstairs, they heard a thud from above as the tornado started pulling the roof off their home.

JSU softball pitcher Kirsten Titus and her boyfriend Ryan Clark thought the storm was going to pass away from Jacksonville, so they left her apartment at



who lived in the apartment above Titus – chose to ride the storm out in the JSU softball locker room, which is made of concrete.

At 8:34 p.m., the tornado struck campus.

Grainy, silent, black and white video footage captured the moment of impact at Houston Cole Library, when the winds caused bookshelves to topple. Separate footage from inside Merrill Hall, which housed the School of Business and Industry, makes it seem as if the earth was shaking as pieces of the roof were ripped away and the windows of its signature curved front atrium shattered.

Inside the locker room, Titus heard trees snapping and felt the

at 8:34 p.m., the tornado struck campus.

Mark du Pont had just left JSU, where he serves as scholarship coordinator, having spent the first day of spring break getting caught up on work. After

Gamecock Village. They were about to get ice cream when the warning sirens began to wail. Rather than going home, the couple – along with two friends

concrete walls shaking. “It was crazy,” she told the Anniston Star. When du Pont and Smith emerged from the basement,

they found the ceiling trusses had fallen into the house, and the living room was a ruin of insulation, plywood and tar paper.

“We realized we escaped that,” said du Pont, who had narrowly fled to the basement seconds before the room he had been sitting in was destroyed.

They were trapped by the collapsed ceiling that was blocking both the front and side doors, so they went to Smith’s bedroom – the only dry room in the house. Not only were they stuck, they couldn’t use their phones to call out.

Titus and her friends were also trapped. To leave through the front of the locker room meant dealing with the flooded dugout. The back door was blocked by fallen power lines. They called university police, who got them out.

Around 1 a.m., after some four hours of uncertainty, du Pont and Smith were able to pry open a sliding glass door and climb over a fallen tree to safety. That last-minute trip to the gas station proved to be a blessing. Though his car was blocked by the same tree that allowed them to escape, they were at least able turn on the heat and charge their phones.

“That’s where we stayed until 7:30 a.m.,” du Pont said. “A work crew came up there and saw that we were sitting in the car and couldn’t get out from the house, so they cut trees in the driveway to clear the way and let us get out.”

On campus, the tornado destroyed in mere moments what took more than 130 years of JSU

history to build. Miraculously, there were no deaths attributed to the storm, either on campus or along its path. However, Fielding would later learn a faculty member was in Merrill Hall when it was hit. Fortunately, he was able to seek shelter in time. “He was safe,” Fielding said, “but when he came out, the world had changed.”

‘SHOCK TO THE SYSTEM’

The reality was staggering. The storm ravaged upwards of 50 buildings on campus, causing over \$70 million in damage across its path – five times the amount required to have it declared a natural disaster.

All totaled, 31 buildings required new roofs.

More than 800 JSU students returned from spring break to find themselves homeless as the EF-3 tornado destroyed three of Jacksonville’s largest off-campus apartment complexes, including Gamecock Village, where Titus and her friends lived.

Merrill Hall’s damage was “catastrophic,” according to a report submitted by David Thompson, JSU’s director of facilities. It would ultimately have to be demolished. Houston Cole Library sustained major structural roof damage, making the 11th and 12th floors off limits until the roof is replaced.

The roof truss at Martin Hall would have be removed for new roof framing, decking, and felt. Interior repairs would begin as soon as the roof was completed.

Mason Hall would also require a new roof and HVAC system. The brick wall on the south end would need to be removed and replaced.

Wallace Hall, home to the School of Health Professions and Wellness, would require major interior renovations and a new roof.

JSU’s beloved Alumni House would eventually become another casualty of the March 19 tornado. The pavilion was destroyed and the main building took a direct hit from a massive tree. While the initial hope was that it could be saved, the damage uncovered irreparable, pre-existing foundational issues. It too would be demolished.

Moments after the announcement was posted on the school’s Facebook page, comments started pouring in, sharing memories of happy times spent there. Many of the commenters attached pictures of their wedding day – bridal bouquets in mid-air, couples sharing their first dance – in each the Alumni House stood watch over all.

“It’s very sad to see a beautiful landmark disappear,” wrote Ann Key, a native of Jacksonville.

But all was not lost. The original wood floors, interior and exterior doors, decorative molding and detailed wood finishings were saved. The commemorative bricks, walkways and parking lots were also unscathed.

In the midst of such destruction, blessings were still being counted.

Smith and du Pont’s off-campus

house was a total loss. But for the two men, both of whom are artists, the loss of things, like a camera or an iPad, wasn’t such a big deal.

“We still have our skills, and we still have our lives,” du Pont said. “So, we’ll make new art ... But we can’t mourn the house because that was just a place to stay.”

RECOVERY MODE

As soon as the skies cleared – and in some cases, well before – the JSU administration went into recovery mode.

JSU had an Emergency Operations Plan in place that had been updated in the fall of 2017. The plan listed a tornado as the number one threat to students. The university had performed several tornado exercises with both the state and Calhoun County Emergency Management Association. The Response Phase of that plan began immediately Monday night and lasted approximately 36 hours.

On day one, the Crisis Action Team, led at first by Provost Turner, met at the University Police Department, which had an emergency generator, making it

the only place on campus with power. The trouble was gathering enough “key people” to meet, Turner said.

“That was the initial problem,” she said. “We were all so far flung, that it was hard getting everyone together.”

Spring Break had scattered key university personnel across the map. President Beehler was visiting family in Texas. Tim King, vice president of student affairs, was in Knoxville, Tenn.

The initial focus, after everyone was safe and accounted for, was on stabilizing the event and protecting property. The UPD quickly closed campus to everyone but emergency responders.

“I personally went out and bought every ‘No Trespassing’ sign I could find in and around Jacksonville,” Turner said, adding that looters had already been seen lurking about.

Fielding made it to campus early Tuesday morning before everything was shut down. Seeing Merrill Hall, where he’d worked since it opened in 1970, was “sad and traumatic” but he didn’t have the chance to reminisce.

“I didn’t have much time to think

about what all had been lost,” he said, “I had to get to building.”

With the campus secured and an emergency team in place, the focus became the students – most of whom were flooding the university’s social media pages wanting updates.

“There were so many things to consider,” said King. “The list was endless. We were all simply focused on doing whatever needed to be done in order to take care of the students.”

King remembered first coming into town from vacation around noon Tuesday and driving past West Point Baptist Church in the Angel community.

“It was shocking, just shocking,” he said. “It looked like a bomb had gone off. There was nothing left.”

In those first few days, students somehow got King’s cellphone number and started calling and texting him at all hours of the day and night, desperate for information.

To keep students updated on a situation that was changing by the minute, JSU’s public relations office developed a communication strategy that included launching the JSU

“ I was devastated. While I saw hundreds of photos online, I was not fully prepared for the extent of the damage in Jacksonville. Like many others in the Gamecock family, I just wanted to help. ”

KASEY GAMBLE, SGA PRESIDENT

Strong website as the university's information hub. The site featured daily letters from King, constant news updates, video updates from President Beehler and other JSU leaders, photos of the destruction, information about housing as well as the relief and recovery efforts.

The communications team also relied on JSU's social media accounts, namely Facebook. With the campus closed and students unable to return to check on their belongings, PR Director Buffy Lockette and Social Media Specialist Sydney Jones took viewers behind the barricades via Facebook Live - providing a tour of the wreckage and answering questions in real time.

"As soon as we knew something, the students were made aware of it," King said. "We spent a lot of time responding to students and doing our best to soothe their concerns."

Kasey Gamble, a senior majoring in early childhood/elementary education, was in Pell City when the tornado hit. Like most students who were a safe distance away, she saw the damage on Facebook.

"I was devastated," said Gamble, who was elected SGA president on April 24. "While I saw hundreds of photos online, I was not fully prepared for the extent of the damage in Jacksonville. Like many others in the Gamecock family, I just wanted to help."

'WORSE THAN PICTURES CAN EVER SHOW'

Flashlights split the darkness as people emerged from closets, bathtubs and bedrooms to see the damage. Neighbors gathered in the spitting rain to count their numbers and their blessings.

Together they waited.

As the sun rose Tuesday morning, the jagged metallic whine of chainsaws echoed through streets littered with tree limbs - not to mention actual trees - snaking power lines, and debris that belonged inside houses rather than scattered on a lawn blocks away. Passing strangers got acquainted over borrowed power tools and shared cups of coffee held in hands still shaking from the night before.

In the coming days, more than 6,000 volunteers, including numerous local, state, and national disaster relief organizations, brought Jacksonville and JSU back to life.

Students came back early from vacation to help, including

sororities, fraternities, academic and social clubs, and JSU sports teams - all doing whatever was necessary to pick up the pieces and put their campus back together again.

"We've been out pretty much every afternoon, just doing what we can do," JSU head football coach John Grass told the Anniston Star. "We feel like we're just making a dent in it. But if everybody keeps making dents in it, we'll get it back. It's not going to be a quick process. It's going to be a long process. We just want our guys to get out and be a part of that."

That's what community is all about.

"It was so moving to see," King said. "It was people at their best, a community at its best. It's unfortunate that it takes a tragedy to bring out the best in folks, but I think this feeling of community is going to last."

Alex Partridge came back early from the beach to volunteer because she knew what a tornado could do.



Students came back early from vacation to help, including sororities, fraternities, academic and social clubs, and JSU sports teams - all doing whatever was necessary to pick up the pieces and put their campus back together again.



Partridge was living in Hueytown on April 27, 2011 during the historic "super outbreak," when more than 350 tornadoes were confirmed across five states, including the EF-4 that devastated Tuscaloosa. More than 300 people died - 238 in Alabama alone - making it the deadliest storm in 86 years. Partridge was huddled in a storm shelter, listening to the howling winds outside and praying it would end soon.

"I stayed up until 3 a.m., shaking, and looking at pictures of the damage in the Jacksonville area," Partridge said. "I know what it's

like, and I know what the morning after looks like."

Despite not being able to get into her own damaged apartment for clothes or personal belongings, Partridge signed up as a volunteer.

"I just hope people realize it's going to take a long time," she said. "It's easy to lose interest after a few days, but the work will go on. I just hope people keep pitching in and helping each other."

Wesley Waddell, a senior biology major from Dallas, Ga., was shocked when he saw the damage. Though his own home

was spared, those nearby weren't so lucky.

"We always watch the forecasts and hear about these horrible things that are going to happen," he said, "but when you see the reality, it's worse than pictures can ever show you."

On campus, the focus quickly turned to salvaging a semester that was two-thirds complete prior to spring break. Three days after the storm, President Beehler made a promise.

"There should be no doubt about this," he said in a statement on the JSU website, "we will fulfill every obligation to our students



through our dedicated faculty and employees.”

By the fourth day, the action team:

- Developed the concept of a One-Stop Shop to advise students upon their return
- A preliminary timeline for faculty/staff/students return to campus

By the fifth day, the same day that power was restored to campus, students were given three options for determining their final grades for the spring semester:

1. Use the current grade earned as the final grade for all classes or select classes
2. Take an incomplete in all or select classes and finish through the applicable incomplete procedures
3. Complete the semester

“It was all such a shock to the system,” Turner said. “Every minute, every day, was like something new. You didn’t know what to think, and you didn’t know what the answers were. But we all knew that, one way or another, we’d finish the semester.”

‘SEAT OF WISDOM’

The School of Business and Industry has moved to the former site of Kitty Stone Elementary School, where it will remain until a permanent home is built. The old school had to be completely and speedily renovated – from fresh coats of paint to the necessary electrical rewiring. Students returned to the building to complete the semester on April 9.

“The job they’ve done...just incredible,” Fielding said. “The same goes for our faculty and staff. They’ve been working around the clock to get ready.”

Despite the damage that reduced Merrill Hall to a husk of its former self, hope has been salvaged. The 44-foot-high

mosaic that hung in the lobby for 50 years, “The Fountain of Learning,” made it through the storm virtually unscathed.

“That’s a miracle,” Fielding said. “It was beautiful, and it meant a lot to people.”

Fielding has received calls from former students from across the United States worried about the painting. It depicts a man drinking from a fountain and includes the Latin phrase “sedes sapientiae,” which means “seat of wisdom.” While the painting’s future location is still to be determined, it has been safely removed, numbered and stored.

With Wallace Hall out of commission, the JSU nursing program has also been in limbo.



MOVING EVER FORWARD

The campus officially reopened April 5.

Faculty and staff hosted a One Stop Shop on April 6 and 7 where, true to its name, “everyone who interacts with students” was on hand to help with everything from financial aid and housing to the status of academic programs and counseling.

More than 2,000 students participated. On April 9, classes resumed. On April 26, the week before graduation, President Donald Trump officially declared the areas along the storm’s path – Jacksonville, Wellington, Angel and Nances Creek – a major disaster, meaning that federal money would be available to help aid in the cost of cleanup.

“We are at warp speed progress,” Turner said. “I’m amazed at what all we’ve accomplished. We’ve learned what we can do when we work together as a community. Together, we’re stronger than any storm.”

Recovery is a slow, often frustrating, process. When it takes place in the wake of a traumatic event, it’s like the five stages of grief – denial, anger, bargaining, depression, and acceptance. In the first few days after the tornado, Jacksonville and JSU residents went into survival mode.

“I think for the first few weeks, people were lost,” Turner said. “They didn’t know what to think because this all happened when they were away, and what they saw on TV didn’t really tell the whole story.”

“It was all such a shock to the system. Every minute, every day, was like something new. You didn’t know what to think, and you didn’t know what the answers were. But we all knew that, one way or another, we’d finish the semester.”

DR. REBECCA TURNER, PROVOST

Classes moved to Houston Cole Library and other locations. Then, out of nowhere, a generous donation by a struggling hospital came to the university’s aid.

The Regional Medical Center announced on May 17 that it would be closing Jacksonville Hospital on June 30 and donating it to the JSU nursing program.

“This will help us immensely in providing additional housing and academic space during this challenging time,” Beehler said. “It will also provide an opportunity for us to expand programming in our School of Health Professions and Wellness.”

While the storms shook the program’s physical foundation, it could not dim its bright future, explained Dean Christie Shelton.

“The generosity of RMC will allow us to continue seamless operations this fall by placing a nursing skills lab in the hospital setting alongside our high-fidelity simulation lab, the new

respiratory therapy program and the Doctor of Nursing Practice program faculty on the campus or RMC Jacksonville,” she said. “Having such a fertile training ground for students elevates these programs to a new level.”

JSU could be one of only three nursing programs in Alabama to have access to such a facility, alongside the University of Alabama at Birmingham and the University of South Alabama.

“An opportunity like this rarely, if ever, comes to a regional university,” Shelton said. “This is something you’d usually only see in academic health centers. To have access to a hospital that’s truly created for urgent care is an amazing opportunity for our students.”



Now that the dust has settled and things on campus are getting back to normal, or rather a new normal, there will be days and weeks of struggle and uncertainty. The volunteers, so crucial in those early hours, have mostly gone home, leaving so much left undone.

Optimism will give way to reality. Things at JSU will never really be the same.

“Throughout 2018, JSU’s students, faculty and staff may grow angry at the rate of recovery, or disappointed by the assistance they’re getting, or just saddened by what happened,” wrote the Anniston Star’s editorial board, 10 days after the tornado. “That’s understandable. What’s important for those of

us untouched by March 19’s winds is to remember how transformative this storm was.

A campus built over 130 years was nearly destroyed in a few spring seconds.”

Buildings can be rebuilt. Trees can be re-planted. Insurance and the kindness of strangers can replace those material goods. Some of what was destroyed can never be completely replaced, like Merrill Hall and the Alumni House.

The tornado of March 19 will forever be a chapter in JSU’s storied history. But with patience and leadership, the title of that chapter can be a mantra future generations of students, faculty and staff can look to with pride: JSU Strong. 🌀



✿ ABOVE: JSU alumna Maci Allison (far right), with a volunteer family from Heath, Ohio.

RANDOM ACT OF KINDNESS

Just days after the tornado, a 14-year-old from Heath, Ohio, asked to go out of the way from his spring break destination to help Jacksonville residents with tornado relief.

Maci Allison '16, who lost her home during the tornado, posted a photo of the teen, David Spencer, and his family on social media stating:

“This family from OHIO was headed to the beach for spring break when the tornado hit Jacksonville, Alabama. Their son (I’m guessing around 8th grade) told his parents he would rather stop here and help the storm victims than go to the beach. They walked around and passed out Walmart gift cards and offered help. These are amazing people. They deserve all the credit in the world. It’s the little things that mean the most - yesterday, that was this family!”

Maci’s post went viral, resulting in over 44,000 shares. However, the Spencers didn’t want credit. They simply chose to help because “it was the right thing to do.” 🌀



✿ ABOVE: President John and Dr. Pam Beehler with volunteers from the University of Alabama.

HELP FROM OUR FRIENDS

JSU received an outpouring of support from its peers in higher education. Auburn University sent its emergency management professionals and police officers to assist while the University of Alabama sent an entire delegation from its administration to share knowledge and expertise gained from the April 27, 2011 tornado that struck Tuscaloosa. There were numerous other colleges and universities that volunteered or donated to the recovery efforts, including:

- Appalachian State University
- Athens State University
- Auburn University
- Auburn University at Montgomery
- Austin Peay State University
- Belmont University
- Berry College
- Faulkner University
- Ferris State University
- Gadsden State Community College
- Georgia Highlands College
- Kennesaw State University
- Murray State University
- Samford University
- School of the Art Institute of Chicago
- Skidmore College
- State University of New York - Plattsburgh
- Tennessee State University
- Texas Christian University
- Troy University
- Washington and Jefferson College
- University of Alabama
- University of Alabama at Birmingham
- University of Montevallo
- University of North Alabama
- University of South Alabama
- University of West Alabama
- Ohio Valley Conference

renovations to **WALLACE HALL** make way for more students

By Brett Buckner

“With us being able to increase enrollment by 45 percent,” Shelton said, her voice rising with excitement, “We will be in a position to address a critical nursing shortage in our communities.”

The tornado that hit campus on March 19 caused millions of dollars in damages and ultimately led to Merrill Hall and the Alumni House being demolished. But out of so much destruction there has also come the opportunity for growth and reinvention.

Well before the storm caused significant damage to Lurleen B. Wallace Hall, home to JSU's School of Health Professions and Wellness, nursing program administrators had discussed ways of increasing enrollment despite limited space.

“As much as we loved Wallace,” said Dean Christie Shelton, “we needed more room. The layout of the building – I like to call it inappropriately placed space – just didn't work. We had too many open areas.” Within days of the tornado, Shelton got a call. The damage to Wallace was more extensive than originally thought. They were going to have to gut the building and if they wanted to find room for more students – it was now or never.

“We got to work,” Shelton said. “In about four days we redesigned the entire floor plan. This was a golden opportunity, and we weren't going to let it get away.”

Normally, the nursing program admits upwards of 70 new students each spring and fall semester. After remodeling Wallace, that number will increase 71 percent to 120 students.

The updated building is scheduled to open in the spring and will include four enlarged classrooms. The skills lab, where nursing students practice basic skills such as checking vital signs, will expand to hold 20 hospital beds instead of eight. Three additional teachers will also be hired.

“To be able to say that we take 120 students in the fall and spring is tremendous,” Shelton said. “By comparison, Auburn admits 200 students annually, while we'll be admitting 240.”

But program administrators aren't waiting until the renovations are complete before welcoming more students. Starting this fall, 120 students will be accepted. For the immediate future, classes will be held at Houston Cole Library, while labs will be at the former Jacksonville hospital, which closed June 30 and has been donated to JSU.

For years, JSU's nursing program has been forced to turn away qualified applicants simply because there wasn't enough room. Before the tornado allowed for Wallace to be remodeled, JSU nursing had 145 applicants for 88 seats, with more applicants expected.

The lack of classroom space for qualified nursing students isn't just an issue at JSU. According to the American Association of Colleges of Nursing, more than 64,000 applicants were turned away nationally in 2016 because of insufficient faculty, clinical sites, classroom space and budget constraints.

“With us being able to increase enrollment by 71 percent,” Shelton said, her voice rising with excitement, “We will be in a position to address a critical nursing shortage in our communities.”



SAYING GOODBYE to two iconic buildings

By Brett Buckner



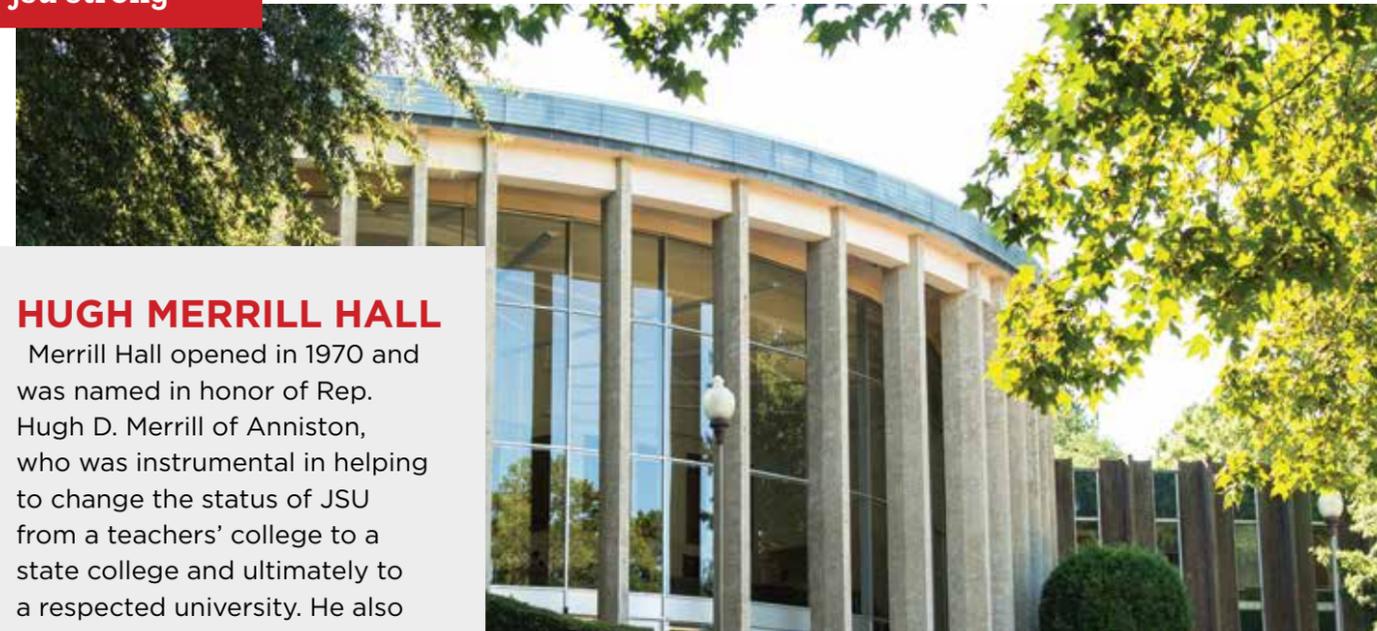
When the 130 mile-per-hour winds of the March 19 tornado

tore across the campus of JSU, the first concern was for the potential loss of life. But since the storm hit on the first day of spring break, the campus was largely deserted. Thankfully, no deaths or major injuries were attributed to the storm on campus, but that didn't mean that nothing was lost.

In the coming days as the debris was cleared, David Thompson, JSU's director of facilities, and his staff, were charged with assessing the damage. The news was heartbreaking. In addition to the millions of dollars of necessary repairs, two of JSU's most recognizable buildings would be casualties of the EF-3 tornado.

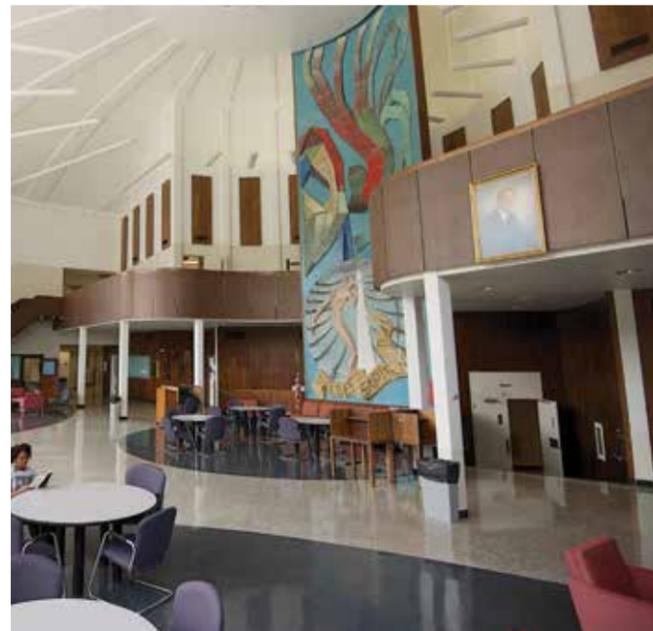
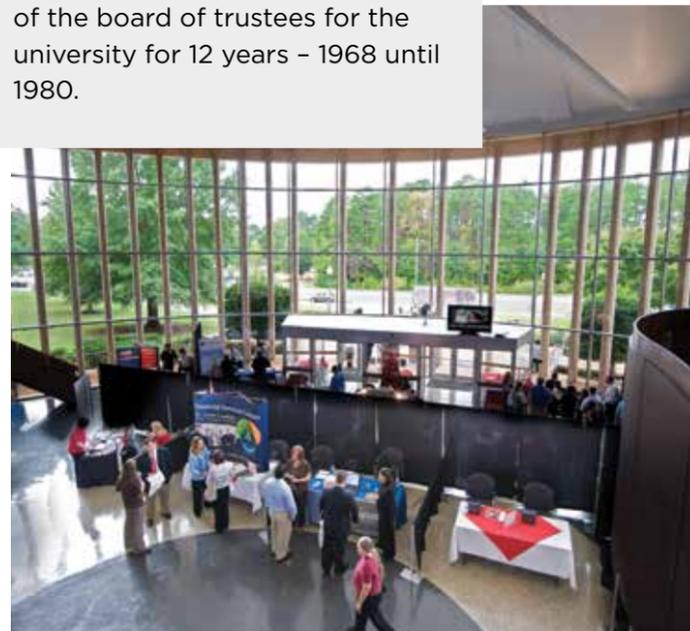
Hugh Merrill Hall, which houses the School of Business and Industry, and the Alumni House, home to Alumni Relations, would have to be torn down. New buildings are going to replace what has been demolished. Damage was not as severe at a third building originally thought to be irreparable, the Honor's House. Home to the university Honor's Program, the house is being repaired and renovated.





HUGH MERRILL HALL

Merrill Hall opened in 1970 and was named in honor of Rep. Hugh D. Merrill of Anniston, who was instrumental in helping to change the status of JSU from a teachers' college to a state college and ultimately to a respected university. He also served as president pro tempore of the board of trustees for the university for 12 years - 1968 until 1980.



Through the curved windows that looked onto the atrium of Hugh Merrill Hall could be seen the building's calling card, a towering piece of art that inspired and was admired by generations of JSU students. The 44-foot-tall, 17-foot-wide mosaic, titled "The Fountain of Learning," was created by Spanish artist Vicente Rodale, along with 10 assistants, and has hung in Merrill for almost 50 years. The mosaic represents a young man drinking

from a fountain of wisdom that springs from a gigantic seashell. It includes the Latin phrase, "sedes sapientiae" meaning, "seat of wisdom."

"It's a piece of art that we're known for," said Bill Fielding, dean of JSU's School of Business and Industry. "Students - past and present - love it. It means so much to them."

Thankfully, the "Fountain of Learning" mosaic was largely unscathed by the storm. It has

been removed, piece-by-piece, from Merrill Hall. The project took construction workers more than two weeks to complete as they ended up with more than 100 sections that will later be reassembled and hung in a new home somewhere on campus. Though no plans have been finalized yet, JSU President John Beehler has promised that when the mosaic is re-installed, it will serve as a memorial to the storm that destroyed its original home.

THE ALUMNI HOUSE

Officially known as the Foster-Bellamy-Mattison-Fitts-Roebuck House, it was built by Capt. Bellamy around 1839 and with its "ornate eaves and balcony" the house "suggests Capt. Bellamy's love for riverboats," according to the Calhoun County Historic Driving Tour.

The house was purchased by JSU for \$225,000 in spring of 1981 and housed JSU's Alumni Relations office, which often rented it out for weddings and other celebrations.

The 130-plus mph winds on that fateful Monday evening closed a chapter in JSU history. The decision to demolish the Alumni House felt abrupt to some, but the tornado simply exposed the depth of damage lying beneath the surface. Extensive termite damage made it more expensive to save the 179-year-old Alumni House than to build a new one.

But all was not lost. The original wood floors, interior and exterior doors, decorative molding and detailed wood finishings were saved. The commemorative bricks, walkways and parking lots were also unscathed. The original Alumni House is gone, but its memories will linger and soon, just as with Merrill Hall, new memories will rise along with a new building.

"Even the swing from the front porch is being repaired and will be incorporated into our new home," said Kaci Ogle, JSU alumna and director of Alumni Relations. "Our hearts broke to see the Old Lady come down but we look forward to a new facility to call home and all the possibilities that brings." 🍷





“we will **REBUILD**.
our campus will
BE MORE BEAUTIFUL
than ever;
OUR UNIVERSITY
WILL RISE
to new heights.
we are
TRANSFORMATIVE,
INNOVATIVE,
and **ENGAGED**
for success.
WE ARE JSU STRONG.”

-PRESIDENT BEEHLER



university hosts first **WOMEN IN PHILANTHROPY** brunch

JSU honored American icon and Alabama native Lilly Ledbetter at The Club in Birmingham on April 25 as part of the university's first Women in Philanthropy Brunch. Ledbetter gave a keynote address and was presented an Excellence Award.

Born in Jacksonville in 1938 the daughter of an Anniston Army Depot mechanic, Lilly McDaniel Ledbetter grew up picking cotton and milking cows on the family farm in Possum Trot. After graduating from Jacksonville High School in 1956, her strong work ethic served her well as she advanced from an associate at H&R Block to an office manager at an accounting firm and doctor's office. She even worked at JSU in the mid-1970s as assistant director of Financial Aid.

The mother of two was initially discouraged from working outside the home, but she enjoyed earning her own wages and supporting the family income. With her extra income, she was able to provide her children things they would otherwise go without – from cheerleading uniforms to college tuition. With the goal of sending her children, Vickie and Phillip, to college at JSU, she decided to apply for a manager's position at Goodyear in Gadsden.

In 1979, Ledbetter started her 19-year career at Goodyear. She trained in all the plant's various departments and divisions

and her first supervisor assignment was to manage third shift stock prep in the radial division. Over the years, she endured injuries and sexual harassment with little complaint – believing her hard work would speak for itself. Then one day before work, she found an anonymous note dropped in her cubby that listed the salaries of three other managers in her area. She was bringing home thousands less per year than men doing the same job.

Ledbetter could have taken the easy route, dropped the issue and retired. Thinking of generations of women before her and those to follow – including her own granddaughter – she decided to take a stand. She sued Goodyear and a jury awarded her \$3.8 million, which was later thrown out by the U.S. Supreme Court based on the statute of limitations. In 2009, Congress passed the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act, removing the statute of limitations on discrimination suits.

The Supreme Court had overturned her discrimination suit with Goodyear, since Ledbetter hadn't filed within 180 days of receiving her first paycheck (despite whether she was aware of the discriminatory pay practices within those 180 days). The new act removed the statute of limitations. As his first official piece of legislation as president, Barack

Obama signed the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act into law.

"When I set out on my Goodyear career in 1979, it wasn't part of my grand plan to someday have my name be on a Supreme Court case or an act of Congress," Ledbetter wrote in her autobiography, *Grace and Grit*. "I simply wanted to work hard and support my family. The rest, I believed, would take care of itself. Clearly, fate had other plans for this Alabama girl."

The Women in Philanthropy Brunch, open to both men and women, will become an annual event that honors the contributions of women like Ledbetter.

"Our goal is two-fold," said Paige Burton, JSU alumna. "We want to start a tradition of honoring the great success of JSU women who have already come, while at the same time helping others to become great leaders in their community through the establishment of the Women of Philanthropy Scholarship."

All proceeds from the event support the establishment of a Women in Philanthropy scholarship at JSU. There is also a Lilly Ledbetter Scholarship at JSU. 



*** BELOW:** Courtney Rogers, recipient of the Griffith-Lavender Scholarship.



*** LEFT:** Mrs. Pearl Williams with the recipients of the scholarships honoring her son, Major DWayne Williams, who died at the Pentagon on 9/11.
BELOW: The most moving part of Founder's Day is hearing students share their stories of how their lives have been impacted by our generous donors.

FOUNDERS DAY 2018

In honor of the founding of the university in February 1883, University Advancement hosted the annual Founder's Day this spring. Outstanding students who have received scholarships from the JSU Foundation had the opportunity to meet with the generous donors supporting their education.



*** ABOVE:** Miss JSU 2018, Lauren Reeves.
RIGHT: Dr. Hubert and Mrs. Marcelline Barry, with the recipients of the scholarship in their name.

*** ABOVE:** Mr. Gary Lewis with the recipient of the Gary O. Lewis Scholarship.

DEVELOPMENT HOSTS RED TIE DINNER & AUCTION

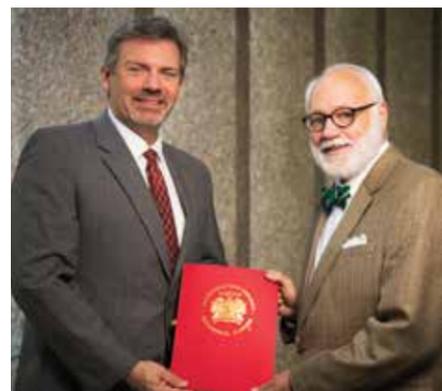
The Office of University Development hosted JSU's first Red Tie Dinner and Auction on Feb. 2 at Houston Cole Library. An elite group of JSU supporters kicked off a new year of annual fundraising, recognizing loyal 2017 donors and benefitting the JSU Annual Fund. The formal event featured dinner, silent and live auctions, entertainment from the JSU music department and caricature art, while raising funds for the schools and programs across campus.

The guest list for this invitation-only event included leadership level donors in 2017, the university's executive council – including the president, deans, directors



and trustees – and members of the JSU Foundation Board and the JSU Annual Fund Board. The Office of University Advancement and the president took the opportunity to recognize those supporters and volunteers who have offered their time, money and resources to help bridge the gap between state funding and the realistic needs of a growing university.

The Annual Fund is the cornerstone of philanthropy at JSU. Through various means, the JSU Annual Fund solicits gifts annually from alumni, friends, corporations, foundations and government entities to support and enhance the various schools and programs of the university. 🍷



DR. BEN HARDY'S DREAM OF ENDOWING A SCHOLARSHIP COMES TO FRUITION!

Dr. Ben Hardy has finally realized a personal goal 17 years in the making. After contributing to a scholarship fund monthly through payroll deductions and additional contributions since he started teaching at JSU in 2000, the Ben and Linda Hardy Business Endowed Scholarship is officially endowed.

"I wanted to give back to the School of Business and its students from the time I first arrived on campus," Dr. Hardy said. "In fact, it has always been a dream of mine to leave a permanent scholarship legacy. By utilizing the JSU continuous giving option, money has been deducted from my salary every month. Linda and I are now able to make a substantial impact on students forever."

Dr. Hardy's commitment stemmed from his desire to enable students – many

of whom are the first generation in their families to attend a university—in and around the northeast Alabama area to pursue higher education.

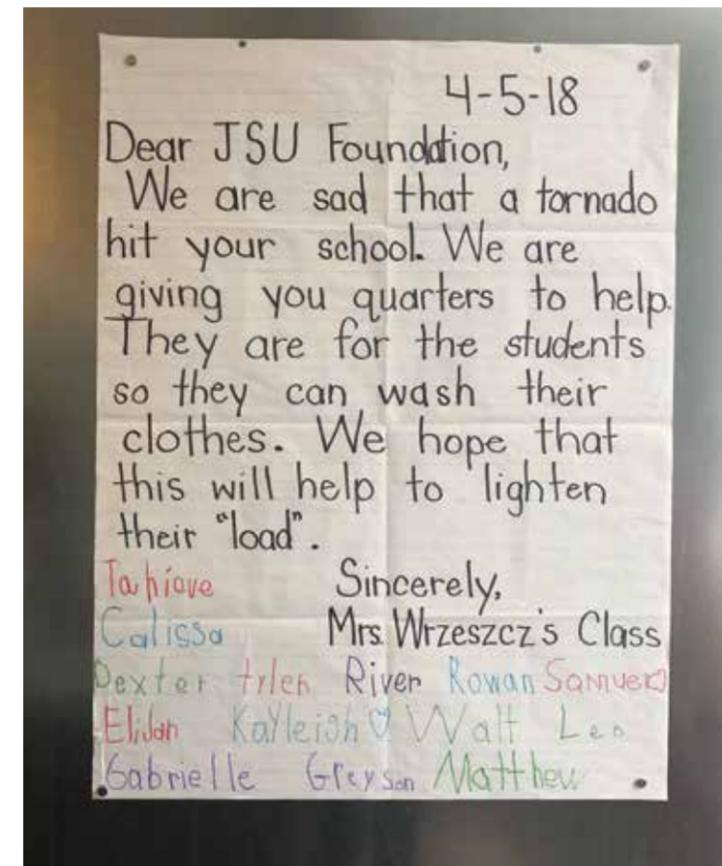
"Our scholarship will benefit deserving students enrolled in the School of Business and it will be awarded each year based on financial need and merit," he said.

Before coming to JSU's College of Business to teach Legal Studies in the Finance, Economics and Accounting Department, Dr. Hardy was a corporate labor lawyer at BellSouth Corporation and a law professor at the Cumberland School of Law in Birmingham. Linda Hardy is a retired art teacher from the Birmingham Public Schools. The couple are also avid JSU Softball fans, attending many games and supporting the program. 🍷

JSU RECEIVES GENEROUS DONATIONS FOLLOWING TORNADO



🌸 JSU is grateful for the more than \$400,000 in donations we received for disaster relief from hundreds of individuals and corporations, including: musician Riley Green (top left), Regions Bank (middle) and Red Threads Apparel (top right). We even received a gift from a Harvest, Ala., kindergarten class (bottom left and right).



ALUMnotes

BIRTHS

2000-2010

Jessica Michelle Blake Payne '09/'11 and Jesse Monroe Payne '10, Rockmart, Ga., announce the birth of their daughter, Madison Blake Payne, on November 9, 2017 in Weiden, Germany. Capt. Payne is currently commander of 1st Squadron (Airborne) 91st Cavalry Regiment at Grafenwoehr, Germany. He was a member of Delta Chi and was commissioned through the JSU ROTC program. Mrs. Payne was a member of Alpha Omicron Pi.

2011-2018

1 Kendra Ackler Prince '15 and Daniel Kyle Prince '16, Delta, Ala., announce the arrival of their son, Elijah Kamryn, on January 5, 2017. Mr. Prince is a data analyst at Samford University and Mrs. Prince currently attends Samford.

WEDDINGS

2000-2010

2 Krystle Elaine Bell '07 and Robert James Saulsberry, Jr., September 30, 2017, Montgomery, Ala. Mrs. Saulsberry was active in the Student Government Association (Freshman Forum, Student Senate and Student Judiciary Council), Gospel Choir, JSU Ambassadors, Gamecock Orientation (GO!) Leaders and Alpha Kappa Alpha (Lambda Pi Chapter) Sorority, Incorporated. She is now serving as an at-large member of the JSU Alumni Association Board of Governors.

3 Brandon Kyle Hollingsworth '08 and J. Amar Gambol, July 25, 2017, Knoxville, Tenn. Mr. Hollingsworth was news director and Morning Edition host for JSU radio station WLJS from 2006 to 2008. He is currently news director at NPR member station WUOT in Knoxville.

2011-2018

4 Dr. Christina Rachael Ginn '11 and Dr. Jesse Logan Blalock, September 30, 2017, Cheaha State Park. They

met when they sat next to each other on the first day of pharmacy school. Dr. Blalock works at UAB. As a student, she was a Gamecock Orientation (GO!) Leader, JSU Ambassador and member of Zeta Tau Alpha. The couple resides in Southside, Ala.

5 Haley Nicole Hendrix '11 and David James "DJ" Lashus '13, October 7, 2017, Douglasville, Ga. Mrs. Lashus is employed by Cleveland State Community College, where she coaches cheerleading. As a student, she was a member of Freshman Forum, served as a JSU Ambassador and tour guide and was a member of Zeta Tau Alpha. Mr. Lashus is an electrician. He played football for JSU and was a member of Delta Chi. They reside in Ringgold, Ga.

6 Kattie McGaha '14 and Micah Baker, April 29, 2017. Mrs. Baker is employed by America's First Federal Credit Union, Birmingham, Ala., in marketing support.

OBITUARIES

JSU FACULTY AND STAFF

Lt. Col. (Ret.) Robert Byrom '74, Jacksonville, Ala., December 5, 2017. He was an Army veteran and previous owner/operator of Paints, Crafts and Hobbies. He was also a professor of military science at JSU.

Dr. Patricia Corbin, Jacksonville, Ala., May 21, 2018, after a short battle with cancer. Until her death, she was serving as director of choral activities at JSU, including direction of the A Cappella Choir, Chamber Singers and Calhoun County Civic Chorale. She organized the annual Madrigal Dinner and taught Applied Voice, Advanced Choral Conducting, Choral Literature and Class Recorder Techniques.

Tatum V. Deason, Jacksonville, Ala., March 1, 2018, in a car accident. She was an accomplished grounds and maintenance keeper and received the Employee of the Month award numerous times. She had also been selected Employee of the Year. She was known for her beautiful work in landscaping and hard work ethic.

Dr. Johnson Eugene "Gene" Duncan, Morehead, Ky., February 2, 2018. He became director of bands at JSU in 1947. He later moved to Morehead to build a strong music department at Morehead State College in 1956, where he served for 28 years. He was 98 years old.

Dr. Lowell Duffey, Colorado Springs, Colo., February 6, 2018. He was retired from JSU, where he was honored as professor emeritus of biology.

Dr. Robert C. Hymer, Jacksonville, Ala., May 22, 2018. He was an Army veteran, having served in World War II, and had a distinguished career in education beginning as a teacher and administrator in the Kansas City (Kans.) School System and culminating as dean of the School of Education at JSU.

R. Eugene Jones, Jacksonville, Ala., June 5, 2018. He retired from the School of Education at JSU as director of academic advisement and certification. The U.S. Army WWII veteran graduated from Kansas State Teachers College. After his military service, he earned a master's degree in education from the University of California, Berkeley.

Pamela Cook Key, Jacksonville, Ala., March 30, 2018. After retiring from the Houston Cole Library, she worked for 2nd Chance Inc.

Lt. Col. (Ret.) David O. Lamb, Jacksonville, Ala., March 14, 2018. He served as a military science instructor at JSU. A veteran of the Marines, he was commissioned through the University of Georgia Army ROTC program and served in the Army for 22 years - including the Korean War and two tours in Vietnam. He was proud to have served as a guard on the presidential boat of Harry Truman. After military retirement, he worked for Century 21 Realty for more than 20 years.

Lloyd E. Mulraine, Lithonia, Ga., September 18, 2017. He was a retired JSU professor.

Dr. Charles P. Olander, Leesburg, Ala., April 14, 2018. He was a retired JSU biology professor, honored with the

distinction of professor emeritus upon his retirement in 2005.

Raymond Earl Poore '57, Jacksonville, Ala., November 5, 2017. He was a retired biochemistry professor at JSU.

Dr. Tim Roberts, beloved professor in Family and Consumer Sciences, passed away suddenly on July 2, 2018. He began his career in FCS in 2002 as a professor in food science and related courses. He was a Registered Dietitian who received his B.S. and M.S. in Food Science from the University of Tennessee and his PhD from Auburn University.

Terry Taylor, Jacksonville, Ala., August 16, 2017. He was a retired JSU staff member.

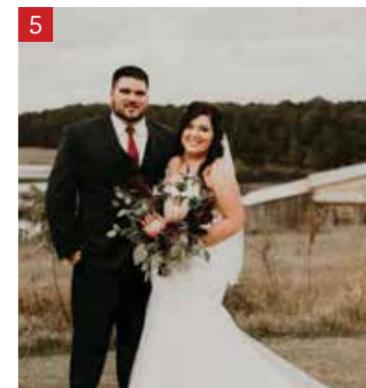
Patrick Wayne Wilson, Ruidoso, N. Mex., October 29, 2017. He had taught physics at JSU since the 1950s.

YEAR UNKNOWN OR DID NOT GRADUATE

Elizabeth Lawrence Posey Broome, Gulf Breeze, Fla., October 20, 2017. She had a career of over 39 years with Southern Bell Telephone Company, serving for 15 of those years as safety manager. During the time she worked with the University of Alabama as an advisor for Public Health and Injury Prevention, she received the Woman of the Year Award from the Business and Professional Women's Club. She worked on the Governor's Safety Task Force and was instrumental in getting the Seat Belt Law passed in Alabama. She was past general chairman of the National Safety Utilities Division and received the Cameron Award from the National Safety Council.

George A. Burkhalter, Leeds, Ala., July 20, 2017. He attended JSU in the 1950s, served in the Korean War and was retired from the Alabama Beverage Control Board.

James Jerome Crawford, Anniston, Ala., August 2, 2017. He had been a member of the Marching Southerners.



1. Elijah Kamryn Prince
2. Krystle Elaine Bell '07 and Robert James Saulsberry Jr.
3. Brandon Kyle Hollingsworth '08 and J. Amar Gambol
4. Dr. Christina Rachael Ginn '11 and Dr. Jesse Logan Blalock
5. Haley Nicole Hendrix '11 and David James Lashus '13
6. Kattie McGaha '14 and Micah Baker

Alton “Al” D. Elliott, Huntsville, Ala., June 9, 2018. He worked in the family business, Guntersville TV Cable Company, later becoming its president/general manager. After moving to Huntsville, he founded Professional Security Systems, which became the premier residential and commercial security and audio/visual company in North Alabama for over 35 years. He was a member of Delta Chi.

Robert Wayne Golden, Albertville, Ala., February 2, 2018. He was a member of the Marching Southerners and Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia.

Butler W. Green, Anniston, Ala., August 10, 2017. He was an Army veteran and served in the Korean War. He retired after 45 years of service as a Lt. Colonel and then served for 32 years with the Department of Public Health. He played basketball for JSU.

Ralph Hilburn, Muscadine, Ala., February 17, 2018. Coach Hilburn started his coaching career at Ohatchee, then spent nine years as head basketball coach at Spring Garden High School where he also started the football program. In 1972, he came to Haralson County (Ga.) High School, where he served as head baseball coach (7 years), head basketball coach (13 years) and assistant football coach (4 years).

Tamea Johnson, Anniston, Ala., (date unknown). She had been a member of the JSU Gospel Choir.

Jack W. Kines, Dothan, Ala., August 20, 2017, after a battle with cancer. He was a Navy veteran and served in the Korean War. After working for GAC Finance and DML at Napier Field, he was employed for 20 years with SAMC. He played football for JSU.

Donald Rayburn Lassetter, Gadsden, Ala., May 20, 2018. He had worked for over 30 years at Republic Steel/LTV.

David “Little Toe” Luttrell, Jacksonville, Ala., May 8, 2018. He played football for JSU.

Rena Henson Nix, Hueytown, Ala., January 22, 2018. She had been married to the late O.M. Nix '50.

Eddie Keith Swafford, Rainbow City, Ala., May 9, 2018. He served as a medic with the Army and was a Special Forces paratrooper. He retired from Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company after 40 years of service. He played football for JSU.

Alvin Wright, Riverside, Calif., March 23, 2018. He played football for JSU (1980-84) and went on to play tackle professionally with the Los Angeles Rams.

1940-1949

Evelyn Espey Glazner '41, Jacksonville, Ala., November 24, 2017.

Annie Myers Oliver '42, Huntsville, Ala., May 20, 2017.

Henrietta Sharpe “Penny” Acker '43, Neenah, Wis., September 5, 2017. An educator, she spent most of her years teaching at Louis J. Morris Elementary, Huntsville, Ala.

Maxine Ashburn Stewart '46, Anniston, Ala., November 24, 2017. She was a teacher at Cedar Springs Elementary, Moody Jr. High and Jones Valley High Schools. She and her husband served Alabama churches from 1949 to 1958, when they were appointed missionaries of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board (now International Mission Board) in Thailand for 36 years. She also served as Baptist Press Rep for that area for 18 years, preparing many of her news stories from her experiences as a worker in the Cambodian and Vietnamese refugee camps.

W. Jay Baggett '48, Newnan, Ga., December 18, 2017. He retired from the Fulton County School System after 36 years of service in education in both Georgia and Alabama. He worked as a teacher, guidance counselor and director of testing and psychological services for the Fulton County Schools. He and his wife, Betty Stephens Baggett, were very involved in the Fab 40s/Nifty 50s alumni group.

Ernest Earl Lindsay '48, Tullahoma, Tenn., January 17, 2018. He served in the Navy during World War II and the Korean War, earning his commission while serving in World War II at the age of 20. He taught school and coached basketball in Colorado before returning to Alabama. He worked as an aeronautical engineer at Arnold Engineering Development Center in Tullahoma until retiring in 1984. He played basketball and baseball at JSU and was a member of the International House Program.

William “Bill” Hare '49, Sylacauga, Ala., June 11, 2018. A World War II veteran, he was retired from Alabama Power Company.

James Lamar Harkins '49, Anniston, Ala., May 20, 2018. He was an Army veteran and served in World War II during the invasion of Normandy. He was retired from Anniston Army Depot.

Carolyn Wilson Haynes '49, Valley, Ala., August 7, 2017.

Doris Anne Shultz '49/'63, Ohatchee, Ala., June 16, 2018. The retired teacher taught for 38 years, the last 25 at Ohatchee Elementary School. She was very involved in the Fab 40s/Nifty 50s alumni group.

Vester L. Holder '49, Jacksonville, Ala., March 14, 2018.

Robert Ellis Ringer '49, Marianna, Fla., July 25, 2017. He was an Army veteran and served in the Korean War. He taught at Hinds Community College, Raymond, Miss., and then at Chipola Junior College, Marianna, Fla., in the Natural Science Department – where he served as department chairman and was named Professor of the Year – before retiring. He was very involved in the Fab 40s/Nifty 50s alumni group.

Alice Jane Anderson Gautney '52, Gadsden, Ala., February 9, 2018. She was retired from the Gadsden City School System and John Thompson Elementary after 30 years of teaching.

1950-1959

Tommie Estes Gilley '50/'63, Piedmont, Ala., January 11, 2018. She retired from the Calhoun County School System after 20 years of service.

Sarah Frances Anderson Taylor '50, Knoxville, Tenn., September 3, 2017. She was an elementary school teacher for many years in Gadsden and Huntsville, Ala. She remembered studying at night by a kerosene lamp before electricity was available.

Nadine Horton Brown '51, Panama City Beach, Fla., January 7, 2018. The former JSU cheerleader was the owner of The Surf Hut and then a partner at Mr. Surf Shop with her son.

Phyllis JoAnne Hudson Davis '51, Fayetteville, Ga., December 24, 2017. She taught school in Alabama and Georgia. She had been married to the late Henry A. Davis, Jr. '49.

Dr. Garrett (Joe) Hagan, Jr. '51, Sylacauga, Ala., March 4, 2018, of cancer. He was commissioned through the JSU ROTC program and served in Korea, where he was wounded and received the Purple Heart. He was also awarded the Silver Star for heroism. He became a veterinarian and had a clinic in Sylacauga.

Sarah Sharp Owens '51, Tuscaloosa, Ala., November 19, 2017. She taught and served as an administrator for 36 years in the Tuscaloosa County and City School Systems, the Jasper City System and Vestavia Hills School System.

Floyd Buster Douthit '52, Madison, Ala., July 26, 2017. The Army veteran spent 45 years in education as a teacher and coach, with positions at Ohatchee High, Saks Jr. High, Saks High, Joe Bradley, Stone Jr. High and Lee. During those years he also spent 29 years in the Army Reserve, attaining the rank of colonel. After he retired, he operated the Off Campus College Bookstore for more 35 years in Huntsville, Tuscaloosa and Athens. At JSU, he played tennis and served as an athletic trainer for the football team. He had previously served on the Alumni Association Board of Governors. He was married to Annelle Douthit '59.

Louise Nelson Hallman '52, Daphne, Ala., July 14, 2017. She was retired from the Talladega County Board of Education.

Betty Jo Taft Owsley '53, Talladega, Ala., February 18, 2018. She had taught in the Talladega public school system – serving as the first teacher of the learning disabled – until her retirement in the 1990s.

Edward Harold Haslam '52, Montgomery, Ala., October 2, 2017. He was a member of the Marching Southerners.

Elizabeth “Betty” Parsons Henley '52, Anniston, Ala., March 3, 2018. She retired from teaching in 1986 and had taught at Munford Elementary, Alabama School for the Deaf and Blind, and Norwood and Golden Springs Elementary.

Ruby Latham Johnson '52, Jacksonville, Ala., September 5, 2017. After retiring from teaching at Kitty Stone Elementary School, she became an instructor for adult education GED/ESL in the area.

Frances Gunter Morrison '52, Gadsden, Ala., September 30, 2017. She served as a math teacher for more than 25 years, with the majority of that time at Etowah High School. She was a member of the Baptist Campus Ministry at JSU.

Janet Laird Self '52, Anniston, Ala., October 13, 2017. She taught math at several schools in the Calhoun County area for 31 years.

Col. Robert Gerald Cooper (Ret.) '53/'73, Huntsville, Ala., August 4, 2017. The Army veteran was commissioned through the JSU ROTC Program and spent 26 years in service – with tours in Korea, Vietnam and at the Pentagon – becoming a master Army aviator and the recipient of the Legion of Merit, Distinguished Flying Cross, Bronze Star medal and several air medals. He taught senior instructor classes in artillery strategy and tactics at Fort Sill, Okla. In retirement, he continued to work as a consultant in the military defense field until 2014 with McDaniel Enterprises and Homeland Security. At JSU, he was a member of the International House Program and was selected the JSU Alumnus of the Year in 1971. He was married to Jane Kellett Cooper '67.

Andrew Jay Isbell '53, Wilmington Island, Ga., December 24, 2017. The Navy veteran served in World War II before beginning his teaching and coaching career in Lincoln, Ala. He then moved to Georgia, where he taught high school, coached basketball and football, then became a school principal.

Edward D. “Buddy” Davidson '56, Guntersville, Ala., November 2, 2016. He served as Student Government Association president while at JSU.

Harold Eugene Stubbs '56, Huntsville, Ala., January 15, 2018, after a long battle with Parkinson's Disease. The military veteran was married to Grace Morris Stubbs '57.

Verdan Traylor '53, Greensboro, NC., April 28, 2017. He was a member of the International House Program at JSU.

Wesley Herbert Brown '55, Athens, Ala., January 21, 2017. Commissioned through JSU ROTC, the Army veteran retired from Redstone Arsenal as a system analyst after 34 years of service. He also operated his own accounting firm, Brown & Brown Accountants.

Ben Vincent Pillitary '55, Gadsden, Ala., December 26, 2017. After serving in the Army during the Korean War, he was a teacher and coach at Etowah High School, coach and administrator at Emma Sansom High School and director of Neighborhood Youth Corps. The former Gamecock football player was named to the JSU All Time Football Team and was inducted into the Etowah County Sports Hall of Fame.

Joseph Dale Tommie '55, Hoover, Ala., April 2, 2018. The Navy veteran served during World War II before pursuing a career in education. He served for 17 years as a teacher/coach at Bessemer High School. In 1970, he joined the Alabama State Department of Education as an assistant state supervisor of vocational education for 17 years. He played tennis for JSU.

Sidney Lanier Whitley '55, Picayune, Miss., February 23, 2018. Commissioned through the JSU ROTC program, the Army veteran served a tour in Korea. He was married to Dorothy Cole Whitley '56.

Eleanor Maxine Blessing '56, Dawson, Ala., June 12, 2017. She was a retired teacher with the Dekalb County Board of Education.

Neal Austin Boozer '56, Birmingham, Ala., March 7, 2018. After serving in the Army during the Korean War, he became a pharmacist and was a former owner and pharmacist at Adamsville Pharmacy and then served as staff pharmacist at the Jefferson County Health Department.

Edward D. “Buddy” Davidson '56, Guntersville, Ala., November 2, 2016. He served as Student Government Association president while at JSU.

Harold Eugene Stubbs '56, Huntsville, Ala., January 15, 2018, after a long battle with Parkinson's Disease. The military veteran was married to Grace Morris Stubbs '57.

Venoy Jolley '57, Ocala, Fla., February 3, 2017. He was a retired chaplain at Florida State Prison. While at JSU, he played on the 1955 “Refrigerator Bowl” football team. He was married to Laura Ervin Jolley '77.

Martha Lawrence Terry Roberts '56, Springville, Ala., May 8, 2018. The Miss JSU of 1956 was retired from the Jefferson County School System. She was married to the late Joe Wayne Roberts '57.

Martha Collins Sizemore '56, Thomaston, Ga., October 17, 2017. She was a member of the JSU International House Program and the Marching Southerners.

Billie Mae Shaner Horton '57, Panama City, Fla., April 8, 2018. She had been an elementary school teacher.

Arthur Murray '57, Anniston, Ala., November 4, 2017. Judge Murray served for 31 years as probate judge of Calhoun County and was named the only probate judge emeritus in the State of Alabama.

James Porter Payne '57, Weaver, Ala., August 8, 2017. A military veteran, he was the owner of Payne Old Co., a wholesale distributor for Citgo Oil Co. He worked for 17 years for Beshears Tractor before retiring and joining his son at J&J Electric.

John Jay Wooster III '57/'66, Oxford, Ala., July 25, 2017. He had worked for Bellsouth Corp.

Alexander Green Caudle '58, Sylacauga, Ala., June 15, 2017. He was a retired accountant at the Marshall Space Flight Center.

William Travis Ivey '58, Piedmont, Ala., January 9, 2018. The Army veteran served in World War II and was involved in the Battle of the Bulge. He was the recipient of two Purple Hearts, the Bronze Star medal and numerous other honors. He then served as a teacher at the Alabama Institute for the Deaf and Blind for 25 years.

Herman Lee Johnson '58, Albertville, Ala., August 9, 2017. He was retired from Snead State Community College, where he served as assistant dean of student services. At JSU, he was a member of the Marching Southerners and the Baptist Campus Ministry. He was married to Nelda Jo Burroughs Johnson '58

William Eugene Ledbetter '58, Anniston, Ala., May 9, 2018. The veteran Marine served in the Army Reserves for 25 years. He retired from the Anniston City School System, where he had been a teacher and coach.

Edward L. Sandlin '58, Athens, Ala., February 12, 2018. He was a Navy veteran and served in the Korean War. He served for many years as director of various Chambers of Commerce throughout Alabama. In 1970, he was hired to serve as director of the Alabama/Tennessee Elk River Agency and managed the development of the Tims Ford Dam Project. He served for 30 years as manager of the Elkmont Rural Village.

Mae Carroll Holland Walden '58, Frankfort, Ky., October 19, 2017.

Bobby B. Bryant '59, Inman, S.C., January 23, 2017. He was a retired hotel consultant with Sunbelt Management Corp. He was married to Mary Elizabeth Cromer Bryant '53.

Fred Z. Hester '59, Anniston, Ala., April 21, 2018. He retired from Hester Supply in 1999. He played basketball for JSU.

Col. (Ret.) Therman Rufus Greene '59, Anniston, Ala., August 31, 2017. Commissioned through the JSU ROTC Program, he dedicated 30 years of service to the Army, retiring as a well-decorated colonel. He had also served on the JSU Alumni Association Board of Governors and was a charter member of the ROTC Alumni Chapter. He served on the chapter's board of directors since 1996, serving as a past president, and was currently serving as chairman of the ROTC Scholarship Committee.

Shirley Ann Austin Jackson '59, Alabaster, Ala., May 9, 2018. She had been a member of the Baptist Campus Ministry at JSU.

George Ben Prickett '59, Cullman, Ala., November 13, 2016.

1960-1969

Crawford Eugene “Gene” Barnes, Sr. '60/'78, Gadsden, Ala., August 20, 2017. He was a long-time educator in the Gadsden area, serving as band director at Glencoe High School, where he organized the band program. He then was band director at Etowah High School and later became choral director at Gadsden High. After retiring from the Gadsden Board of Education, he taught choral at Southside High.

Houston B. Jones '60, Heflin, Ala., April 13, 2018. He served in the Army in Japan during the Korean War and retired from Moore Business Forms as plant accountant in Anniston, Ala.

Elizabeth Woolley Keller '60, Meridianville, Ala., March 17, 2018. Her teaching career spanned four decades, from the early 1960s through the late 1990s, with the majority of that time spent at Hazel Green High School, where she retired in 1998. At Hazel Green, she founded Students Helping Others to Succeed, which launched multiple community service opportunities for high school kids with the central focus

on the special needs population. She was a certified weightlifting coach for Special Olympics. The former Marching Ballerina was a very active member of the Sixties alumni group.

James Charles McCain '60, Dacula, Ga., January 7, 2018. An Army veteran, Dr. McCain worked as an administrator and taught religion classes at Jefferson State Community College for 25 years. He was commissioned through the JSU ROTC Program and was a member of the Marching Southerners, Baptist Campus Ministry and International House Program. He was married to Mary Maude Clarke McCain '61.

Jack Franklin Norton '60, Montgomery, Ala., March 9, 2018. He served as chief legal counsel of the Alabama Department of Transportation until his retirement.

Bettye S. Still '60, Boston, Mass., February 27, 2018.

Lt. Col. (Ret.) James L. Pike '61, Destin, Fla., December 13, 2017. He was commissioned through the JSU ROTC Program and, after retiring from the Army, was a successful real estate investor.

Beverly Vaughn Stevens '61/'90, Anniston (Saks), Ala., October 9, 2017.

Gerald Glenn Green '62, Jacksonville, Ala., January 23, 2018. He was an Air Force veteran. For a time, he was a contractor in Georgia and built every home that he and his wife lived in.

Vera Jo McAbee Myers '62/'84, Piedmont, Ala., December 10, 2017.

She served as a teacher, media center instructor and administrator for 35 years. She was a member of the Marching Southerners and was married to Charles A. Myers '61.

Harris Donald "Don" Saunders '62, Sylacauga, Ala., May 14, 2018. After serving in the Navy, he began a civilian career with the U.S. government as a cartographer with the Aeronautical Chart and Information Center in St. Louis. In 1963, he transferred to the U.S. Naval Oceanographic Office in Maryland, where he was a physical oceanographer. He later became the head of the Environmental Section of the Naval Intelligence Support Center, Washington, D.C.. In 1974, he began a corporate career with IBM's Federal Systems Division, where he worked as a marketing manager for advanced space and defense technology systems and retired after 20 years of service. He also retired after five years of service with its successor, Lockheed Martin Federal Systems.

Jerry Lee Stewart '62, Russellville, Ala., September 6, 2017. He had worked for Cotton Producers Association/Gold Kist Poultry for 42 years, starting with a broom in his hand and retiring as vice president of marketing and sales.

Ronald F. Yake '62, Fontana, Wis., May 17, 2018. Dr. Yake served as a meat inspector in the U.S. Air Force. After getting his medical degree and training at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minn., he started a private practice in Rockford, Ill., working primarily at St. Anthony's Hospital. He had been married to the late Kathryn Green Yake '63.

Charlie Roscoe Carden '63, Marietta, Ga., June 17, 2018.

Donald C. Medders '63, Anniston, Ala., May 23, 2018. The Navy veteran retired from Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company.

Emmett Ray Walker '63, Madison, Ala., August 16, 2017. The Air Force veteran served in the Korean War and in Germany. He then worked for A&P Grocers, Associated Grocers and Walker Drug Company.

Estelle Brom Land '64, Weaver, Ala., November 10, 2017. She was a retired elementary school teacher with the Calhoun County Board of Education.

Jane Linda Bunn Brooker '65, Ball Ground, Ga., February 12, 2017.

Helen Marie Jones Swann '65, Montgomery, Ala., September 25, 2017. She was a teacher and assistant principal at Ashville High School and then served as principal of Steele Elementary/Jr. High School. She also taught classes for the University of Alabama's Gadsden Center, as well as GED classes in St. Clair County.

William Kenneth Abbott '66, Lyons, Ga., January 20, 2018. While at JSU, he was a member of the rifle team. He was married to Linda McCurdy Abbott '66.

Marjan Logan Ledbetter, '67, Albertville, Ala., June 19, 2017. She was a retired teacher with the Albertville City Board of Education. She had been a member of the Baptist Campus Ministry at JSU.

Billy Gene Powell '67/'75/'89, Rockmart, Ga., January 26, 2017. He was an Air Force veteran and served in the Far East Theater of Operations and was stationed in Japan. Though he worked in the private sector after military service, his heart was in teaching. He began his teaching career in Cherokee County (Ala.) and then transferred to the Polk County (Ga.) School District, where he faithfully served as an educator, coach and mentor for 33 years.

Sarah Ann Goss Pugh '67, Gadsden, Ala., February 12, 2018. She had been a teacher for 31 years at Eura Brown Elementary School. She went on to teach at Gadsden State Community College as well as private tutoring.

Victoria Piedot Thomson '67/'79, Paris, Tex., December 20, 2017. She was a retired teacher from St. Joseph's, Florence, Ala.

James M. Brittain '68, Southside, Ala., September 8, 2017. He was hired by Republic Steel after graduation and retired from there. Mr. Brittain had been married to Jane Callaway Brittain '66.

Virginia Lee Cash '68, Attalla, Ala., August 6, 2017. She was a longtime home economics teacher at Etowah High School.

Richard Lee Denham '68, Gulf Shores, Ala., June 13, 2017. A military veteran, he served in Vietnam. He served as vocational director at Albertville High

before becoming vice principal, then principal, at Alabama Avenue Middle School. After retiring, he moved to Gulf Shores and became a real estate broker. While at JSU, he played tennis for the Gamecocks.

Floyd Dennis Grissom '68, Northport, Ala., December 26, 2017.

Charles Doug Nolen '68, Huntsville, Tex., January 17, 2018. He was commissioned through the JSU ROTC Program. He was a retired lab supervisor for the Bayer Corp.

Shirley Springer Alverson '69/'77, Anniston, Ala., February 8, 2018. She had been a teacher in the Gadsden City School System.

Annette Wilkinson Esterheld '69, Crofton, Maryland, April 11, 2017. She had been employed by the City of Bowie, Maryland.

Gary Curtis King '69, Alexandria, Ala., August 17, 2017. An Army veteran, he served in Vietnam.

Doris Freeman Leftwich '69, Gadsden, Ala., September 15, 2017. Dr. Leftwich served as principal of several Etowah County schools. She was married to the late James C. Leftwich '49.

Dorian Johnson McKee '69, Gadsden, Ala., September 26, 2017. She taught history and English at Hokes Bluff High School for more than 25 years.

Benjamin Duane Mitcham '69, Anniston, Ala., December 24, 2017. He was married to the late Beverly Smith Mitcham '69/'82.

William Joseph "Joe" Steele '69, Opelika, Ala., March 21, 2018. Early in his career, he was an auditor for the U.S. Department of Agriculture. He also served for more than 40 years as an auditor for the Defense Contract Audit Agency. He was an Air Force veteran and served in Vietnam. He later joined the Tennessee Army National Guard and retired with over 20 years of service.

1970-1979

Glenda Gibbs Phillips '70/'79, Anniston, Ala., February 2018. She had been a counselor with the Oxford City Board of Education.

Sandra Norton Tillery '70/'71, Watkinsville, Ga., September, 2017. She

ALUMNI VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

OUR "ALUMNI BOOTS ON THE GROUND" INITIATIVE TO HELP JSU'S ENROLLMENT AND RETENTION EFFORTS IS GROWING STRONG, BUT THERE IS ALWAYS ROOM FOR MORE VOLUNTEERS. IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN ANY OF THE FOLLOWING OPPORTUNITIES, PLEASE CONTACT KACI OGLE, DIRECTOR OF ALUMNI RELATIONS, AT KOGLE@JSU.EDU OR 256-782-5405.

- ▶ Serve as a JSU representative at college recruitment fairs in your local area
- ▶ Host an alumni/prospective student dinner or reception in your area
- ▶ Bring a student to JSU for a campus visit or set a visit up with JSU for the student
- ▶ Represent JSU at your local high school or community college awards program to present scholarships to future Gamecocks
- ▶ Serve as a mentor for current JSU students through the online mentoring program
- ▶ Participate in an alumni career panel on campus for our students

had been a teacher with the Huntsville City Board of Education at Lee High School. She was a Marching Ballerina and a member of Alpha Xi Delta.

Harold H. Bryant, Jr. '71, Pinson, Ala., March 7, 2018. He worked for Southern Company Services for many years as an administrator in the Engineering Document Department.

John Rodney Burgess '71, Anniston, Ala., July 12, 2017. He was an Army veteran and was known locally as "The Pizza Man," as he was the owner of multiple Custom Pizza restaurants in the tri-county area.

Lester Knox Coleman III '71, Brooklyn, N.Y., May 2018. A broadcast booth announcer at JSU under football coach Charlie Pell, he had a long career in broadcast news, including at WSGN Birmingham, WBZ Boston and serving as a White House correspondent during the Carter and Reagan years. He later served as professor and chair of the Faculty of Arts and Humanities at the American University of Technology in Lebanon.

Mary Joann Webb Dyer '71, Snead, Ala., December 17, 2017. She taught 5th grade for many years at Susan Moore Elementary School.

Ray Emanuel '71, Anniston, Ala., April 8, 2018. He was a respected high school and college football coach serving at several area high schools and the University of North Alabama. He later became a successful insurance agent with Alfa, serving as district manager. He played football at JSU and helped coach with Coach Jim Blevins and Coach Charlie Pell.

Nina Butler Pate '71, Leeds, Ala., June 13, 2018.

Judith Walker Percy '71/'75, Sylacauga, Ala., May 20, 2016. She was a retired program supervisor with the Coosa County Board of Education.

Barbara Jean Carter Townson '71/'77, Pisgah, Ala., December 6, 2016. She was a retired teacher with the Jackson County Board of Education.

Beverly Love Little '72, Flat Rock, N.C., August 21, 2017, after a battle with cancer. Dr. Little was a lifelong educator, teaching in high schools and universities in Alabama, South Carolina and North Carolina.

Janice Stephens Marrow '72, Anniston, Ala., August 19, 2017. She was a bookkeeper for Compass Bank and First National Bank, Talladega, Ala.

She also taught 3rd grade at Trinity Christian Academy. An active member of the Baptist Campus Ministry at JSU, she continued to assist in serving the "Agape Meal" to help the BCM students raise money for summer missions.

Rep. James Malcom "Jim" Patterson, Jr. '72, Meridianville, Ala., October 2, 2017. He was serving as an Alabama state representative representing House District 21, at the time of his death from a sudden heart attack. He was responsible for sponsoring and ultimately the passage of the "autism bill" requiring insurance companies to provide health benefits for autism treatment. An Army and Army Reserves veteran, he was elected to the House in 2010. Prior to his election, he was a pharmaceutical representative for 29 years with Bristol Meyers Squibb, retiring in 2008. He was commissioned through the JSU ROTC Program and was a member of Delta Chi. He had been currently serving on the JSU Board of Visitors for the School of Business and Industry.

William Calvert Sandberg '72, Flintstone, Ga., October 5, 2017. He was an Army veteran and served in Vietnam.

Michael Charles Sharp '72, Huntsville, Ala., August 29, 2017.

Linda Bailey Strickland '72/'77, Piedmont, Ala., May 22, 2018. She retired from the Piedmont City School System with more than 30 years of service as a teacher. She had been a member of Zeta Tau Alpha.

Ardith Williams Coates '73/'79, Alexandria, Ala., June 9, 2018. She began her career in teaching and then was called into fulltime Christian service. More recently, she taught English at Liberty University and retired in 2016 with 19 years of service.

Bennie Steve Conley '73/'78, Tuscaloosa, Ala., September 30, 2017. He served as a paratrooper in the Army and then had a long career in various management positions. He worked for 25 years for Peco Foods, Tuscaloosa, Ala., as the corporate director of human resources. He helped develop policies and systems that have become standards for the industry while at Peco.

Charles "Chuck" Dill '73, Columbianna, Ala., February 22, 2018. He was retired from George W. Mouk and Associates in Monroe, La.

HOW TO SUBMIT INFORMATION

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO SUBMIT INFORMATION CONCERNING A WEDDING, BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT, NEW JOB OR PROMOTION, AN OBITUARY NOTICE, AWARDS OR OTHER RECOGNITION, PLEASE EMAIL ALUMNI@JSU.EDU OR MAIL THE INFORMATION TO THE JSU ALUMNI RELATIONS OFFICE, 700 PELHAM ROAD NORTH, JACKSONVILLE, AL 36265.

Thomas Bruce Eames '73, Hammon-
ton, N.J., July 27, 2017. He had been a
member of Alpha Tau Omega.

Paddy Hutson Watson Kellett '73,
Fort Payne, Ala., September 21, 2017.
She was a talented artist, pianist and
writer. She taught art classes in the
DeKalb County public school system
for several years.

Thomas Leonard, Jr. '73, Anniston,
Ala., November 9, 2017.

Charlotte Sparks Davis '74, Murfrees-
boro, Tenn., May 27, 2018. She taught
at Sand Rock School (Ala.) for 22
years, retiring in 1996.

Maurice Dodd '74, Ashville, Ala.,
October 10, 2017. The Army veteran
was retired from Goodyear Tire and
Rubber Company as a tool and die
maker with over 35 years of service.
He also operated JR Machine Products
for many years.

Cathy Acker Lanigan '74/'77, Pied-
mont, Ala., February 6, 2018. She
taught at Spring Garden School from
1974 to 2013.

Richard Emil Loeb, '74, Huntsville,
Ala., May 10, 2017, after a short battle
with lung cancer. He coached teams
for Calhoun Junior College before
becoming director of the Huntsville
Boys and Girls Clubs. After retiring,
he became vice president of Huntsville
Radio Service. He played tennis for the
Gamecocks. He was married to Betty
Brown Loeb '74 and loved attending
Marching Southerners reunions and
JSU football games with her.

Donald Rudell Perry '74, Pell City,
Ala., December 24, 2017. He served as
president of Metro Bank for 11 years
and was currently serving as chairman
of the board for Metro Bank.

James Edward Russell '74, Birming-
ham, Ala., March 10, 2018. He had
been an English professor at Guang-
zhou University in China. At JSU, he
was a member of Sigma Nu.

David Gene Worster '74, Port Saint
Joe, Fla., April 29, 2018. The Navy
veteran and former Marching South-
erner served as a band director for
many years.

Fain E. Edwards, Sr. '75, Ashville, Ala.,
October 12, 2017. An Army veteran,
he had an exclusive men's shop, Fain
Limited, in Birmingham. He was a

retired teacher with the Calhoun
County Board of Education. He was
well known as an artist blacksmith
and knife maker who started several
companies in Jacksonville, Ala., includ-
ing Parker-Edwards Cutlery, Edwards
Ironworks and Steelwood. While at
JSU, he was a member of the Baptist
Campus Ministry and Sigma Nu.
He was married to Katherine "Kay"
Stevenson Edwards '56.

Steve William Puckett '75, Hokes
Bluff, Ala., November 2, 2017. Dr.
Puckett was an insurance broker.

Carolyn Guyton Scales '75, Augusta,
Ga., February 21, 2018. She had
taught in Calhoun County (Ala.) for
over 35 years and had been inducted
into the Alexandria High School
Teacher Hall of Fame in 1993. She
had been married to the late Louie
Grady Scales '76.

Bryan Thrasher, Jr. '75, Anniston,
Ala., October 1, 2017. He was retired
from the State of Georgia.

Virginia "Ginny" Lee Newton Carden
'76/'77, Hartselle, Ala., October
11, 2017, after complications from
heart surgery. She taught in Cal-
houn County for three years before
returning to Hartselle to teach at F.E.
Burlison Elementary for 38 years.
After retiring, she remained active as a
substitute teacher.

Margaret Middlebrooks Horn '76,
Ashland, Ala., May 25, 2018. She be-
gan her nursing career at Lloyd Nolen
Hospital in Birmingham and then
continued working for her husband,
Dr. C.P. Horn, Sr.

Johnny Davis Ingram '76/'88, Arab,
Ala., June 17, 2018. He taught and
coached for many years at Walter
Wellborn and Anniston High Schools
before moving to administration as
assistant principal and principal at
Arab High and later Albertville High.
He retired in 2002, but served a short
period as director of Snead State Com-
munity College's Arab Instructional
Site.

Gayle Joyner Martin '76, Gadsden,
Ala., April 19, 2018. She served as a
teacher and administrative assistant
for 14 years at Episcopal Day School in
Gadsden. She briefly taught in the JSU
music department after receiving her
MA degree.

Marion Fay Rice '76, Carrollton, Ga.,
February 26, 2018.

Carolyn W. Roberts '76/'82,
Auburn, Ala., September 25, 2017.
She served as a home economist
with Alagasco after graduation. She
taught in the Talladega school system
at R.L. Young and then became
principal there in 1977, where she
remained until retiring in 1990.

Shirley Renee Smith '76, Conyers,
Ga., March 12, 2017. She worked for
several years as a music teacher and
band director in Summerville, Ga.
and Tarrant, Ala. She was a 26-year
employee of the State of Georgia,
most recently serving as an adminis-
trative assistant at the Georgia State
Financing and Investment Commis-
sion. The former flute player for the
Marching Southerners founded the
Alliance Drum and Bugle Corps of
Atlanta in 2004. She was serving on
the JSU Alumni Association Board
of Governors as president of the
Atlanta Alumni Chapter at the time
of her death.

Gary Eugene Williams '76,
Talladega, Ala., August 18, 2017.
He had been a car salesman in the
Anniston/Oxford area for 35 years.
At JSU, he was a member of Kappa
Sigma.

Doyce V. White, Sr. '77, Piedmont,
Ala., June 19, 2018. He worked at
Gadsden Air Depot and was retired
from Anniston Army Depot with 38
years of service.

Patty Olene Harper Gilliam '77/'82,
Talladega, Ala., April 14, 2018, of
pancreatic cancer. She had 35 years
of service with the Alabama Institute
for the Deaf and Blind, starting as a
home economics teacher in 1979
and retiring as director of blind
services in 2011. She later returned
as an adult education instructor for
evening classes.

Jean Young Starr '77/'87, Jack-
sonville, Ala., April 29, 2018. She
taught at Kitty Stone Elementary
School for 29 years.

Tony Morris Brown '78, Weaver,
Ala., September 13, 2017. He was re-
tired from the Army after 20 years of
service and was employed at Honda
Manufacturing Company. He was a
member of Kappa Alpha Psi.

Harry "Jim" Gaumer '78, Hunts-
ville, Ala., August 24, 2017. He was
retired from the Army after 30 years.
During his military career, he served

under General Patton in World War II
and toured throughout Europe.

Michael Lynn Adams '79, Huntsville,
Ala., February 9, 2017.

Madeline Hamlink Flint '79, DeAr-
manville, Ala., February 2, 2018. She
retired from the Anniston City School
System in 1997 after teaching for more
than 20 years at Norwood Elementary.
After retiring, she continued to work
locally dealing in antiques in her own
shops as well as several other area
shops and malls.

Bobby M. Thompson '79, Alexandria,
Ala., April 6, 2018. He was retired
from the Air Force, Army National
Guard and Anniston Army Depot with
a total of 32 years of federal service.

Kathy "K.C." Crosson Wallace '79,
Wetumpka, Ala., January 16, 2018,
after a battle with cancer.

1980-1989

Karen L. Hester '80/'86, Anniston,
Ala., October 2, 2017, after a coura-
geous fight with ALS. She was a long-
time teacher, coach and administrator
at The Donoho School in Anniston.
She was awarded honors not only for
her teaching but her coaching as well.

Elizabeth Ann Mason '84, Houston,
Tex., November 18, 2017, after a long
battle with cancer. She had a career
of more than 30 years supporting the
U.S. Space Program as a data manage-
ment specialist for the International
Space Station. Extremely proud of her
role in the space program, she received
multiple awards for her work and was
invited as a guest to a number of Space
Shuttle launches in recognition of her
contributions. She spent the past 21
years employed by Boeing. At JSU,
she was active in the Baptist Campus
Ministry.

Ricky Arledge '81, Southside, Ala.,
April 19, 2018. He was an Army
veteran and retired from government
service at Recruiting Command, Mil-
lington, Tenn. The published author,
independent filmmaker and guitarist
was known as "Ricky Montana" to
those he entertained.

Keith Wayne Brooks '81, Birmingham,
August 13, 2017. He was a gifted
songwriter and pianist. At JSU, he
was a member of the Baptist Campus
Ministry and Sigma Nu.

Betty Bradley Foster-Summers '81,
Anniston, Ala., July 20, 2017. The
accomplished teacher and mentor

volunteered as a softball coach for girls
in the Saks area and sponsored sports
teams in Anniston and Northeast
Alabama.

David Edward Davis '82, Anniston,
Ala., November 18, 2017. He spent his
professional career teaching music and
serving as the band and choral director
for many schools throughout Georgia.
He performed in area bands and
orchestras in Portland, Ore., and in
LaGrange, Ga. He was twice named to
Who's Who Among American Teach-
ers. While at JSU, he was a member of
the Marching Southerners.

Harold Heard '82, Roanoke, Ala.,
September 6, 2017. He worked as a
loan officer, executive vice president
and member of the board of directors
for Small Town Bank. He was selected
Young Banker of the Year in 1991 and
1992. He previously served as branch
manager, compliance officer, board
member and executive vice president
at SouthTrust Bank.

Phillip Osawe Igbinador '82/'84,
Snellville, Ga., November 22, 2017.
He was a teacher for 20 years and
served as truancy supervisor for the
New York City Board of Education.

Elizabeth Ann Mason '84, Houston,
Tex., November 18, 2017, after a long
battle with cancer. She had a career
of more than 30 years supporting the
U.S. Space Program as a data manage-
ment specialist for the International
Space Station. Extremely proud of her
role in the space program, she received
multiple awards for her work and was
invited as a guest to a number of Space
Shuttle launches in recognition of her
contributions. She spent the past 21
years employed by Boeing. At JSU,
she was active in the Baptist Campus
Ministry.

Diane Rogers '84/'88, Jacksonville,
Ala., January 27, 2018. She was a re-
tired math teacher at Jacksonville High
School. After retirement, she taught
at Hope Academy at the Presbyterian
Home for Children, Talladega, Ala.

La'Tanga Teresa Wallace '84, Talladega,
Ala., February 2, 2017.

James "Jim" Hyatt '85, Oxford, Ala.,
January 8, 2018. He publisher of
Highlands Today, publisher and regional
vice president of The Bristol Herald
Courier, regional vice president for
Community Newspaper Holding and
was chosen by "Presstime Magazine"

as one of "20 under 40" newspaper
executives. He was a member of Kappa
Sigma.

Arnie Allan Rhodes '85, Jacksonville,
Ala., May 1, 2018. At JSU, he was a
member of the Baptist Campus
Ministry and WLJS radio station.

Alice Collins Vaughn '85, Gadsden,
Ala., March 21, 2018. She taught
writing and science for 21 years in the
Etowah County School System.

Rita Jean Spruiell '86/'92,
Jacksonville, Ala., May 9, 2018.

Linda Waldrop Beard '89,
Leesburg, Ala., January 9, 2017.

Clinton Kent Crawford '89,
Centreville, Va., April 23, 2017.

April Ingram Snow '89, Glencoe, Ala.,
April 25, 2018. She had worked as a
medical researcher.

1990-1999

Elton Donald Greer '90, Jacksonville,
Ala., August 31, 2017

Sallie Gentry Johnston '91, Jackso-
ville, Ala., August 8, 2017. Starting out
as a certified LPN in Texas, she retired
from Fort McClellan's Noble Army
Hospital then went back to school to
become an RN. She worked at RMC
Gadsden until retiring again.

Latonya Brand Crawford '92, Pell City,
Ala., November 3, 2017. She was a
social worker and educator with a life-
long commitment to social advocacy
for children.

Myra D. Thompson '93/'97, An-
niston, Ala., September 6, 2017. She
was employed for 14 years by the Social
Security Administration.

Charles Jason Ligan '96, Ragland,
Ala., March 7, 2018. He practiced
law in Birmingham. At JSU, he was
president of Kappa Alpha.

Andrew "Andy" Russell Picton '96,
Oxford, Ala., January 8, 2018. He was
a nurse practitioner with Alabama
Anesthesiology and Pain Consultants
in Anniston.

Elaine Marie Armstrong Romano '96,
Jacksonville, Ala., February 16, 2018.
She had been the wife of the late Dr.
Frank Romano, who had taught biol-
ogy at JSU.

Kimberly Parris England '97, Easta-
boga, Ala., February 11, 2018. She had
been a registered nurse.

Erika Lashawn George McGhee '99,
Marietta, Ga., October 9, 2017.

Tanya Leigh Cole Sharpe '99, Rock-
mart, Ga., January 23, 2018. She
was an elementary school teacher in
the Polk School District for 14 years.
While at JSU, she served as president
of Delta Zeta.

2000-2010

Capt. Gary Brecken Higgins '00, Easta-
boga, Ala., November 3, 2017. He was
an RN in the Air Force, serving two
tours of duty in Afghanistan, and later,
as a travel nurse across the country.

Kim Cherrie Mayo '00, Gadsden, Ala.,
May 14, 2018.

Shelley Wilson-Coley '00/'02, Truss-
ville, Ala., (date unknown). A memo-
rial service was held on June 12, 2018.
She was an instructor at Jefferson State
Community College for over 16 years,
where she helped advise the Phi Theta
Kappa Honor Society. She was also an
instructor with VIPKID, teaching Eng-
lish as a second language to children
internationally.

Arnold L. Allen '02, Weaver, Ala.,
February 24, 2018.

Juan Thomas Moore '02, Stone
Mountain, Ga., September 21, 2017.
Dr. Moore worked for many years in
the Dekalb County School District as
a teacher, school level administrator
and district level administrator.

Michael Lawrence Moore '03/'15,
Weaver, Ala., January 26, 2018. He
worked as a graphic artist for Southern
Custom Exhibits and later at the JSU
Print Shop.

James Adam Harris '06, Jacksonville,
Ala., October 24, 2017. He began
his teaching career in Alexandria,
Ala., before transferring to Cleburne
County High School to coach football
and baseball. He then moved to White
Plains Middle School to coach football,
baseball and basketball. After a career
change, he worked for the postal ser-
vice as a mail carrier in Gadsden. He
was married to Stephanie Schumaker
Harris and they have two daughters.

James Rance Young '06, Glencoe, Ala.,
September 26, 2017.

Christopher "Eric" Johns '09, February
11, 2018. He played football at JSU.

2010-2018

Keishelia Danielle Cox '12, Mobile,
Ala., November 20, 2017. The Army
veteran was a registered nurse at Provi-
dence Hospital in Mobile.

Joey Glen McDaniel '12, Ranburne,
Ala., August 7, 2017. He managed his
family's farm.

Benjamin Richard Prickett '14,
Wellington, Ala., April 8, 2018.
He had been a member of Kappa
Alpha at JSU.

ALUMNOTES

1950-1959

Joanne Marie Porter Phillips Stewart
'55, Decatur, Ga., is retired after a life-
time of teaching high school English
and drama. She is currently a great
grandmother of seven, grandmother
of nine, and still singing. She is on
Facebook as Joanne Phillips-Stewart
and would love to hear from her old
classmates.

1960-1969

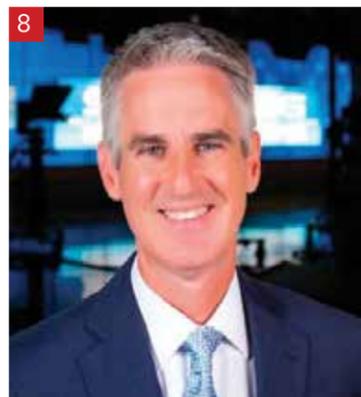
Ellen Cobia Neal '66, Dalton, Ga., a
charter member of the Dalton Junior
College faculty and staff, got to stand
on the steps of the Pope Student
Center in October, along with five of
the other original members, to com-
memorate the 50th anniversary of the
opening of the college.

Mike W. Burrell '69, Birmingham,
Ala., has had his first book published,
"The Land of Grace," an Elvis tribute.
His short fiction has also appeared in
several publications.

1970-1979

Gena Estes Christopher '79, Jackso-
ville, Ala., has retired from JSU, where
she became full-time English faculty
in 1989. Over the years she served as
head of the Center for Excellence in
Teaching and Learning and directed
Camp Write, a writing clinic for
students in grades 3 to 5 in affiliation
with JSU's National Writing Project.
Her husband, Odell, has also retired
from JSU, where he had worked in
Facilities since the early 1990s.

- 7. Tomoko Akane '90
- 8 David Glenn '90.
- 9. Cheryl Bevelle Orange '90
- 10. Dr. Eric Mackey '92
- 11. April Whitmarsh Sutton '02
- 12. Rita Young Allen '03/'06



1980-1989

Maj. Gen. Kenneth C. Roberts '80, Alpharetta, Ga., was recently honored with a retirement ceremony at Clay National Guard Center, Marietta, Ga. His career spanned more than 37 years, with his final position being deputy combined rear area coordinator, U.S. Forces Korea. He was commissioned through the JSU ROTC Program as a second lieutenant. As a student, he was a member of Alpha Tau Omega and played football. In 2012, he was named JSU Military Alumnus of the Year. He is married to Sonja Pittman Roberts '79.

Thomas Hudson Wicks '82, Huntsville, Ala., became a granddad for the third time recently when his youngest daughter, Natalie, welcomed a baby girl named Olivia. He is the proud father of three adult children.

Donna Warren Shamblin '83, Jacksonville, Ala., was hired as a pre-k assistant at Kitty Stone Elementary School. She previously taught kindergarten for 13 years in Danville, Ala., and served as a Head Start teacher in Centre, Ala.

Emily Sides Bonds '87, a partner in the Business & Commercial Litigation Practice Group in Birmingham, has been named a Top Woman Attorney by "B-Metro Magazine." This award recognizes female attorneys for their excellence in the field of law as well as community involvement. She was featured in the August 2018 edition of the magazine. She holds a bachelor's in political science from JSU, is past president of the JSU Alumni Association and is an alumna of Alpha Xi Delta.

Mary Margaret "Maggie" Burn Owens '88, Anniston, Ala., was named president and CEO of YMCA of Calhoun County.

1990-1999

7 Tomoko Akane '90, Japan, is working at The Hague as an international criminal court judge. After receiving an MS in criminal justice from JSU, she returned to her native Japan to earn a law degree from Tokyo University. She served as a federal prosecutor in front of the Japanese Supreme Court until being elected to her current post at the United Nations in November. She has remained close friends over the years with JSU professor emeritus of sociology, Lester Hill, and his Japanese wife Michiko - with the couple even visiting Akane's

family in Japan. Hill said proudly of his former student, "She has risen like a meteor, and it's very well deserved."

8 David Glenn '90, Chattanooga, Tenn., has been awarded the Tennessee Associated Press 1st Place award for TV Weather Anchor. He currently serves as chief meteorologist at WTVC-TV (ABC) in Chattanooga, where he has been employed since late 2006. Prior to WTVC, he was at WPMT-TV (NBA) in the Mobile/Pensacola area (1998-2006) as Chief Meteorologist and at WRCB-TV (NBC) in Chattanooga (1991-1998) as a Meteorologist. He is thankful for career guidance at JSU from Dr. Ted K. He is married to Rebecca Frost Glenn '88.

9 Cheryl Bevelle Orange '90, Frisco, Tex., recently received a "Top Women in Technology" award from the Dallas Business Journal. She is director of information technology for FedEx Services' corporate office in Plano, Tex., including 1800 retail locations. As a student, she was a peer counselor and member of the SGA. She currently serves on the Black Alumni Chapter's officer committee and is president of JSU's "Boots on the Ground" alumni program.

Russell Thomas Waits '90, Gadsden, Ala., is principal at Jacksonville High School. He began his teaching career in 1991 as director of Emma Sansom High School's band. He has served as principal of Mitchell Elementary, 9th Grade Academy at Gadsden City High School, and most recently as principal of Emma Sansom Middle School. At JSU, he was a member of the Marching Southerners and the A Cappella Choir. He is married to Shannon Goforth Waits '90/'96, who was a Marching Ballerina and member of the Show Choir.

Michael Don Allison '91/'97/'11 and Banyon John Allison '95/'96/'02 were recently selected to the Anniston Star's Calhoun County Football Team of the Decade for the 80s and 90s, respectively. They are brothers who played for Weaver High School and JSU.

10 Dr. Eric Mackey '92, Pike Road, Ala., has been named State Superintendent of Education by the Alabama Board of Education. He served as superintendent of education of Jacksonville City Schools for eight years before becoming executive director of School Superintendents of Alabama, the state's professional association for school system executives and their leadership teams. A career educator, he

taught high school and middle school sciences before entering school leadership as an assistant principal and then principal. In addition to his bachelor's degree from JSU, he also holds a master's, specialist and doctoral degree from the University of Alabama. He is married to Robin Dorsett Mackey, '90/'93, and they have three sons. Their eldest, John C. Mackey, graduated from JSU in May. While at JSU, Dr. Mackey was a peer counselor and member of Baptist Campus Ministry. Among his many civic commitments, he serves on the executive committee of the Tukabatchee Area Council of Boy Scouts of America and is an active leader in Montgomery's Troop 8 with his sons. He is also a board member for the Montgomery Rotary Club and teaches high school youth at Woodland United Methodist Church.

Brandie Michele Julian Cleaver '95/'96, Richmond, Tex., graduated from the American Leadership Forum's Class XLIII-Community Education. She is executive director of Lemonade Day Houston. The Forum's mission is to join and strengthen diverse leaders to serve the common good, bringing together a group of leaders who have a stake in and a passion for significantly improving the future of education across the Greater Houston area. Cleaver served as a peer counselor at JSU and a member of Delta Zeta.

Bruce Cornutt '95, Southside, Ala., received the 2017 Michaeline A. Doyle Award for his leadership and outstanding contributions to the Professional Employer Organizations industry, of which he has been a member since 1996. He is president of Alabama-based Lyons HR's HRO division.

Billy Glenn Shelton '95/'06, Dutton, Ala., has been named president-elect of the Alabama Science Teachers Association. He currently serves as principal of Rosalie Elementary School and is in his 23rd year of education.

Heather Kirby Lamey '98, Jacksonville, Ala., currently serves as director of donor grants and standards for excellence with the Community Foundation of Northeast Alabama. Previously, she served as executive director of the Piedmont Benevolence Center. She is married to Dr. Jack Harley Lamey '00/'07, who has taken a position in the Vestavia Hills City Schools District after 15 years of service as a teacher and coach in the Piedmont City School District.

2000-2010

Courtney Wilburn '99/'01/'06 was named the Alabama Middle School Principal of the Year by the Alabama Association of Middle School Principals. She serves as principal of White Plains Middle School. She has 17 years of experience in the field of education with 10 of those years in administration. Since 2011, she has been principal of White Plains Middle School. Previously, she served as a teacher, instructional coach and assistant principal. In 2012, she was named Calhoun County Principal of the Year.

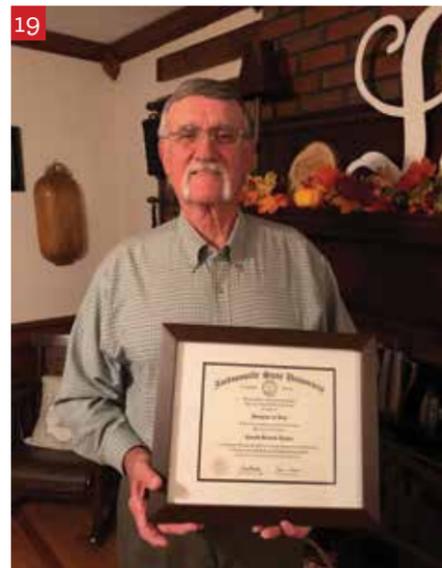
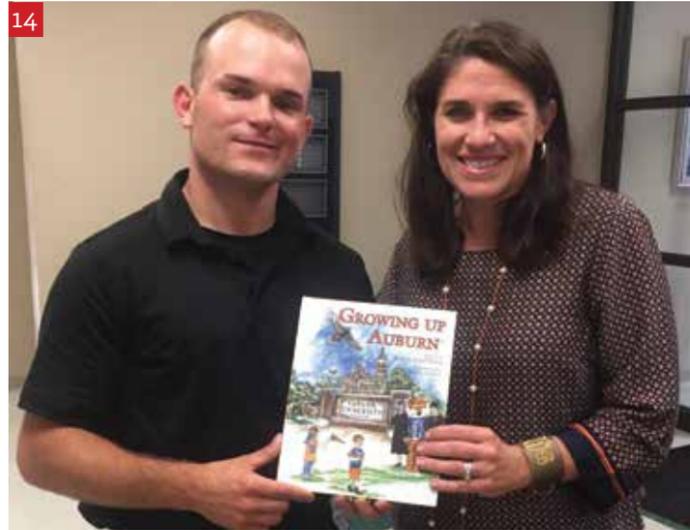
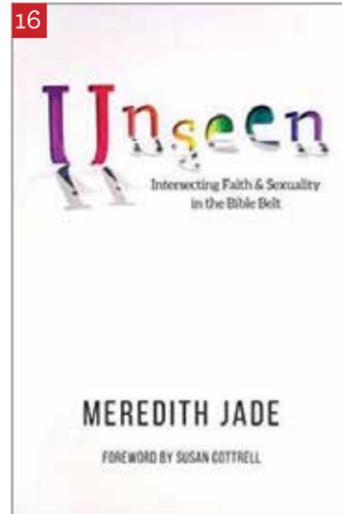
11 April Whitmarsh Sutton '02, Frisco, Tex., was elected the 2018 president of the Dallas/Fort Worth chapter of the Association of Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology. This leadership position focuses on influencing, supporting and improving the quality and safety of health care through the practice and management of infection prevention and control and the application of epidemiology in all health care settings. At JSU, she was a member of Alpha Xi Delta.

12 Rita Young Allen '03/'06, Brierfield, Ala., placed in the Top 10 in the Miss Sr. America Pageant in Atlantic City, representing the State of Alabama. She will hold her title until July 2018, and will be touring and speaking on "Life Begins at 60." As a student, she was a member of the JSU Chorus, Gospel Choir and Chamber Singers.

13 Thomas J. Webb '04/'07, New Orleans, La., is a popular tour guide in the Crescent City, currently working for Lord Chaz Presents. He uses his degrees in political science and English to work as a storyteller, sharing history and culture with visitors to the Big Easy. He also manages an Air B&B. Book a tour next time you're in town at www.lordchaz.com and connect with him on Instagram at [@tourguidethomas](https://www.instagram.com/tourguidethomas).

14 Ricketta Wilson '04, Heflin, Ala., has been in public education for 19 years and is currently the library media specialist at Cleburne County Middle School. Her book, "Growing Up Auburn," was published by Mascot Books and illustrated by JSU alumnus Jonathan Fordham '15. She credits her master's degree from JSU for her success as an author.

Shundreta Adamson Buchanan '05, Jacksonville, Ala., is teaching 3rd grade at Kitty Stone Elementary in



- 13. Thomas J. Webb '04/'07
- 14. Ricketta Wilson '04
- 15. Charles David "Chad" Hoffman III '09/'11
- 16. Meredith Jade Garrett '10
- 17. Jeremy Straub '11
- 18. Robert R. Zalanka '11
- 19. Ronald Lackey '16

Jacksonville. She previously taught for three years in the Anniston City School System.

Brandy Hammett Morrow '05, Piedmont, Ala., has been hired as the lead nurse for Jacksonville City Schools. She has 12 years of nursing experience and served for seven years as a registered nurse in the county school system. She is married to Michael Shane Morrow '05, who is teaching career prep and management at Jacksonville High School. He previously taught at Weaver High and Centre Middle School.

Deven Jones Smith '05, Jacksonville, Ala., is teaching 4th grade science at Kitty Stone Elementary. She previously taught for 12 years in Oxford.

Beverly Yvonne Ervin '06, Heflin, Ala., is the new Cleburne County Chamber of Commerce director. She most recently worked at Southwire, Carrollton, Ga., in various roles. She also owns a small business, Slice of Heaven, that creates baked goods.

Amber Vickery Russell '08, Southside, Ala., is teaching physical education at Jacksonville High School, where she also coaches softball and volleyball. She previously taught at Oneonta Middle and High Schools.

Samuel L. Green III '09/'13, Oxford, Ala., is a private coach for students wanting to get ahead in track and football and he strives to help them be their best to earn scholarships and degrees. He is a military veteran and has taught at Winterboro High and Anniston Middle Schools. He also has his own Amateur Athletic Union Track and Field Team, Fast Feet for the Elite Athlete, now in its 11th year. Every year he sends 10-15 students to compete in the Junior Olympics. This year he will teach at Hudson K8 School in Tarrant, Ala., but will return to Calhoun County to motivate his athletes.

Seddric T. Hill, Sr. '09, McDonough, Ga., has been named the new vice president of institutional advancement for Talladega College.

15 Charles David "Chad" Hoffman III '09/'11, Abilene, Tex., has been selected to represent the Texas Association of Secondary School Principals as a Region 14 Outstanding Principal of the Year. He has served as principal of Hawley (Tex.) Middle School since 2014. At JSU, he was a cheerleader and Ambassador.

Nancy Bailey Morales '09/'12, Anniston, Ala., is teaching special education and coaching the varsity cheer team at Jacksonville High School. She previously taught at Oxford Elementary and DeArmanville Elementary. At JSU, she was a cheerleader and member of Zeta Tau Alpha.

16 Meredith Jade Garrett '10, Gadsden, Ala., has recently published a book, "Unseen: Intersecting Faith & Sexuality in the Bible Belt." After graduation she went to Thailand to teach English before returning to the U.S., where she continues to write.

2011-2018

Brandi Prichard '11, Alexandria, Ala., is now teaching 2nd grade at Kitty Stone Elementary School in Jacksonville. She previously taught kindergarten for five years.

17 Jeremy Straub '11, North Dakota, is the lead inventor on a recently awarded patent for a technology that solves a key problem related to 3D printing: U.S. patent 9,846,427, titled "Characterizing 3-D Printed Objects for 3-D Printing," was issued on Dec. 19. It covers systems and methods for using imaging to detect printing defects. He is an assistant professor of computer science at North Dakota State University

18 Robert R. Zalanka '11, New Brockton, Ala., has joined the law offices of Carr Allison in Birmingham as an associate, where his practice will focus on insurance and coverage issues, as well as matters involving professional liability. He earned his JD magna cum laude from the University of Mississippi School of Law, twice winning American Jurisprudence Awards. Prior to joining Carr Allison, he served as a law clerk for U.S. Magistrate Judge David A. Sanders for the Northern District of Mississippi. While at JSU, he played football for the Gamecocks.

Kathryne D. Daniels '12, Baltimore, Md., recently performed in the Chesapeake Shakespeare Company's original adaptation of Charles Dicken "A Christmas Carol," playing the roles of Mrs. Fezziwig, Mrs. Dilber and older Belle.

Mahala Starr McAlpin '13, Heflin, Ala., is teaching 8th grade inclusion special education at Jacksonville High School. She previously taught at Cleburne County High School.

Jeffrey C. Moon '14, Jacksonville, Ala., is a 6th grade English teacher at Kitty Stone Elementary School in Jacksonville. He previously taught at Constantine Elementary and Golden Springs in the Anniston City Schools. He also previously worked with the Woodland High School marching band for six years. At JSU, he was a member of the Marching Southerners.

Katlynn Renae Burton '15/'17, Heflin, Ala., is now teaching at Jacksonville High School.

19 Ronald Lackey '16, Sylacauga, Ala., received his diploma from JSU at the age of 74, more than 54 years after he began taking classes. He started at JSU in 1962 but was drafted by the Army in 1968 before being able to graduate. He was inspired to finish what he started after seeing his daughter, Katie, earn her nursing degree. Realizing it was possible for him to obtain an online degree from JSU, it didn't take him long to do so.

Jacob Daniel Tweedell '16, Fort Payne, Ala., has been named the new band director at Park Crossing High School in Montgomery. At JSU, he was a member of the Marching Southerners and SGA.

Morgan Danielle Barkley '17, Fort Payne, Ala., is teaching 8th grade physical science at Jacksonville High School.

Sydney Reed Jones '17, Alabaster, Ala., was named Young Alumna of the Year by the Alabama and Mississippi chapters of Zeta Tau Alpha. Upon graduating with her public relations degree she was hired as JSU's social media specialist in the Office of Public Relations. She is active in the Public Relations Society of America and is the advisor of Birmingham Southern University's chapter of ZTA. She was recently engaged to Madison Wright '17, who is pursuing a Ph.D. in chemistry at Vanderbilt University in Nashville. As an undergraduate, Jones was an officer in ZTA and a peer educator while Wright was a drummer in the Marching Southerners.

Corey Logan Mize '17, Alexandria, Ala., is now teaching 8th grade math at Jacksonville High School. At JSU, he was team manager for the men's basketball team and served as an athletic trainer.

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